



The River's Edge

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15th Annual Golf Tournament Held

A total of 57 teams participated in the 15th Annual Pulaski Bank/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament held Friday, October 3 at Rolling Hills Country Club in Pocahontas. The tournament is a primary source of scholarship funding for the Foundation.

BRTC President Richard Gaines expressed his appreciation for Pulaski Bank and their continued support in sponsoring the tournament each year with a donation of \$10,000. Additional sponsorships are purchased in varying amounts by individuals and businesses. Proceeds from the

event are used by the BRTC Foundation to support scholarship programs and other needs of the college.

"The tournament was structured differently this year with morning and afternoon sessions each being independent of the other and each having its own Championship, "A" and "B" Flights," explained Dr. Roger Johnson, event coordinator, and Division Chair of Academics at BRTC. "The change in format allows those that play the morning round to leave after



1st Place, afternoon flight, Anthony Hausman and Brent Reynolds.

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BRTC/GCITC Host Luncheon



Vicki Kuykendall, Director of Off-Campus Operations, Paragould, is pictured with business and industry leaders recognized for their efforts in support of GCITC during the recent Business and Industry Appreciation Luncheon.

BRTC President Richard Gaines acknowledged the growth of the Paragould campus at the eighth annual BRTC/GCITC (Greene County Industrial Training Center) appreciation luncheon held at Atkins Celebration Hall in Paragould last month. The event drew approximately 120 leaders of area businesses served by BRTC/GCITC.

Gaines also updated attendees on the current project to

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Speaker to Discuss "Digital Natives"

Marc Prensky, internationally acclaimed speaker, writer, educator, consultant, and game designer, will be on the BRTC campus October 28-29 to address faculty, staff, students, and the community on the changing needs of students in our educational system. "Teaching Digital Natives" will be the topic of his presentations and will address the critical areas of education and learning.

Prensky's professional focus has been on reinventing the learning process by combining the motivation of technology and other highly engaging activities with the driest content of education. "Our students have changed radically," Prensky writes. "Today's students are no longer the people our educational system was designed to teach."

The goal is to inspire audiences by opening up their minds to new ideas and approaches to technology

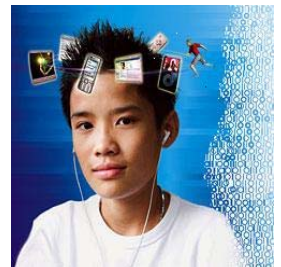


Photo credit: David Julian cited on Edutopia.org

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Important Dates

October 24

Serendipity

October 28 - 29

Marc Prensky - Teaching Digital Natives

November 6

Board of Trustees Mtg

November 10 - 11

PTK Blood Drive

November 14

LETA Graduation

November 17

REACH Public Mtg

November 20 - 21

New Student Orientation

Phi Theta Kappa Inducts 49 New Members



The BRTC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa international honor society welcomed 49 new members during

its Fall induction ceremony held October 7 in the Randolph County Development Center on the Poca-

hontas campus. Requirements for selection include maintaining a 3.5 grade point average or above while enrolled in at least 12 college credit hours per semester. PTK has been recognizing academic achievement in two-year colleges since 1918.

Current PTK officers are Whitney Crouch, President; Lawana Watson, Vice President of Scholarship; Heather Dickson, Vice President of Leadership; Tracy Ballard, Vice President of Service; Terri Milburn, Secretary/

Recorder; and Samantha Johnson, Treasurer.

Chapter advisors of PTK include Dr. Linda Moss, Dr. Gary Buxton, Phillip Dickson, Ruth Schaa, and Joan Linnstaedter. Lawana Watson is currently serving as Regional Vice President of Oklahoma/Arkansas Region, Eastern District.

In addition to the 49 new inductees, President Richard Gaines and Vice President for Academics Jack McCord were recognized during the ceremony and awarded honorary membership.

Luncheon (Continued from Page 1)

expand facilities at Paragould with an academic complex. The addition will add more than 16,000 sq. ft. of space, and will include classrooms, computer labs, science lab, a new student lounge and office space, and will mean that students attending on the Paragould campus can complete an associate's degree there.

Vicki Kuykendall, Director of Off-Campus Operations at Paragould, recognized several individuals during the luncheon for their dedication, involvement, and hard work at the GCITC. These include Dennis Cooper of Arkansas Methodist Medical Center; Josh Kisse of Anchor; Ray Noel of Garlock Industries; Don Wagster of Emerson; and Dean Inman of American Railcar Indus-

tries.

Audra Howerton, Technology Instructor, detailed the impact of BRTC/GCITC in Greene and surrounding counties in 2007: more than 150 organizations and 6,000 participants were served, with more than 67,000 contact hours accumulated. New programs introduced in 2008 include Six Sigma Certification; Supervisory Academy; Work Keys CRC directed by Dana Bradford; and HVAC Apprenticeship program directed by Jacinda Welch.

"We appreciate all who participated," said Kuykendall. "I think everyone had a great time. We hope to serve the community, businesses and industries of Paragould for years to come."

Students Learn from Hands-On Activity

Students in Jana Culp's Human Anatomy & Physiology II class at BRTC recently had the experience of dissecting sheep hearts in their lab class. "Sheep hearts are the closest to the human heart," said Culp. "The reason I have them go through the dissecting process is because actually seeing a heart provides so much more detail than seeing an image in the text book.

"With the dissecting process, students are able to trace the pathway of blood through the heart and see the differences in the chambers," explained Culp. "The students are fascinated by how much fat surrounds the heart of a sheep and won-



Susan Hanan (l to r), Shelly Rodgers, and Jana Jessen dissect a sheep's heart.

der what their own hearts look like."

Specimens used in the lab are ordered through a company which specializes in providing science teaching supplies to the education community.



PN students (l to r) Wesley Hardage, Echo McIntare, Rhonda Difani, and Sarah Conti do a class presentation on healthcare in Asian American culture.

PN Students Explore Healthcare of Other Cultures, Groups

While studying a unit in Specialty Nursing on cultural awareness, third-semester practical nursing students at BRTC were assigned a specific culture or group to research, and to cover in a presentation. Those represented were Asian American, African American, Hispanic American, Jehovah's Witness, Orthodox Jewish, and American Indian.

"The students expressed a new appreciation for

other cultures and found the project very enlightening," said instructor Ramonda Housh, Director of Nursing.

As part of the assignment, students prepared posters, dressed in ethnic clothing, and brought food and artifacts related to their assigned culture or group.

Distance Education Program Grows at BRTC

Rising fuel costs and the convenience of attending college without leaving home have created a demand for distance learning programs all over the United States. Black River Technical College took on the challenge of providing online classes in Fall 2003, when the Distance Education Program officially began.

The number of students enrolled in the DE program has increased by more than 200 percent in the last five years. In Fall 2008, 676 students were registered for DE classes, an increase from Fall 2007 at 606 and Fall 2006 at 485.

Classes are offered in various forms, including online, hybrid, Compressed Video Network (CVN), and Technology-Enhanced classes. Online classes are offered solely via the Web, hybrid classes combine online and classroom instruction, CVN classes are offered over the television from one point to another, and Tech-E classes are traditional classes held on-campus which use Blackboard in some form.

This semester BRTC offered 14 sections of CVN, 11 hybrid classes, more than 60 Tech-E classes, and 40 sections of online classes. The

online classes filled more than 750 seats. Classes offered in these formats include business, history, nursing, human anatomy and physiology, automotive service technology, chemistry, microbiology, math, social science, English, and developmental education. BRTC employs full-time and adjunct instructors to teach the DE classes.

“Student demand for online and distance education classes continues to increase,” Distance Education Coordinator Karen Liebhaber said. “We currently offer more freshman/sophomore online courses than ASU

and just a couple of years ago we were ranked 7th in the state in highest number of online courses offered by one of the 22 Arkansas Community Colleges. That our students want more online/Distance Education offerings indicate that the program will continue to grow,” she said.

According to GuideToOnline-Schools.com, approximately three million students are enrolled in the 25,000 online courses being offered in the U.S. Most of the courses offered are at the undergraduate level, with computer and business courses making up most of those classes.

Golf Tournament (Continued from Page 1)

finishing their round. In previous years both morning and afternoon groups were combined to determine winners, announced at the end of the day.

Winners of the Championship Flight were: Morning - Loel King and Bryce Goad, 1st place; Bill Prichard and Bobby Prichard, 2nd place; Kenny Tosh and Chuck Lewis, 3rd place; Afternoon - Brent Reynolds and Anthony Hausman, 1st place; Doc Teaster and Steven Southard, 2nd place; N. Ray Campbell and Pink Baltz, 3rd place.

“A” Flight winners were: Morning - Tommy Messer and Don Brown, 1st place; Kevin Rose and Billy Keedy, 2nd place; Brad Snider and Mike Dailey, 3rd place; Afternoon - Jeff O’Donnell and Harold Copenhaven, 1st place; Phil Taylor and Buddy Harrison, 2nd place; and Derek Fitzgerald and David Griffin, 3rd place.

“B” Flight winners were: Morning - J. R. Blackburn and

John Privett, 1st place; Kelly Scobey and Kirk Scobey, 2nd place; and Jack McCord and Roger Johnson, 3rd place; Afternoon - Rick Newsom and Keelan Newsom, 1st place; Johnny Boatner and Bonnie Boatner, 2nd place; and Lawrence Bergman and Gene Bloodworth, 3rd place.

Closest-to-the-Pin Winners were: Morning - Joel King, Joe Jones, Kelly Scobey, and Bill Prichard; Afternoon - Tom Walburgh, Matt Noles, Stephen Southard, and Lloyd King. ‘Advantage Hole’ winners were Mike Dailey (morning) and Drew Beaverstock (afternoon).

Johnson praised the many volunteers and donors who helped make the tournament possible. “I want to give a special thanks to the businesses in the community that continue to support the college through their donations and sponsorships.”



Local Bankers Speak to Business Class

Representatives from two local banks recently spoke to students in Ruth Schaa’s Personal Finance class at BRTC. Kevin Rose, VP of Commercial Relationships at Pulaski Bank, and Terry Dickson, President of Bank of Pocahontas, were guest speakers on October 2 and 9, respectively.



Terry Dickson



Kevin Rose

Rose talked to the class about debt and credit, including debt management, understanding credit scores, how to establish credit, obtaining credit reports, and what banks consider when determining whether or not to grant a loan. He also discussed the current credit crisis and how it came to be.

Dickson spoke to students about

different types of loans and the loan process, compound interest, time value of money, buying vs. renting a home, mortgages, and investing for retirement. He emphasized to the class the importance of investing early, starting as early as possible when entering the workforce, and taking advantage of employer matching plans by investing the full amount.

“The guest speakers provided valuable information to the students that supplemented what I’ve been teaching,” said Schaa. “I appreciate their willingness to talk to the class and answer questions regarding personal finance and banking issues.”

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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

In the life of a college, there is always something to celebrate and always something to anticipate. The celebrations are grounded in what has gone before, and the anticipations are obviously of things to come.

We have much to celebrate at BRTC, most recently the great success of the annual BRTC Foundation/Pulaski Bank Golf Tournament, as well as the honoring of four individuals associated with BRTC.

While the official figures are still being tabulated, we know that once again the golf tournament has generated much-needed dollars for scholarships, primarily, as well as for other college needs.

Thanks to the generosity of Pulaski and of the entire community, what was a day of fun for a group of golfers translates into opportunities for students.

We celebrate also the recognition of four of our own at the Arkansas Association of Two-Year College (AATYC) Annual Conference: Outstanding Staff member Carolyn Collins, Financial Aid; Outstanding Faculty member Travis DeClerk, Automotive; Outstanding Alumni, Kevin Rose, Pulaski Bank; and Academic All-Star, Thomas C. Nichols.

As for the anticipation part, we are looking forward to a new cycle of strategic planning to help us chart the way in coming years. This is a proc-

Speaker

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and education.

The public is invited to attend two keynote presentations scheduled for Tuesday, October 28, 9:00 a.m.-noon and Wednesday, October 29, 2:30-4:00 p.m. The Tuesday morning presentation will feature a student panel consisting of area high school students and BRTC college students. In addition to the public presentations, faculty workshops will be held throughout the day and area teachers of all grade levels are invited to participate in the workshops.

ess that will involve not only our staff and Board members, but also many of you in the community. We are confident that together this task will be productive and guide us through future decisions. In time, the strategic plan will give another cause for celebrating.

"We are pleased to be hosting Mr. Prenskey as a guest speaker on our campus," said Angie Caldwell, Division Chair for Technical Education. The presentations and workshops are sure to shed light on the changing needs of our current and future students."

The presentations are made possible by funding through a Carl Perkins grant. For more information, contact Caldwell, 870-248-4000, ext. 4120, or Dina Hufstedler, Project Specialist, ext. 4187.



Pulaski Bank employees assist at tournament.