



The River's Edge

Inside this issue:

<i>Go! Opportunities Grant Announced</i>	2
<i>New Facility (Cont'd from Page 1)</i>	2
<i>Mason Earns NPS Credential</i>	3
<i>Goal Doubled at PTK Blood Drive</i>	3
<i>Former Student Returns to Teach Spanish</i>	3
<i>From the President's Desk</i>	4
<i>Enrollment (Cont'd from Page 1)</i>	4

Another Year—'Another Record' for BRTC

BRTC has posted yet another record fall enrollment, according to data from the Office of Student Services. The new high, 1953 students, represents a small increase over the previous record from the Fall 2006 semester, when 1920 students were enrolled.

This fall's number includes a total of 444 students attending on the Paragould campus, an increase of approximately seventeen percent over the previous fall semester, according to VP for Student Services Dr. Michael Sul-lens.

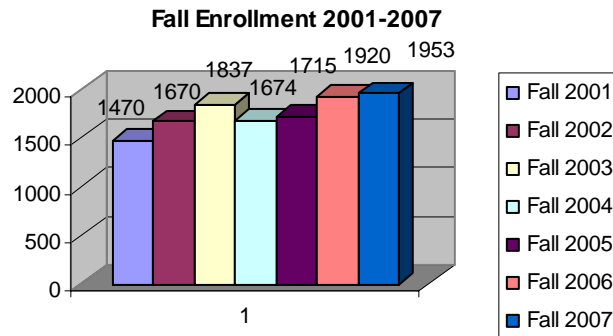
Counties of origin of BRTC students has shown little

change since last fall, with the following residency break-down reported: Randolph County, 35.5%; Greene County, 18.4%; Lawrence County, 17.3%; Clay County, 10.8%; Craighead County, 9.2%; other in-state resi-dency, 5.2%; and out-of-state resi-dency, 2.8%.

The number of first-time entering students is up: 598 students compared to 488 last fall, while the number of "continuing" students is down, 713 for the current semester, compared to 877 for Fall of 2006.

Changes in legislation have likely resulted in a decline

(Continued on page 4)



Important Dates

- October 6**
Golf Tournament
- October 12**
Serendipity
- October 14 - 16**
AATYC
- October 24**
PTK Blood Drive

September 15
Deadline

Mary Sallee Single
Parent Scholarship

New Community Conference Center Host to Donor, Foundation Meetings



Major donors meet with college officials in an initial meeting in the Community Conference Center last week.

"Pocahontas can be very proud of this facility," said BRTC's architect for the new Business Technology building. A. C. Williams was addressing the major donors who have made contributions toward the recently completed 27,000 sq.ft. facility in the first official meeting held in the facility's high-tech conference center.

Williams and BRTC President Richard Gaines

(Continued on page 2)

Go! Opportunities Grant Announced



Financial Aid officer Brandi Chester (standing) and Director Carolyn Collins review new grant program.

October 1 is the deadline to apply for a new grant program aimed at awarding up to \$1000 per year to eligible students, announced BRTC Financial Aid Director Carolyn Collins. The "Go! Opportunities Grant" is designed to assist those first-time college

students who meet financial needs and other guidelines.

"This is a new program," Collins said. "It was established during the last Legislative session, though specifics of the grant have only recently been announced. Basically, this opportunity is open to certain students who graduated or completed their GED after December 31, 2006 who meet income eligibility guidelines."

Eligibility limits specify that for a family with one dependent child, the maximum adjusted gross income as filed on the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is \$25,000. The amount increased by \$5,000 for each dependent child in the household.

Collins explained that since details of this program had not been released prior to the awarding of Financial Aid for the Fall 2007 semester, colleges around the state are now making a concerted effort to locate any eligible recipients who are currently

enrolled. She added that in keeping with state regulations on scholarship "stacking," if the awarding of this grant causes a student's total financial aid "package" to exceed the cost of attendance, the amount of this scholarship may be reduced.

The student must be accepted to a college or university in Arkansas to receive the grant. The award amount is \$1,000 per year for students enrolled full-time (defined as twelve credit hours or more the first semester, and fifteen credit hours each semester thereafter.) Eligible students enrolled in at least six credit hours may be eligible for a \$500 grant per academic year.

The grant is renewable for four years if the student maintains a 2.0 cumulative GPA.

Students may apply for the Go! Opportunity Grant by completing an online application through Arkansas Department of Higher Education at www.adhe.edu and selecting "Financial Aid." For more information, contact ADHE at 1-800-54STUDY.

New Facility

noted the building could not have been completed at such a level of sophistication without the funding support from those major donors. The combined contributions and pledges of the City of Pocahontas, Bank of Pocahontas, First National Bank of Walnut Ridge, Hoxie and Pocahontas, and Steve Manley of Universal Asset Management total more than one-half million dollars.

Representatives from those organizations were on hand September 6 to tour the \$4.5 million building, and to discuss appropriate signage naming the respective parts of the building.

Also on hand at the donor meeting were BRTC Technology staff members Malissa Crawford, Steve Williams and Carl Hawkins, who demonstrated the technology capabilities in the conference center. The center features Audio-Visual equipment with six different modes—PC, Laptop, DVD, VHS, TV and Document Camera—and can project the audience and speaker via all six modes. Video conferencing can connect to any distant location with the proper receptor equipment.

The Business Tech building includes also large and small lecture halls, spacious student center and internet café, four classrooms, four computer labs and twelve faculty offices. Although minor work elements are ongoing, the building was open for classes to begin meeting at the start of the fall semester.

(Continued from Page 1)

Most of the major donors are also members of the BRTC Foundation Board, which held its bi-monthly meeting at noon Thursday in the conference center. Gaines announced a formal dedication ceremony for the building will be scheduled later this fall.



Steve Manley, a major donor for the Business Technology facility, writes a check in fulfillment of his pledge, while Vickie French, Administrative Assistant, looks on.

He also updated the Foundation Board members on other construction projects planned by the college. These include the renovation of the existing maintenance building for use by the automotive programs, and construction of additional classrooms and offices at the Paragould campus.

Foundation members discussed details of the October 6 BRTC Foundation / Pulaski Bank Golf Tournament. Those interested in sponsorships and entries in the event should contact any member of the BRTC Foundation Board, or phone Vickie French at 870-248-4070.

The Foundation Board also gave the nod to hosting a February 26 fundraiser Gala and Auction. BRTC Board of Trustees Chair Mike Dunn will chair the event.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Foundation members also toured the entire new facility, which is connected to Black River Development Center and lies at the heart of the campus.

Mason Earns NPS Credential

Janet Mason, R.R.T. and Respiratory Care instructor at BRTC, recently passed the Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care Specialty Exam given by the National Board for Respiratory Care. The three-hour exam, according to NBRC, is designed to objectively measure essential knowledge, skills and abilities required of respiratory therapists in this specialty area.

“The NPS credential will enhance not only the knowledge of the instructor, but also the Respiratory Care program by increasing the qualifications of personnel,” said Angie Caldwell, Division Chair of Technical and Business Education. “Passing the NPS Exam is quite an achievement and one to be proud of for Ms. Mason and the entire program.”



Janet Mason

Goal Doubled at PTK Blood Drive

BRTC’s Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society recently joined with the American Red Cross to hold their quarterly blood drive in the Randolph County Development Center. According to PTK Advisor Dr. Linda Moss, 48 pints of blood were collected doubling PTK’s goal of 24 pints.

“I want to thank everyone who took the time to donate,” Moss commented, “especially in light of the low blood supply currently being experienced by the Red Cross.” According to Moss, the American Red Cross has issued an emergency alert statewide because of the need for blood. She also noted that three lives are saved with every pint of blood donated.

The next blood drive is scheduled for October 14 in RCDC.

Serendipity Opens New Season



From left, Pat Johnson, Arlus Blackwell, and Bonnie Harris, all among Serendipity members at the first meeting.

The new Serendipity theme for 2007-08 is “From Here to There,” according to BRTC VP for Development Dr. Jan Ziegler. The year’s first meeting, held

Friday in the Department of Continuing Education and Business Outreach, touched on this cycle’s programming, to include readings, video, music and discussions. A number of returning and new members attended the luncheon kick-off session. The organization is designed to bring together people of varying ages, including those who are retired or nearing retirement, for monthly luncheons, special holiday events and occasional short travel opportunities. “All we promise is to try and have fun,” Ziegler told those in attendance.

Serendipity is co-sponsored by the BRTC Foundation and Continuing Education, and is developed by Patti Blaxton and Ziegler as a lifelong learning activity to help keep people engaged and to provide opportunities for members to meet new people and enjoy new experiences. The organization is designed to cultivate friends for the college even as it serves those who belong, according to Ziegler.

Serendipity will focus this year on readings and discussion from several contemporary books, Ziegler said. “But members do not have to read the material—we mostly discuss universal themes that are familiar to us all,” she said. The October luncheon will include discussion of excerpts from *Water for Elephants*, a novel set in the Depression. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Ed at 870-248-4081.

Former Student Returns to Teach Spanish



Melanie King

Melanie King has returned to the classroom at BRTC, but this time she is behind the teacher’s desk, not in front of it. An alum of the college, Melanie is teaching Spanish as an adjunct instructor, and is very pleased to be back in this new capacity.

She received her Associate of Arts degree at BRTC, then completed a BSE in Spanish degree at ASU,

graduating in May, 2007. She is already enrolled in a program at UCA to complete a master’s degree in Spanish, but spends a part of each week back at the college she said she grew to love and appreciate while here.

King expresses her gratitude for the faculty and staff at BRTC, and cited these, along with assistance she received as a recipient of the Mary

Sallee Single Parent Scholarship, as factors in being able to meet her educational goals.

“We are very pleased to welcome Ms. King to our adjunct staff,” said Gen Ed Division Chair Roger Johnson. “Spanish teachers are not easy to locate, and we definitely have student need and interest for Spanish, so she is filling a valuable niche for us right now.”

Black River Technical College

P.O. Box 468
1410 Hwy 304 East
Pocahontas, AR 72455

P.O. Box 1565
1 Black River Drive
Paragould, AR 72450

Phone: 870-248-4000
Fax: 870-248-4100
Website: www.blackrivertech.org

Phone: 870-239-0969
Fax: 870-239-2050

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.*

*janz@blackrivertech.org
annf@blackrivertech.org
dina.hufstедler@blackrivertech.org*



On-line Application address:

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

From the President's Desk



Richard Gaines

The long-awaited first meeting was held recently in the new Community Conference Center in our Business Technology building. All those in attendance, from our major donors to the BRTC Foundation Board members, were obviously pleased and proud of this high-tech space which will be used for various community meetings and other events requiring the sophisticated media needs this room can accommodate.

The general consensus seemed to

be that the entire facility, including classrooms, lecture halls, Student Center and Internet Café, and Conference Center, can be considered truly a great accomplishment for our college and for our community.

Here at BRTC, with guidance from the Board of Trustees, we have always tried to provide facilities that are appropriate for the training or educational activities we provide. Anyone who has visited our campus can attest to the fact that many of our buildings date back many years, some of them to the year of our opening in 1972. We have, of course, tried to update and make all our facilities as modern and conducive to educational programs as possible. But occasionally, the opportunity presents itself, as in the Business Technology building project, to construct a showcase facility that not only meets our needs, but also enhances the entire campus operation, yet does so without being

excessively extravagant or overdone.

This is the level we have aimed for, and, from all accounts, accomplished, in the Community Center space of the new Business Technology building. We look forward to a dedication ceremony later this fall

when we can invite the community to celebrate this accomplishment with us, and to help us recognize our four major donors who will be on hand for the "naming" of the spaces each of them made possible with their generous financial support.

Enrollment (Continued From Page 1)

in the number of concurrently enrolled high school students, 121 in Fall of 2007 compared to 156 last fall. The changes, according to Sullens, include a "fifty-percent" rule, requiring at least half the students in a class to be enrolled for college credit in order for a class to qualify as "concurrent." A change in the cut-off reading score required by the state may also have affected the number of students who are enrolled for concurrent credit, the VP said.

The number also includes 138 former Waterloo employees, who are eligible for re-training assistance as a result of the loss of their jobs to international competition.

"We are pleased with our numbers," said BRTC President Richard Gaines in a meeting with the President's Cabinet last week. "We keep thinking we may be leveling out, but we have another record year."

**Pulaski Bank/BRTC Foundation
Golf Tournament - October 6**