



# The River's Edge

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## Mural Project "Work of Art" by Baltz

Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz, Fine Arts Instructor, recently completed the mural project displayed in the front lobby of the administration building. With 55 hours spent painting the mural and another five hours in sketching, and taking the photographs of the bridge, river and surrounding area, the project took more than three weeks to complete.

Baltz used 30 different photographs which showed different aspects of the bridge and water and almost four gallons of paint for the mural.

Baltz broke down the mural in sections for painting. Once she reviewed the photos taken, she made a grid, which she trans-



ferred to the mural wall. Then she sketched the photo on the wall. Once that was completed, she began the

painting. (See related photo of artist Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz on page 3.)

### Important Dates

October 3

**Pulaski Bank/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament**

October 7

**PTK Induction**

October 28 - 29

**Marc Prensky - Teaching Digital Natives**

November 6

**Board of Trustees Mtg**

November 10 - 11

**PTK Blood Drive**

November 20 - 21

**New Student Orientation**

December 11

**BRTC Graduation**

## VILOs Introduced to BRTC

Career and Technical Education (CTE) faculty and staff at BRTC completed a Level I workshop last week in the application and production of VILOs (Video Interactive Learning Objects, pronounced VĪLŌ), an activity made possible by the college's Carl Perkins Grant. The training was provided by a five-member VILO team from Ivy Tech Community College in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.



*Tonya Hankins, BRTC Nursing Instructor, learns to operate video equipment during VILO training from Andaz Ahmad, leader of Ivy Tech training team.*

Participants included Debbie Prichard, Business Department Head; Networking and PC Repair Instructor Phillip Dickson; CNA Instructor Judy Forrester; Respiratory Instructor Suzette Hicks; and Nursing Instructor Tonya Hankins. Also participating were Mike Green, Director of Computer Services; and Amber Sarhan, Secretary for the Office of Development.

"VILOs are a great way to teach separate, discreet learning objects," said Prichard. "They are short - 5 to 15 minutes - and they break down what could be a complex learning object into a small segment, doing so in a format that is cost-effective, reusable, and highly accessible to our students. I think VILOs are valuable teaching tools and I plan to integrate those I develop into my online classes as well as my traditional classes."

Hicks agreed, stating "I totally enjoyed the VILO experience. We made friends and met colleagues

Creating VILOs is a step-by-step process which involves planning, filming, editing and finalizing the instructional video.

(Continued on page 2)

## VILOs

who will be there for us with support as we attempt to apply what we have learned. I feel I can really make a positive influence on the Respiratory Care field with VILOs."

Completed VILOs are made available to students for preview and for review through a variety of ways: on the website, through Blackboard, even on CDs or on the students' iPods.

"The use of VILOs is a great way to ensure that students do not miss out on a detailed demonstration, for example, of how to draw blood using a needle," explained Hankins, whose VILO was on "Giving a Parenteral Injection."

VILOs can vividly depict for students the exact steps involved in intricate work of preparing a Network CAT-5 Patch Cable, one of the many somewhat complex procedures students must master in Dickson's Network Class. "I believe this is a very effective way to supplement what I teach," Dickson said.

"They are a supplement, not a replacement, for classroom instruction," explained A. Andaz Ahmad, Ivy Tech's Director of Instructional Technology and leader of the training team. "VILOs work," he continued in his opening comments. "They meet diverse learning styles, they improve retention of the learning objective, and best of all, they have been demonstrated to improve grades and performances on skills assessments. That's what this is all about: improving student performance."

In addition to Ahmad, other Ivy Tech staff spending the week in Pocahontas for the training were Patricia Ley, Lead Videographer; Tova Wiegand-Green, Director of Collaboration; William Brown, Multimedia Specialist; and James Alt, Business Intern.

The college has focused its Perkins funding for the year on professional development, particularly enhancements in the use of instructional technology, according to Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development and Perkins

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Grant Coordinator for BRTC. "We know we have to meet the students of tomorrow where they are technologically. This is one of the goals of Technical Division Chair Angie Caldwell, and she is absolutely correct. The use of VILOs is one way we can do this, because increasingly our students are expecting instruction that is technologically-enhanced."

In addition to funding expenses for the Ivy Tech team, the Perkins Grant funded the purchase of the equipment needed for the production of VILOs. Also, Perkins funding has allowed for the purchase of other classroom technological tools such as Palm Pilots and HITT systems, and various software programs to enhance teaching with technology. The Perkins grant is also making available to faculty and others an upcoming presentation on "Teaching Digital Natives" by Mark Prensky October 28-29.

## Local Author Speaks to Creative Writing Class

Jean Fort of Pocahontas recently spoke to Dr. Gary Buxton's Creative Writing class about her experiences with writing and publishing her

book, *A Slice of Life*. The mother of three, grandmother of four, and great-grandmother of two, she has been a farmer's wife for the past 54 years and said she has always been a writer because it's something she has always enjoyed.

"I've written stories for my children and grandchildren, including short stories, funny stories, and some poems," Fort explained. "If you enjoy writing, you can always find something to write about."

One day, according to Fort, a friend suggested that she publish a book with her collection of writings. "My friend agreed to help with the

technical part of the writings," said Fort, "and she was also the one to find a publisher."

After a year-and-a-half long process, the vision of a published book became a reality for Fort. To date, she has sold fifty copies and an additional fifty have been ordered to sell.

"It's been so fulfilling, as an instructor, to see former students publish their work," said Buxton. Fort took Buxton's Creative Writing class at BRTC in fall of 2006.



Jean Fort

## Serendipity Visits Missouri Sites



*Pictured front row from left, Jeanne Simpson, Dr. Jan Ziegler, Patti Blaxton, second row from left, Sarah Crabtree, Georgia Berry, Patti Riffel, back row from left, Ken Ziegler, Anne Simpson, Laura Ford, and Bonnie Harris. A guest on the trip taking the photo was Wanda Bell.*

Several members of BRTC's Serendipity group visited historic sites in and around Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, on September 19-20. The two-day trip included stops at Burfordsville Covered Bridge, Bollinger Mill, Kaskaskia Island, the East Perry County Fair, Trail of Tears Park, and the historic town of Ste. Genevieve, the early French settlement on the West bank of the Mississippi.

Among the highlights were a tour of The Church of Immaculate Conception on Kaskaskia Island, a structure which dates to 1675. Originally part of a mission established by French explorer Marquette to serve the Kaskaskia Indians, the church was moved brick by brick to its present location in 1894. The building features many unique historical features and artifacts, including an altar dating to the early mission days. Its history is intertwined with the frequent flooding of the region.

Serendipity is an organization developed by BRTC in response to its mission of promoting lifelong learning. Sponsored by Continuing Education and Business Outreach, along with the BRTC Office of Development, Serendipity membership is open to any interested individuals. It is designed especially to appeal to those who are retired or near-retirement, bringing together a diverse group for monthly luncheon meetings, optional readings, and reflections.

Currently Serendipity serves approximately 30 members.

For more information, contact the office of Continuing Education and Business Outreach at 870-892-4180.

# Respiratory Care Students Compete in Sputum Bowl



*Respiratory Care Students along with Director Suezette Hicks, attended an annual competition in Hot Springs sponsored by ASRC. Heather Dickson, Shannon Ermert and Crystal McQuirt (front row, l to r) captured third place in the competition.*

Respiratory students from Black River Technical College participated in the Annual Sputum Bowl in Hot Springs this past week. According to Suezette Hicks, Director of the Respiratory Care program at BRTC, the Sputum Bowl is a ‘quiz bowl’ competition sponsored by the American Association for Respiratory Care. Each state agency hosts a Sputum Bowl to determine the state winners.

The two-day competition is held each year for all respiratory care students and practitioners throughout America, and teams compete against each other by answering trivia questions related to respiratory care. Winners will be sent to the annual AARC Congress to be held this December in Anaheim, California.

During this year’s event, a team of three BRTC first-year students placed third in the competition earning a team trophy along with individual trophies. “This is the first win for a team representing BRTC since 1997,” said Hicks. “We are so proud of the winning team and of the performance by all of the students.” Special thanks to Advisory Board member Doug Cates, RRT for helping coach our teams.

Students comprising the winning team were Heather Dickson, Crystal McQuirt and Shannon Ermert. Hicks pointed out that the first and second place teams were senior students from UAMS (University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences), a four-year college in Little Rock.

## Culver Scholarship Awarded



*Shane Koster*

Shane Koster is the recipient of the Henry Culver Music Scholarship for Fall 2008. The award amount for the scholarship is paid tuition/fee for one credit hour and is awarded each Fall and Spring semester. The applicant must be enrolled in the Kimbrough Choir. The scholarship is not renewable for consecutive semesters; applicants must reapply for each term. Koster is a first-year freshman at BRTC and a recent graduate of Pocahontas High School. After taking his basic courses at BRTC, he plans to transfer to ASU-Jonesboro to pursue a teaching degree in music.

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## LETA Works “Crash Scene”



*Conrad Zitzelberger, Medic 1 Manager, instructs BRTC LETA students on proper patient transfer techniques.*

Students in the BRTC Basic Police Officer class had opportunity recently to hone their skills in working an accident scene during a mock accident complete with a simulated helicopter transport of an accident ‘victim.’ The accident was staged just north of the LETA

(Law Enforcement Training Academy) facility. Program Director Steve Shults and other staff members observed students as they gained near-authentic experience in completing a “crash report,” complete with summoning to the mock crash site Medic 1 Air Transport based in Jonesboro.

Students carried out the many tasks associated with such an accident, including assessment of injuries, measurements of skid marks, and transferring the ‘victim’ to a stretcher and then into the helicopter. Nursing students participated in the simulation by serving as accident ‘victims,’ and also were on hand to observe the activities.

## Securities Representative Speaks at BRTC



*Zoe Rossi*

Zoe Rossi of the Arkansas Securities Department in Little Rock recently discussed the Stock Market at BRTC with business students and other interested persons during a two-day visit. “She did six presentations over the course of two days,” said Debbie Prichard, Business Department Head.

During her discussion, Zoe explained different terms associated with the Stock

Market, demonstrated how to read a stock table, and discussed past and current trends in the market. “Attendees were very interested in the presentations,” Prichard noted. “The interest was heightened because of today’s economy and the current events happening on Wall Street.”



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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.*

### On-Line Application Address:

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

## From the President's Desk



*Richard Gaines*

Here at BRTC we are well aware that the students we serve increasingly represent a population segment that is not only comfortable with technology, but one which prefers technology-assisted learning. Today's younger college students grew up using computers for entertainment and as their preferred source for retrieving information. They turn to the internet, not the phonebook, to find out how to contact a business or organization. They not only function differently than those of us who

remember a rotary dial phone and a roll-down car window, but, we are told by those who know, they often even *think and learn differently*.

To serve their needs at the optimal level, BRTC realizes the need to help our faculty and staff understand and have access to the resources that will enable us to meet the students of tomorrow where they are technologically, instead of expecting them to adapt to approaches and processes that are comfortable to those who grew up in a different, earlier time.

This is why BRTC is providing professional development activities that bring about enhanced skills in the use of instructional technology, not just to use technology for technology's sake, but to use technology that meets our students' needs, interests, and abilities. The just completed training in the use of VILOs, as highlighted in an article in this issue of *The River's Edge*, is one example of that commitment. Another is an upcoming presen-

tation by a nationally-known presenter and author, Marc Prensky, October 28-29, who will speak and provide workshops on the topic, "*Teaching Digital Natives*."

Change is constant, and in the case of technology, change comes

quickly. As a result, BRTC is working hard to keep abreast of the changing needs our students bring. These needs require that we grow in our ability to use technology for teaching and for serving the needs of our students.



*The Kimbrough Choir recently received on loan an elite Steinway Baby Grand Piano. The loan is from an anonymous donor and will be made available for the choir's use for one year. "We are very grateful to the donor," Kimbrough Choir Director Joniece Trammel said. "The Steinway Piano brings much professionalism to the choir."*