



# The River's Edge

Inside this issue:

<i>College Goal Sunday Held at BRTC</i>	2
<i>Hillbilly Chili Cook-Off Held</i>	2
<i>Annual Gala (Cont'd from Page 1)</i>	2
<i>Valuable Artifacts Under Study in Project REACH</i>	3
<i>Art Students to Exhibit at Local Banks</i>	3
<i>Instructor Hired</i>	3
<i>Drawing II Students Connect Old and New</i>	3
<i>From the President's Desk</i>	4
<i>Cook-Off (Cont'd from Page 2)</i>	4
<i>More Gala Photos</i>	4

## Foundation Gala Generates Dollars

The second annual BRTC Foundation Gala and Auction generated approximately \$13,000 in net proceeds, according to Gala Chair Mike Dunn. The annual event is one of three major annual fundraising efforts of the Foundation, the fund-raising arm of BRTC, whose mission is to provide scholarships for students and to assist with the development and enhancement of the educational programs, facilities and experiences at BRTC.

All Gala tickets were sold out, according to Dunn. A silent and live auction of more than twenty items boosted this year's fundraising success. The Foundation Board members worked to sell tickets and to obtain items to be auctioned. Vocalist Vicki Bishop of Paragould entertained with a variety of classic and modern selections interspersed with the auctioning of the live auction events: a trail ride and cowboy lunch; a four-course

catered dinner for eight; a pool party; a "Run for the Roses Derby Day Celebration"; an evening and dinner in Little Rock; and a sightseeing flight in a World War II vintage airplane.



*Kay Ellis, Business Instructor, drops her napkin to demonstrate proper way for a Southern Lady to "bid" during Gala auction.*

Dunn and Gala committee members expressed their appreciation to all Foundation members, and to the many individuals, organizations and businesses who donated items for the auction. Those attending had opportunity to bid on "silent auction" items during the early part of the evening, and then were further entertained during a live auction marshaled by "Colonel" J. B. McCord, with assistance from "ringmen" Mike Dunn, BRTC President Richard Gaines, and Mike Miller.

Foundation Chair Mike Miller expressed appreciation to members of the Foundation Board. He also acknowledged the efforts of all partici-

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Important Dates

March 26 & 27

*PTK Blood Drive*

March 28

*Foundation Board Mtg.*

April 1

*Auto Body and Auto Tech Open House*

*Advisory Dinner*

April 8 - 9

*Holocaust Presentation*

April 24

*Scholarship Luncheon*

April 29

*Fun Before Finals*

## Sutton Receives Opportunity to Name 2008-09 Scholarship



*Keith & Stephanie Sutton shown with Gala award.*

Stephanie Sutton, a longtime member of the BRTC Foundation, was recognized as the winner of the first "BRTC Foundation Gala Award" during the annual gala on February 26. Sutton received the award for her outstanding effort in ticket sales to the annual event, and as a result, Sutton has the opportunity to "name" a Foundation scholarship to be awarded for the 2008-09 academic year. Foundation Board Chair Mike Miller announced the award at the conclusion of the event.

The scholarship, she announced,

will be named the "Richard Kerley Foundation Scholarship" in honor of her late father.

The award, to be given annually, was established by the Foundation as a way to encourage and recognize efforts by Foundation Board members. BRTC President Richard Gaines noted that Foundation members devote a great deal of time and energy in support of the college, and do so as volunteers. "It is appropriate that we honor our Foundation Board members as a way to thank them for all they do for this institution. I congratulate Stephanie on this honor in recognition of her work for BRTC."

# College Goal Sunday Held at BRTC



Rachel Wise and Laura Kueter-Woods (seated, from left) assist prospective college students and parents during the nationwide College Goal Sunday held on the BRTC campus.

For the second year, Black River Technical College was host to a nationwide financial aid event, College Goal Sunday, held March 2, at 2:00 p.m., in the Randolph County Development Center. BRTC was one of 34 sites throughout Arkansas to host the state's second College Goal Sunday event, according to Brandi Chester, financial aid officer.

According to Chester, College Goal Sunday is designed to assist prospective college students and their parents in completing the Free Application for

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and is funded through a three-year grant from the Lumina Foundation for Education. The goal is to make sure the process of applying for college financial aid does not become an obstacle that would keep any person from pursuing an education beyond high school.

"We just want people to know that it's definitely worth the effort to successfully complete the federal financial aid application," said Chester. "In addition to helping them complete the FAFSA, we provided participants with information regarding state and federal financial aid programs."

Approximately 24 people were assisted by financial aid administrators during Sunday's event, which is co-sponsored by the Arkansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, and is offered free to participants.

For more information on the FAFSA, scholarships, or financial aid, contact Chester at 870-248-4000, ext. 4021, or email [brandic@blackrivertech.edu](mailto:brandic@blackrivertech.edu).



# Hillbilly Chili Cook-Off Held

Students in BRTC's Nursing, Respiratory Care, and Dietetics programs have been busy with activities to raise money for an upcoming trip to Kansas City, Missouri, to view the "Bodies Revealed" exhibit at the Kansas Convention Center.

A "Hillbilly Chili Cook-off" lunch was held February 28 in the Randolph County Development Center, raising \$513 for the trip. In conjunction with the chili lunch, a silent auction was held and chances for a \$100 gas card were also sold. These two events continued through the annual Health

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Annual Gala

Continued from Page 1



pants, including Tina Harris and students in the Dietetics program, the "auctioneering team," the BRTC Maintenance crew, former Digital Photography students Henry Germer, Bonnie Goad, Charlotte Hemphill and Larry Lawrence, BRTC Ambassadors, and the Gala Committee members, with special recognition to Ann French and Vickie French for decorations.

Miller also announced the first

Gala Award presented to Foundation Board member Stephanie Sutton. (See related article.)

In addition to the Gala, the BRTC Foundation also sponsors a "Growing Strong" Annual Campaign, and, along with Pulaski Bank, an annual Golf Tournament. The Foundation serves as the tax-exempt entity which receives and administers significant gifts of cash or other items donated to the college.



# Valuable Artifacts Under Study in Project REACH

A vital part of Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage) includes not only the restoration of the Rice House, but also the restoration of artifacts associated with this structure. These artifacts, donated along with the house to BRTC as a part of the REACH project, include a large loom which had been stored in the attic of the Rice House.

Preservationists and archeologists were in Randolph County last week to label, remove and store the artifacts so that further study can be done. In the case of the loom, believed to be a "hanging-beater" variety, the piece is in "remarkably good condition," and will not require

extensive restoration, according to Joan Gould of Preservation Matters of Fayetteville. The piece will eventually be on exhibit for public viewing.

While the exact age of the loom is not known, studies may determine whether the piece was crafted after the family arrived in the Eleven Point River Valley, or, as

is thought to be the case, whether the loom actually arrived with the family members on the 1812 wagon train from Hawkins County, Tennessee.

On hand for the transfer of the loom and other artifacts to BRTC for safekeeping during the restoration activities were Kathy Cande, Mike Evens and Jared Pebworth of

the Arkansas Archeological Survey team in Fayetteville. Also on hand was Randy Tipton of Preservation Matters, along with project architects Tommy Jameson and Brian Carnahan. Family member Don Upshaw also was on site to observe the activities.

The Rice House has been documented by dendrochronology as being constructed in 1828, making it the oldest known extant structure of its type in Arkansas. During the site visit, the archeologists and architects conducted further study necessary for the actual restoration activity on the structure, which is expected to commence later this spring or early summer.



*Jared Evans and Randy Tipton of Fayetteville carry part of the loom out of the Rice House for safekeeping during the restoration of the house itself. The loom has been donated to BRTC for restoration.*

## Art Students to Exhibit at Local Banks



All of the studio art classes from BRTC will be exhibiting their pieces in the local bank lobbies March 14-24.

The Drawing II class will have a variety of pieces consisting of charcoal, graphite, pastel, watercolor, ink, or marker. The Painting I class will have a range of subject matters created in oil or acrylic paint and the Graphic Design I class will have computer-generated art depicting movie stars, book jackets, historical events, opposite posters, or descriptive words.

According to Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz, Art Instructor, the

classes participate in the exhibits every semester to promote the art department, provide community service, and instill confidence in the developing art student.



## Instructor Hired



*Tina Stroud*

Tina Stroud of O'Kean has joined the staff of Black River Technical College as a full time nursing instructor. She is a graduate of Delaplaine High School and earned a BS in Nursing degree from Arkansas State University.

Stroud has worked for the past seven years at Randolph County Medical Center (now Five Rivers Medical Center) in Pocahontas as a surgery nurse, and at St. Bernard's Regional Medical Center in Jonesboro for three years prior to that. She and her husband, Leslie, have two boys, ages five and two.



## Drawing II Students Connect Old and New

In conjunction with BRTC's Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage), Drawing II students have created images that reflect the REACH project's emphasis on connecting old traditions with new technology. Among the pieces produced is this one created by Rita Dust, showing a current BRTC student, Sister M. Dominica Wise, OSB, taking a computer class on campus. In another work, student Jamie Taber created a drawing of an oxen-drawn wagon stopping at a gas station for quick cash from an ATM. This piece referenced festival days of yesteryear, such as the Maynard Pioneer Days, when transportation and attire of the past are in view alongside modern technology.

# 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](http://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](mailto:janz@blackrivertech.org)  
[annf@blackrivertech.org](mailto:annf@blackrivertech.org)  
[dina.hufstедler@blackrivertech.org](mailto:dina.hufstедler@blackrivertech.org)*



## On-line Application address:

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

## From the President's Desk



*Richard Gaines*

The success of the recent BRTC Foundation Gala is cause for celebration for the entire BRTC campus and community. Obviously, the generation of funding from the evening's activities means the college can provide more scholarships and enhanced educational options for our students and our constituents. In addition, the evening included food, fun and entertainment which, from all indications, pleased the sell-out crowd in attendance. We who are staff members here at this institution

know what a tremendous college this is, but it is always good to have opportunity to showcase our resources, including our students who prepared and served the meal and the BRTC Ambassadors, as well as the talents of the many employees who worked to make the evening such a success.

We celebrate also the support of so many in the community who either bought tickets and/or donated items for the auction, boosting our revenues significantly. We applaud the efforts of the Gala Planning committee, made up of Foundation Board members and BRTC staff, for their many hours spent in planning and organizing and then executing the event, including the activities and the décor for the Gala. This committee was ably chaired by Mike Dunn, BRTC Board of Trustees chair and ex-officio member of the Foundation Board.

Of special note and deserving our thanks are the Foundation Board members themselves. They continue

to grow and develop as an organization in their dedication and support of this institution. This group of sixteen volunteers worked to sell the tickets, to secure items for the auction, and

also assisted with the set-up and clean-up. They are a hard-working group, and their efforts are making a difference for the good to this college and this community.

## Cook-Off

Continued from Page 2

Fair held Monday, March 10. A total of \$852 was raised in the auction and \$593 was raised from chances on the gas card.

Ramonda Housh, Director of Nursing at BRTC, would like to thank everyone who has supported the students by participating in the fundraisers.

Currently, students are selling Little Caesars Pizza Kits. If you are interested in making a purchase, or are interested in contributing to the fundraising efforts, please contact Dana Clay, nursing secretary, at 870-248-4000, ext. 4150.

## More Gala Photos

