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**Important Dates**

**February 7**

*Board of Trustees Mtg.*

**February 26**

*Foundation Gala*

**March 2**

*College Goal Sunday*

**March 4**

*BRTC Health Fair*

**March 26**

*PTK Blood Drive*

**March 28**

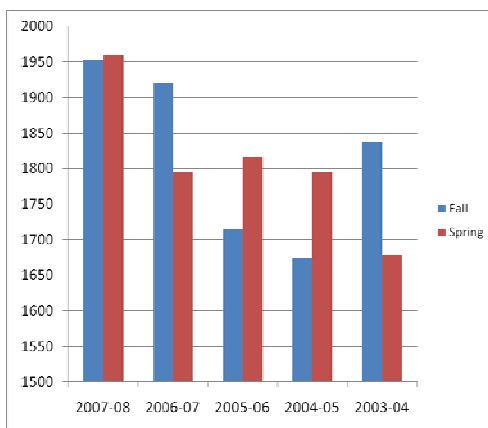
*Foundation Board Mtg.*

**April 8 - 9**

*Holocaust Presentation*

## Enrollment Hits Another High

The spring enrollment at BRTC is at an all-time high, according to official Spring 2008 figures from the Office of Student Services. The "headcount" figure, 1960, tops the Fall 2007 number, which had also been a record for the college. Though the increase is a small one numerically, seven students, college administrators expressed surprise with the figures, noting that typically, enrollments at most institutions of higher learning tend to decrease for the spring semester. BRTC has in the past bucked that trend, as the chart indicates. This spring's numbers reflect BRTC's variance from other institutions once again.



Fall-Spring Enrollment Comparisons 2003 - 2008

Also significant, officials note, is the fact that the new record is approximately 9% higher than the number enrolled in Spring 2007, when the headcount was 1796.

The new enrollment includes a total of 1519 students

enrolled on the Pocahontas campus, with 441, or 29% of the total student headcount, enrolled at Paragould, a number and percentage that are virtually unchanged from last fall's statistics.

Counties of origin of the Spring 2008 student body show only minor fluctuation over the previous semester. Randolph County is home to 34.5%; Greene County, 19.8%; Lawrence County, 15.5%; Clay County, 10.3%; Craighead County 10.4%; other in-state counties, 7.1%; and out of state counties, 2.4%.

The student body includes 167 students who are classified as "first time entering" students, and 356 who are considered "other first year" enrollees. Also included are 153 concurrently enrolled students, or those from area high

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## Serendipity Discusses Hosseini Book

The role of women in Afghanistan and the triumph of unselfish love over extreme adversity was the topic of discussion at the January 17 meeting of Serendipity, an organization developed by BRTC to meet the needs and provide intellectual stimulation for the retired or "nearly retired" individuals in the college's service area.



Georgia Berry, Serendipity member, summarizes book.

Serendipity member Georgia Berry of Corning presented a

summary of the novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini.

At monthly luncheon meetings, Serendipity members discuss excerpts from books on a variety of topics relating to an overall theme. This year's theme is "From Here to There," according to Dr. Jan Ziegler, who led the discussion as Berry moved the group through the novel's main events. Ziegler said the theme explores the desires and efforts of people to be in a different place in their lives on many levels of existence.

"Because the themes are universal, common to us all," Ziegler said, "it really does not matter whether people have actually read the excerpts. Everyone has something to share, because each of us has experienced

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Rita Neeley



Hope Cox



Gary LeRoux



Marti Tate



Benny Owens



Shala Melton



Lawana Watson



Terri Milburn



Christy Hibbard

## Nine Named Gaines Scholars

Nine students have been awarded Gaines Scholarships for the spring term, according to the Office of Financial Aid. The scholarship, officially named the "Richard and Patti Gaines Scholarship," is funded by Pulaski Bank and provides full tuition. The students are Benny Owens of Corning; Rita Neeley and Lawana Watson of Pocahontas; Terri Milburn of Hoxie; Christy Hibbard of Maynard; Hope Cox of Jonesboro; Gerald LeRoux, Jr. of Doniphan, Missouri; Marti Tate of Imboden; and Shala Melton of Corning.

Owens is the son of Arthur and Dorothy Owens and is a Corning High School graduate. He is working on his certificate in Machine Shop.

Neeley, daughter of Rita and Dub Jones, attended McClellan High School in Little Rock. She is studying to be a Registered Nurse.

A Pocahontas High School graduate, Watson plans to pursue and complete her

two-year degree at BRTC and eventually to pursue a Master's degree in Counseling. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, an honor society for two-year college students.

Hoxie High School graduate Terri Milburn is completing an AA degree at BRTC. She is currently serving as vice president for the PTK Honor Society.

A Nursing major, Hibbard graduated from Maynard High School. After completing the PN degree, Hibbard plans to pursue an RN and BSN degree in Nursing. She is a member of PTK Honor Society.

Westside High School graduate Hope Cox is planning a career as a historian. She is completing the AA degree at BRTC. A national rodeo finalist, Cox is also a member of PTK. She is the daughter of Tommy and Jackie Cox.

LeRoux is working toward an Associate of Applied Science degree in Fire Science. The Doniphan, Mo., native graduated from

high school in his home town. His parents are J.D. and Lisa LeRoux.

A student in BRTC's LPN program, Tate plans to complete her BSN degree and eventually to become a Nurse Practitioner. The daughter of Rick Tate of Imboden and Lisa Bailey of Benton, she is a member of PTK.

Business Administration is the major field of study for Shala Melton. She graduated from Corning High School and currently is a member of PTK. Her parents are Larry and Phyllis Melton.

The awarding of these nine scholarships brings to 42 the total number of Gaines Scholarships awarded since the award was established in honor of longtime BRTC President Richard Gaines and his wife, Patti Gaines.

**Single Parent Scholarship  
Applications Due  
February 15**

## Serendipity

Continued from Page 1

life in its twists and turns. We can all relate to the idea of wanting to be someplace other than where we are."

Serendipity member Patti Riffel noted that she felt the value in discussing such books as Hosseini's included the exposure to other cultures, and in this instance, to a part of the world of particular interest to Americans. Though the book is fiction, its historical context is considered accurate.

Serendipity is co-sponsored by the college's Office of Development and Department of Continuing Education. For more information, contact Patti Blaxton at 870-248-4181.

## Drummonds Awarded Williams Memorial Scholarship

Rachel Drummonds of Egypt, Arkansas, has been awarded the Jay Williams Memorial Scholarship, according to the Office of Financial Aid. The award provides a \$500 scholarship for the final two semesters of the three-semester Respiratory Care program of study.

Drummonds is a graduate of Westside High School. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and serves as class Historian.

The scholarship was established in honor of the late Jay Williams by his family and friends. Williams served as a member of the BRTC Respiratory Care Advisory Board, and worked as a Respiratory Therapist in Batesville.

Members of the Northeast Arkansas district organization of Respiratory Therapists spearheaded development of the scholarship in memory of their friend and co-worker.



Rachel Drummonds

## Rice Receives Meridith Scholarship



*Tommie Tribble, left, presents scholarship to Belinda Rice.*

Belinda Rice, a Pocahontas High School graduate, has been awarded the Charles Meridith Scholarship for the 2008 Spring semester. The scholarship was established by

family members and friends of the former Pocahontas Police Chief.

A member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Rice is a second year student majoring in Criminal Justice. She indicated in her application essay that a personal tragedy resulted in her commitment to work in the field of Criminal Justice in order to help people overcome their problems and improve their lives. Rice is particularly interested in a career working with juveniles. On hand to award the scholarship in honor of her late father was Tommie Tribble of Pocahontas.

For information on establishing a scholarship, contact the Office of Development or the Office of Financial Aid

## Heritage Class Focuses on REACH

Students in BRTC's Local Community Heritage class taught by Dr. Gary Buxton heard an overview of Project: REACH, presented by Joan Gould of Preservation Matters, January 22. Gould is the historic preservation consultant working with BRTC on the project to restore two early log structures, the Rice House and the Looney Tavern/Inn, located near Dalton on opposite sides of the Eleven Point River.



*Jake Foster, whose ancestors were among the region's pioneering families, discusses heritage issues with Joan Gould.*



*Laura Kueter-Woods  
Retention*



*Rhonda Foster  
Recruitment*



*Joniece Trammel  
Music*



*Kimberly Gray  
Student Services*



*Beth Price  
Pathways*

## Position Changes, New Hires Announced

Laura Kueter-Woods, Rhonda Foster, and Joniece Trammel, all of Pocahontas, Kimberly Gray of Black Rock, and Beth Price of Walnut Ridge have filled five positions at Black River Technical College to start the new semester.

Kueter-Woods has been hired as Coordinator of Student Retention and Placement in the Department of Student Services at BRTC. She is a graduate of St. Paul High School and holds a Bachelor in Business Administration (Marketing Communications) degree from University of Central Arkansas. She has worked for the past five years as a substitute teacher in the Pocahontas School District and worked at Acxiom Cor-

poration in Conway for thirteen years before that. She and her husband, Tim, have a son, age 9, and a daughter, age 5.

Foster is the new Recruiter/ Alumni Association Coordinator for the Office of Development at BRTC, transitioning from the position of Career Pathways Community Outreach Coordinator. Prior to joining the BRTC staff, she worked for Randolph County Medical Center. She is a graduate of St. Louis High School and earned a Bachelor in Business Administration degree from Harding University. She and her husband, Paul, have two sons ages 14 and 12.

Trammel has been hired to fill the

newly created position of full time Fine Arts Music instructor on the Pocahontas campus. She has worked for the past four years as Recruiter in the Office of Development, and has also served as Director of the Kimbrough Choir, a position that she will maintain. She is a graduate of Corning High School and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education degree from Arkansas State University. She and her husband, Scott, have four daughters and two grandchildren.

Gray has been hired as Data Entry Specialist in the Student Services department. She is a graduate of Williford High School and earned a Bachelor of Science in Communica-

tions degree with a minor in Marketing from Arkansas State University. She previously worked with her husband, Michael, in their family heat and air business, Service Pros. They have a 15-year old son who attends school at Black Rock.

Price fills the position of Community Outreach Coordinator for Career Pathways. She is a graduate of Stuttgart High School and Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology degree with a minor in Art. She has worked the past two years for Mid-South Health Systems as Children's Case Manger. She married her husband, James, in May.

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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*

BRTC's growth continues to please and often to surprise us. We had anticipated that our enrollment last fall would be a large one, in part because of an influx of former Waterloo employees seeking to re-train and equip themselves for a new job market. Usually, however, colleges experience a decline in the following spring enrollment number. As much as we try to maintain a high retention rate, the spring enrollment numbers generally drop; the number of new and retained students is not generally

enough to offset the number who graduate, who transfer to other institutions, or, for varied reasons, choose not to return. So to have an all-time record enrollment, even though only slightly more than last fall's record, in the spring semester is indeed worth noting.

The spring semester brings other good things for BRTC and those we serve as well. Our Automotive Services and Auto Collision Repair programs began classes this semester in their large and newly remodeled space on the northwest corner of the Pocahontas campus. Formerly housing the maintenance department, this building allows these two high-demand programs the space they have long needed for equipment upgrades and shop and classroom space. Faculty report students have an obvious pride in the new facility, as do all of us here at BRTC.

In another area, the good news is that for the first time since its begin-

ning three years ago, our RN program is now serving twenty students, double the number we were permitted by the State Board of Nursing to serve initially. The program, which is actually a consortium consisting of six two-year colleges, has a strong track record in the training of Registered Nurses, and the limit on all members of the consortium has been increased to up to 20 students per

institution.

These are some of the indications that this institution is a thriving and high-achieving organization. We have received outstanding community support, and in turn we try always to be responsive to the needs of our students and of the communities we serve. These positive markers, I believe, are evidence we continue to meet our commitments.

## Heritage

Gould explained how the project actually has reach—far beyond Randolph and surrounding counties. She told students the project has already shown its unending potential for study and exploration of the area's culture and history as an agricultural settlement dating to the times when the Eleven Point River Valley, and this entire region, was a part of Missouri.

Buxton, along with several other BRTC faculty members, is a member of the BRTC REACH Heritage

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Scholars team, providing opportunities for students to be engaged in the historic project.

## Enrollment

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schools who are also enrolled in college course work. Students who transferred from other higher education institutions number 85, according to the data report.