



The River's Edge

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Important Dates

July 2 – August 2

Summer II

July 19

GED Graduation

July 12

BRTC Foundation Meeting

ASSET Test - 8:00 a.m.

July 16

Registration

July 26

ASSET Test - 8:00 a.m.

August 9

BRTC Board of Trustees Meeting

August 20

Classes Begin

Australian Tour Concludes

A group of twelve individuals with ties to BRTC recently returned from an 18-day educational tour of Australia. The trip marks the 13th BRTC-EF (Educational Foundation) International Tour, and is a part of the college's mission to provide lifelong learning opportunities.

Participants included current or former BRTC students and staff and members of their families. Those attending included BRTC Board of Trustees Chair Mike Dunn, his sons, Michael Dunn of Danville, Kentucky and Tim Dunn of Cartersville, Georgia; students Bea Harper and her husband, Wade Harper, Merlene Brown, Laura Ford, Joyce Radcliff, Maynard educator Herb Early, former BRTC instructor Melody Walker of Little Rock, and group leader Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development, and her husband, Ken Ziegler.



Radcliff, who has just completed BRTC's Digital Photography class, found the trip offered limitless opportunity to "practice" her new craft. She estimates having shot some 2,000 or more photos of Australia's diverse and beautiful landscapes and wildlife. Walker was able to visit briefly in an Australian school, and accumulated throughout the trip Australian resource materials for use in a junior high Social Studies class she teaches.

Among the highlights of the trip were the opportunities to see kangaroos, wallabies and wildlife "in the wild," as well as whale sightings from atop a cliff at Cape Byron.

The tour included visits to an outback farm, or cattle "station," along with excursions into rain forests, national parks and wildlife reserves and farms to view koalas,

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Tobacco Grant Awarded to BRTC



Pictured clockwise Nanette Carter, Suezette Musick-Hicks, and Ramonda Housh.

BRTC's health programs have received a boost with the announcement of a grant of more than \$40,000 from the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission (ATSC), according to BRTC President Richard Gaines. The funds will allow the college to develop a "Simulated Hospital Clinical Setting" for its Nursing, Respiratory and Phlebotomy students.

"We are very excited about this

grant," said Nursing Director Ramonda Housh. "With the facility modifications and equipment this funding brings, we will be able to provide our Allied Health students more cross-disciplinary collaborative health care training. We have developed partnerships with hospitals, clinics and nursing homes in our area to plan and implement what we believe to be a unique and highly

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BRTC's Annual Kids' College

The Department of Continuing Education at Black River Technical College recently held its 8th Annual Kids' College. Approximately 80 children entering first through sixth grades attended the four-day event which provided students with fun-filled learning experiences. According to Patti Blaxton, Coordinator of Continuing Education and Business Outreach, Kids' College is designed to provide youth with an opportune environment for expanding their knowledge and creativity.

Four classes of educational activities were held each day. The classes offered and the presenters were: "Adventures in Space," Kenneth Renshaw - Solar System Ambassador, Division of NASA; "Arkansas Wildlife," Gary Cole and Matt Byrd - Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; "Balloon Fun," Bonnie Davis - Party Package; "Building for Birds," Mike Andrews - Randolph County Cooperative Extension Agency; "Civic Awareness," Joan Primm - Kiwanis; "Clean-It-Up," Misty Gilbie - Randolph County Cooperative Extension Agency; "Fire Safety," Pocahontas Fire Department; "Fishy Facts," Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; "Groovy Tees," Gail Doles; "In Case of Emergency," Air Evac Lifeteam 2; "In the News,"

Dalton Sullivan - Star Herald; "Living History," Travis Eddleman - Old Davidsonville State Park; "A Tale of Five Rivers," Cindy Robinett - Randolph County Heritage Museum; "Storm Tracker," Sarah Tipton - KAIT; and "Structure Building," Gena Farrin.



BRTC employee Glenda Hawkins (right) is pictured here with just a few of this year's participants baiting the hook for a fishing game. This was just one of many fun activities for the children during the annual Kids' College.

First through third grade students attended the morning session from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, and fourth through sixth grade students attended the afternoon session from 1:00-5:00 p.m. The students also enjoyed recreation time and snacks throughout the day.

In addition to the class presenters, volunteers assisting with the program were Beverly Edington, Sharon Watson, Julie Edington, Glenda Hawkins, Joniece Trammel, and Dina Hufstедler, BRTC staff; Randy Brinkley, Arkansas Department of Economic Development; Pat Lambert, Mary Goode, Kay McDonald, Dorothy Rapert, Millie Thielemier, and Emmy Lambert, Pocahontas Women's Club; Daphne Perkins and Mary Goode.

"Kids' College is both fun and educational for the students," said Blaxton. "And thanks to the many dedicated volunteers, the annual event continues to be successful."

Tobacco Grant

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effective integrative system."

The grant will be used to replicate an actual hospital setting, complete with nurses' stations, patient care and critical care areas of ICU, Lab and Respiratory Care Center, and the pertinent equipment for these areas.

"Our allied health programs are already doing a good job," Housh explained, "but this new approach will allow us to be even better by exposing students to more authentic learning experiences. This will better prepare them for the nature of actual situations they will encounter on the job, and help them to better function as a member of a team," she said. "Everyone, including the patient, wins when this happens."

The funding originates with the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act. The ATSC's goals include "funding innovative programs that improve the health of Arkansans." According to the awards letter, the Commission received almost \$3 million in requests, but had only \$372,000 in grant funds.

Housh will serve as project director, with Respiratory Care instructor Suzette Musick-Hicks, RRT, and Nanette Carter, RN, Phlebotomy Instructor, as co-directors. "All three of these individuals have worked hard, meeting weekly when necessary to provide the data, background information and linkages with health care provider partners required for this grant," said Dr. Jan Ziegler, V.P. for Development. "Their idea and their passion for this project were the keys to the success of this grant."

BRTC currently offers health care-related degrees and certificates in Registered Nursing, Practical Nursing, CNA, Respiratory Care, Phlebotomy, Dietetics and EMT/Paramedic. Beginning this fall, qualified students may also enroll in a Certificate in Lab Tech Assisting program.



Joe Chappell

Paramedic Program Receives Grant

BRTC is one of the fourteen Paramedic level training sites throughout the state to receive a grant from the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, according to Steve Jones, Director of the college's Fire Science and Paramedic programs. The award for \$4,285 can be used to fund equipment and scholarships.

Funding for the award is routed through the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services. Grant guide-

lines call for approximately \$2,800 of the money to be used for scholarships, and the balance for equipment.

Technical Division Chair Angie Caldwell acknowledged the efforts of Jones and Paramedic instructor Joe Chappell in obtaining the funding.

July 16 - Open Registration

Serendipity Celebrates with Banquet



From lower left, clockwise, are Serendipity members, Ann Carroll, Billy Carroll, Georgia Berry and guest, Virginia Ballenger, Mary Rapert, and Jeanne Simpson.

The Serendipity Club of BRTC recently celebrated the close of another year's meetings with a banquet in RCDC. Members of the organization and their guests looked back on the events of the past year, and made preliminary plans for another session of the monthly get-togethers beginning in September.

Made up primarily of retired or nearly-retired individuals, Serendipity is a group of individuals who meet for lunch and hold discussions on topics focusing on a single theme for the year. This year's theme was "The Power of Place." The

sessions include occasional readings of short stories and excerpts from novels, music, guest speakers and video segments, all relating to the common theme. Occasional day trips and holiday events are also planned.

At the banquet, those attending enjoyed musical entertainment by Shannon Jones of the BRTC Kimbrough Choir, followed by a wrap-up reflective session on the many ways people "belong," and the phenomena of assigning or being assigned "place" in society and in the world.

Serendipity is an organization of more than thirty members under the auspices of the college's Department of Continuing Education and the Office of Development with support by the BRTC Foundation. The events are planned and coordinated by Patti Blaxton and Dr. Jan Ziegler, with assistance from Maggie Easley of Continuing Education and Dina Hufstедler, Project Specialist. The aim of Serendipity is to encourage interaction and to provoke thoughtful discussion on "the things that matter," according to Ziegler.

"And of course," Blaxton said, "we want those in Serendipity to meet new people and most of all, to have fun."

"People are encouraged to be as engaged by the topics as they want to be," Ziegler added. "This means they may choose to read the selections, or not—either way they still can join in the conversation, because we focus on universal themes and issues."

Cost for joining the organization, to defray the meal costs, is \$50 per year. For more information, contact Continuing Education at 870-248-4181.

Two Accept BRTC Scholarships

An additional two students have accepted scholarships to attend BRTC this fall, according to the Office of Financial Aid. They are Jessica Calhoun and Samantha Curtis. This brings to 39 the number

of fall awards made to date, according to Financial Aid Officer Brandi Chester.

Calhoun has accepted a Pulaski Bank award for a year's tuition.

The daughter of Lisa and

Wesley Kelley of Ravenden, she is a Sloan-Hendrix High School graduate with plans for a career as a Physical Therapy Assistant.

The daughter of Eddie and Mistie Curtis of Willi-



Samantha Curtis

ford, Samantha Curtis plans to pursue a career in Nursing. She graduated from Williford High School, and is receiving a BRTC President's scholarship for full tuition.

Several scholarship opportunities remain open, according to Chester. These include Academic Distinction Scholarships, based on class rank and/or ACT scores, and a few privately funded scholarships. Also available for the fall semester are Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarships, open to eligible Randolph County residents.

For more information, contact Chester at 870-248-4000 EXT 4021.

Australian

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crocodiles, the kookaburra, cockatoo and other wildlife. Participants also visited an Aboriginal Park and learned about traditional Aboriginal culture and customs.

The culmination of the journey, which began in Sydney, was a stay in Cairns and a visit to the Great Barrier Reef for snorkeling, diving and viewing the marine life.

"I think we all came home exhausted, but marveling at the wonders of this beautiful continent—its rich history, its music, its incredible sights and sounds, and its warm and vibrant people, and this will stay with us for a lifetime," said Ziegler.

The next BRTC International Tour will be a ten-day trip, "Athens and the Islands," on spring break in March, 2008. Students may enroll in an independent study option and earn three hours of transferable Humanities elective credits while on this trip, which is open also to members of the community. For more information, contact Ziegler at 870-248-4000, EXT 4185.

Learn how to fund a scholarship - (870) 248-4000

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Mission Statement

Black River Technical College is an institution of higher learning committed to a partnership with the individual and the global community to provide lifelong learning experiences, seeking always to empower those it serves to achieve their academic, vocational, and personal development goals.

*The River's Edge is produced by the
Office of Development.*

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On-line Application address:

<http://connect.blackrivertech.org/nappadm.html>

From the President's Desk



Richard Gaines

BRTC began as a vocational technical school in 1973, becoming a college some twenty years later. This move was a good one for many reasons. The doors to educational advancement were opened wider, allowing access not only to students interested in technical fields but also those who wanted to attain a four-year degree. Today, as we approach our 35th anniversary as an institution of higher learning, we serve a student body of more than 1800 students. Just over half those students are in the "Gen Ed" track, taking classes

that transfer to universities where they can pursue that baccalaureate degree. But a large number of those students—some 800 or so—enroll in one of our sixteen technical programs of study. We at BRTC are very proud of the fact that even as we grew and advanced in our college transfer enrollment, we have held firm to a commitment to technical career opportunities.

Technical careers are increasingly in high demand and pay well. They provide rewarding employment opportunities, and deserve closer consideration, especially by today's high school graduates. All too often, young people are influenced by the media's portrayal of career choices. Unfortunately, the media often does not portray technicians' jobs as favorably as those "white collar" jobs we usually see.

I urge prospective students of all ages to take a longer look at technical career options. The view may be surprising.

Extension Agent Visits Biology Class



Mike Andrews

Mike Andrews, Randolph County Extension Agent, was recently on the BRTC campus visiting with students taking Biology and Biology Lab during the Summer I session, according to instructor Jana Culp.

Andrews gave a presentation on different types of soils and some common plants found in Arkansas.

He also brought potted weeds and different soil samples for the students to identify. "The students were able to see how what they have been studying in class is evident in things they see each day," said Culp.

The class also made a recent trip to Mill Creek Gardens nursery in Pocahontas, owned by Jerry and Amy Swann, where Mrs. Swann talked to students about organic gardening and allowed them to sample chocolate mints, pineapple mints, and Chamomile.

"It's good to have local agencies and businesses that work closely with the college and its students," noted Culp. "The real-world lessons they receive through these experiences provide them with a better understanding of what they are studying in the classroom."