



The River's Edge

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Important Dates

- April 24**
Scholarship Luncheon
- April 25**
Paragould - Orientation
- April 29**
Fun Before Finals
- April 30**
Nominations for Coca-Cola Scholarship Due
Pocahontas - Orientation
- May 8**
BRTC Board of Trustees Meeting
Graduation

Musicians "Jazz Up" Fine Arts Classes

Two individuals with a love of music brought their art and their craft into the Fine Arts Music classes of Instructor Joniece Trammel last week when the two were guest lecturer and performer for an audience of appreciative students. The two are Gary Gazaway and David Bowlin, both Pocahontas natives.

Gazaway is a renowned trumpeter with performing credits in New York City, Miami, Puerto Rico, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Nashville and Hawaii. He currently performs around the country with his jazz group, "El Buho."

With his strong roots in

the Ozark region's rich musical heritage, particularly in Blues, Soul, Rockabilly, Folk, Country and Jazz, Gazaway spoke to students in depth on the topic of America's musical legacy, Jazz. Gazaway reminded an enthusiastic group of students that from Jazz flowed the development of not only Rock but also Rap, and he stressed the importance of keeping alive the legacy of Jazz.

Bowlin also thrilled students when he performed for them on the cello, an instrument he recently taught himself to play. The cello is typically described as "the instrument most like the human voice." Bowlin is BRTC's Electricity and Electronics Instructor.

Trammel said the students responded with great excitement and interest, keeping the guests long after the class ended with their questions. She said the two musicians helped students see music at its greatest.



David Bowlin



Gary Gazaway

LETA Graduation Held April 11



Basic Police Training graduates take the Oath of Honor during ceremonies in RCDC. Victoria Barkley Robinett, LETA Instructor, administered the oath.

Chief Mike Yates of the Jonesboro Police Department addressed 47 students who successfully completed

the Basic Police Training Course at Black River Technical College's Law Enforcement Training Academy

during a graduation ceremony held April 11 in Randolph County Development Center.

Law enforcement officers from Northeast and Central Arkansas completed the thirteen-week, 612-hour course, receiving instruction in standard police tactics, firearms, and physical training along with legal, educational, and technical skills, according to LETA Director Steve Shults.

Students receiving awards during the ceremony were Dustin Richbourg of the North Little Rock Police Department, Top Academic Award;

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Holocaust Events Reach Over 1,000



Sheila Rose presents Holocaust Survivor Manya Friedman with a key to the city of Pocahontas.

The recent Holocaust-related events held on the campus of BRTC in Pocahontas reached more than 1,000 people in combined audiences

during the two days of activities, according to event coordinator Dina Hufstedler, Project Specialist of the Office of Development. The centerpiece and highlight of both days' events was a survivor testimony by Manya Friedman, who was imprisoned in the Auschwitz camp system.

Friedman is a volunteer with the Survivor Affairs division of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and lives in the Washington, D.C. area. In addition to sponsorship by the USHMM, the events were also underwritten by Mike and Barbara Dunn, by the BRTC Foundation's SEAS (Special Event and Activity Support) program, and by the Northeast Arkansas Educational Co-op.

Some 30 public school teachers attended a day-long educators' workshop where they received a wide array of information and print and video resources for use in their own classes. Workshop facilitators included Lolle Boetcher of St. Louis, Missouri, and Patricia Hesse of Weiner, Holocaust Educator fellows with the USHMM. The workshop concluded with a presentation by Friedman.

This workshop was followed by an evening dinner meeting with BRTC's Serendipity group, and then by a public presentation attended by more than 200.

Culminating the events was a morning presentation attended by

almost 900 students and other guests. Several BRTC classes attended, as well as public school students from thirteen area schools. Pocahontas City Clerk Sheila Rose, acting on behalf of Pocahontas Mayor Gary Crocker, presented Friedman a "Key to the City."

"We were so pleased with the entire event," said Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development and Holocaust instructor at BRTC. "I appreciate the efforts of all who worked so hard to make all this come together and touch so many students and others in the community. In particular, I appreciate Dina's coordination efforts in planning and carrying out the many activities."

BRTC Group Visits Greece, Germany

A diverse group of individuals associated with BRTC has just returned from an 11-day trip to Greece and Germany. They were participants in the college's annual International Tour offered as a lifelong learning experience to current and past BRTC students and to others in the community. The tour, provided through EF (Educational Foundations), includes the opportunity for independent studies, an option selected by three of this year's participants.

Veteran tour participant Cindy Throgmorton indicated the Greece trip ranked "up there with the top two or three" she has taken.

Among the highlights of the trip were visits to the Parthenon, the Oracle of Delphi, the temple of Zeus, and a four-day cruise to several Greek Islands and ports of call, including visits to Mykonos, Rhodes, Santorini, and a stop in Kusadasi on the Turkish coast, with an excursion to Ephesus.

The trip home was paused briefly for a one-day visit in Munich, and an

opportunity to visit the Dachau Concentration Camp. BRTC Holocaust student Chalee Matlock said this was an unexpected opportunity she was "so glad" to have had. "It makes everything we have studied so much more real," she said.



Traveling with such a diverse group made this an especially good experience, according to Dr. Jan Ziegler, who served as group leader. "We were high school students, college students, lifelong learning adults of all ages, including seniors—hardly a more diverse group

could have been assembled. This for me was part of the magic of such a trip, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of it all."

Such trips, Ziegler said, do not exist in a vacuum, but are very much

higher by the time we left. Rolling strikes by other municipal workers sometimes snarled traffic or interrupted power. We were advised to avoid areas where mass demonstrations were taking place." This series of strikes was prompted by government plans to reduce pensions and other benefits, she added. "I suspect we will all continue to follow this situation and see how it gets resolved."

The trip was colored also by the volatile Stock Markets and unsteady economic situations at home, Ziegler said. "With the dollar at an all-time low relative to the Euro, we experienced firsthand how our country's economic status is impacting not just our buying power, but our influence with other countries. The political situation at home also played a part in the group's experiences, as many Greek shop owners and others were interested in discussing America's presidential prospects."

Next year's spring break trip will be to Egypt. For further information, contact Ziegler at 870-248-4000.

impacted by the historical context—the times in which they occur. This one was framed by many phenomena, she explained. "Athens was in the grip of a widespread strike, which apparently is not uncommon. We arrived to find garbage piled everywhere, and the piles were even

Orientation for Summer Students Set

All new and transferring students who plan to attend BRTC this summer, including during the Intersession, must take part in an orientation session, according to the Office of Student Services. Upcoming sessions include one on the BRTC/Paragould campus on Friday, April 25, and one on the BRTC/Pocahontas campus in the LETA Building on Wednesday, April 30. Both sessions begin at 8 a.m. and end at 4 p.m.

An online orientation option will be available beginning May 1.

The purpose of the sessions,

announced BRTC VP for Student Services Dr. Mike Sullens, is to provide students new to the institution with critical information to better ensure their success in achieving their academic and professional goals.

Sessions will cover Admissions, Advisement and Registration, as well as Financial Aid, Time Management and Study Skills. Also covered will be General Education and Technical Programs of study.

Students will be provided lunch, and door prizes will be given.

Following lunch, students may opt to take the ASSET test for a \$5.00 fee. Those who have already fulfilled requirements for Admission may then meet with Academic Advisors and register for the 2008 summer and fall classes.

Admission requirements for BRTC include the following documents, which prospective students who have not already submitted these should bring to the Orientation sessions: 1) Completed application; 2) Copy of current driver's license; 3) Official academic transcript of high school grades or GED scores as

appropriate, and college transcripts if applicable; 4) ACT, SAT, or ASSET scores or proof of compliance with state remediation laws if the applicant has less than 30 earned credit hours at an accredited institution of higher education; 5) Proof of immunization against measles and rubella, including the MMR booster (for any student born on or after January 1, 1957).

For questions on admission to BRTC, or to reserve your preferred date and location, please call 870-248-4000, EXT 4014 or 4011.

'Fun Before Finals' is April 29

BRTC's annual 'Fun Before Finals' will be held on the Pocahontas campus Tuesday, April 29, from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., announced event Chair Dr. Roger Johnson, Division Chair for General Education. Most activities will take place in the vicinity of the Joe Martin Health Sciences Complex. This year's events have been expanded to include several new activities, Johnson said.

In addition to the food, drinks and prizes supplied by local banks and other organizations, the 'Fun Before Finals' Committee has organized the following competitive games and activities: Volleyball, Golf, Horseshoes, Tricycle Race, Scavenger Hunt, and a 1.5-Mile Walk.

Phi Theta Kappa, BRTC Honor Society, will sponsor a Karaoke event as a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

"We hope staff and students will take a bit of time to come out and enjoy not taking ourselves too seriously at this time



Tom Baker, Career Pathways Director, and Beth Price, Community Outreach Coordinator for Pathways, prepare for the 'Fun Before Finals' Tricycle Race.

in the academic year," Johnson said. "It's just an opportunity to relax and shake off some of the stress as we head into final exams."

Watson Elected Regional VP of PTK

Lawana Watson, Secretary/Public Relations of BRTC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, was recently elected Regional Vice-President of the Eastern District made up of chapters throughout Arkansas and Oklahoma, according to PTK Advisor Dr. Linda Moss. Watson and Moss recently attended the PTK International Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Watson, a Pocahontas resident, is currently working on her Associate of Arts degree at BRTC with future plans of becoming a school counselor. "I am proud of her and her contributions to Phi Theta Kappa on both local and regional levels," said Moss of Watson.



Lawana Watson



Kimbrough Choir Performs in Spring concert April 20 at Randolph County Development Center under the direction of Joniece Trammel, Instructor of Music.

LETA Graduation Continued from Page 1

John Manz of the Jonesboro Police Department, Top Firearms Award; and Todd Wells of the Searcy Police Department, Top Physical Fitness Award.

Wells also received the Top Overall Student Award for having the highest overall average in the areas of academic, firearms, and physical fitness. David Stout of the Jonesboro Police Department served as spokesperson for the 2008-A class.

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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.

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From the President's Desk



Richard Gaines

Here at BRTC April is an extremely busy time, filled with more than the usual amount of campus activities and events, as evidenced in this issue of *The River's Edge*. But even as we go about the many tasks that come our way, particularly when students are completing or nearing the completion of their programs of study, we are taking on other matters as well. That includes an increased emphasis on the workforce needs in the years ahead.

A new report by the SREB

(Southern Regional Education Board) points to the willingness of many educators, policy makers and the public to define success too narrowly as a four-year college degree, and consequently, their tendency to concentrate the lion's share of economic and social resources on that goal. Often the conventional view says that a successful student is one who can thrive in a classroom where the content is largely delivered by lecture. As a result, the article points out, there is a continuation of the myth that "only a minority of students are capable of meeting rigorous academic standards." We know this is a shortsighted and harmful belief. As a result of this concept, the number of high school students who are unclear about their reason for staying in school, even bored with the prospect of "more seemingly disconnected education," is far too high.

Instead of this line of thinking, we must work to improve the transition

between high school, community college, and four-year colleges. We must collaborate, as the article asserts, "to create a set of curricular experiences—including authentic projects, job shadowing and internships—that excite students about learning, introduce them to the skills and knowledge they will need for

high-demand, high-skill, high-wage fields."

In so doing, I believe, as do other educators, that we can help students understand that they will reap great rewards, and I know we will have made great strides in helping to prepare the kind of workforce our future demands.



A total of 51 students were inducted into BRTC's honor society, Phi Theta Kappa, April 8. PTK officers are: Mike King, President; Whitney Crouch, Staci Adams, Terri Milburn and Patricia Segraves, Vice Presidents; Lawana Watson, Secretary/PR; and Dawn Chitty, Treasurer. Chapter advisers are Dr. Linda Moss, Dr. Gary Buxton, Phillip Dickson, Ruth Schaa and Joan Linnstaedter.