



# The River's Edge

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## Luncheon Honors Students, Donors

The BRTC Foundation's Annual Scholarship/Donor Luncheon held April 24 drew its largest crowd ever, bringing together approximately 160 individuals for the festive event. Among them were scholarship recipients and their guests, along with many of the donors whose financial contributions make possible the more than \$65,000 in privately funded awards given to students during the 2007-08 academic year.



*Jeff Hankins of Arkansas Business Publishing Group congratulates student scholar Ricky Tribble.*

Each student scholar and each individual or organizational donor was recognized by BRTC President Richard Gaines and VP for Development Dr. Jan Ziegler. Guests

enjoyed a meal prepared by the BRTC Dietetics Department, as well as musical entertainment provided by the BRTC Kimbrough Singers under the direction of Joniece Trammel.

David Burnett of Entergy was on hand to help recognize students designated as "Entergy Scholars" through that organization's support of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund. The five students are Lawana Watson, Jennifer Adams, Cathy Blevins, Emily Cook and Melanie Morin.



*David Burnett of Entergy presents certificate to Lawana Watson, Entergy Scholar.*

Guest Speaker was

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### Important Dates

May 7

*PN Pinning*

May 8

*BRTC Board of Trustees Meeting*

*Graduation*

May 29

*BRTC Foundation Board Meeting*

May 12

*Intersession Classes Begin*

May 27

*Summer I Classes Begin*

## Students, Staff Enjoy 'Fun Before Finals'

A large number of BRTC students and staff turned out Tuesday for a few stress-free hours at the annual 'Fun Before Finals' activities. Food, drinks, games and friendly competition marked this event, held on the Pocahontas campus. Chaired by Dr. Roger Johnson, Division Chair for General Education, the 'Fun Before Finals' was developed as a way to "ease" into the period of final exams as the academic year draws to a close.

"A really large number of people are involved in this," Johnson said. "I think that's why we keep getting more and more students taking part each year, making this such a success."

The day featured volleyball games, horseshoe pitching, a competitive "walk," tricycle races, and even a Karaoke fund-raiser by Phi



*Jessica Hausman, Sara Doyle, Whitney Caldwell and Amanda Kincaide.*

Theta Kappa for the Relay for Life, along with a large number of door prizes.

Among the local businesses who made contributions were Bank of Pocahontas, Pulaski Bank, BRTC Bookstore, Little Debbie Snacks, Imperial Dinner Theatre, Futrell's Pharmacy, JMR Vending, El Aca-pulco, Kay Ellis, Scentations, Tool Central and Coral Reef Tanning.

Johnson also acknowledged the following FBF committee members: Janna Guthrey, Angie Caldwell, Joniece Trammel, Dina Hufstedler, Jared Bassham, Carl Hawkins, Regina Moore and Tina Harris. He noted that student Lawana Watson had provided the Karaoke apparatus.

He also noted the involvement of additional BRTC staff members who

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Twelve Academic Distinction Awards Made



*Keith Sloan*



*Charles McClellan*



*Matthew Smith*



*Kelly Border*



*Cynthia Palmer*



*Cortney Bennett*



*Emily Gipson*



*Jonathan Cagle*



*Samantha Vancil*



*Jordan Martin*



*Danny Waters*



*Lindsey Brewer*

An additional twelve students have been awarded Academic Distinction Scholarships to attend BRTC in the Fall 2008 semester, according to the college's Office of Financial Aid, bringing to fifteen the total number of AD scholarships awarded to date.

Those accepting the scholarship include Keith Sloan of Pocahontas High School; Charles McClellan, Matthew Smith and Kelly Border of Corning High School; Cynthia Palmer and Cortney Bennett of Oak Ridge Central; Emily Gipson of Sloan-Hendrix; Jonathan Cagle and Samantha Vancil of Maynard High School; Jordan Martin of Hillcrest High School; Danny Waters of Valley View High School; and Lindsey

Brewer of Jonesboro High School.

Based either on students' ACT test performance or on ranking in the top ten percent of their graduating classes, the scholarship provides tuition at BRTC for up to two years, pending satisfactory academic achievement. Transfer scholarships to four-year institutions may be available if certain criteria are met.

The son of Rusty and Melba Sloan, Keith Sloan plans to major in history and to become a teacher. Charles McClellan plans to major in Psychology. He is the son of James Michael McClellan and Debra Ila McClellan. Matt Smith, son of Mark and Lou Ann Smith, plans to major in Wildlife Biology. The daughter of

Pamela Border, Kelly Border will attend BRTC for two years, and then transfer to ASU where she will major in Radiology.

Cynthia Palmer, daughter of Daniel Palmer, Sr. and Juanita Palmer, is considering a major in either Criminal Justice or Pre-med. Cortney Bennett's future plans are for a career in Nursing. She is the daughter of Scott and Janie Bennett. The daughter of Pamela and Allan Sharp and Edward and Jennifer Gipson, Emily Gipson will take college basics at BRTC.

Son of Marty and Pat Cagle, Jonathan Cagle plans also to take college basics. His major is at this time undecided. Physical Therapy is

the career field chosen by Samantha Vancil. Her parents are Mark and Tracey Vancil. Jordan Martin plans to major in Nursing at BRTC. He is the son of Robin and Deyana Martin. The son of Danny and Amanda Waters, Danny Waters plans to major in BRTC's Aviation Maintenance program. Lindsey Brewer, daughter of Tommy and Joyce Brewer, plans to major in Nursing at BRTC.

Eligible students may apply for this scholarship through the college's website (<http://www.blackrivertech.edu>) or by contacting Financial Aid Officer Brandi Chester at 870-248-4000, EXT 4021, until the beginning of the fall semester, August 18.

# President's Scholarships Announced



*Rachel Smith*



*Heath Miller*



*Michael Gossett*

Three students have been awarded President's Scholarships, which provide full tuition for one

year for the fall semester, according to Brandi Chester, Financial Aid Officer. The three are Rachel Smith

of Ravenden, Heath Miller of Jonesboro, and Michael Gossett of Rector.

These awards are based on students' standardized test scores, on grade transcripts, and on an essay.

A senior at Oak Ridge Central, Rachel Smith plans to major in Nursing. Her parents are Jody and Ellen Smith.

The son of Mike and Sonya

Miller, Heath Miller plans to work towards an AAS degree in Fire Science/Paramedic. He is a senior at Valley View High School.

Rector High School senior Michael Gossett plans to major in Nursing, and then to work as a flight nurse. His parents are Richard and Debbie Gossett.

## Classes Tour Printing Facility at Jonesboro



*Desktop Publishing, Graphic Design classes visit Jonesboro printing facility.*

Students in Ms. Kellee Hardage’s Desktop Publishing class and Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz’s Graphic Design I class traveled to Master Print Group in Jonesboro recently for a field trip to observe a professional design studio and print establishment. Jon Wilbanks, business owner, gave an in-depth tour of the design studio with its new computer software and then led the group to a new state-of-the-art plate maker and printing press. The students observed the many machines necessary to produce a finished printed product. The group learned of the extensive expenses (one new printing press can cost up to \$1.5 million) and tools necessary to run such an enterprise and observed the necessary skill and modern technology that must be continually updated and maintained. Students who attended were Deborah Baker, Shirley Clifton, Jamie Hampton, Kyra Holt, Angela Losh, Karri Thomas, and Sandra Wallace for the Desktop Publishing class and Austin Abbott, Jeremy Baker, Josh Graham, Ashley King, Rachel Markham, Lural Rouyer, Julie Skaggs, Travis Taylor, Lawana Watson, and Erin Yandell of the Graphic Design I class.

## Scholarship Luncheon

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Jeff Hankins, president of Arkansas Business Publishing Group in Little Rock. Formerly editor of the *Pocahontas Star Herald*, Hankins spoke of the growth and positive changes in Pocahontas and at Black River Technical College since his years here from 1987-1993. He urged students and donors to continue their commitment to the field of education, and he spoke of the role of community colleges such as BRTC in economic development.

A special highlight of the luncheon were the brief presentations by three student representa-

tives, Lawana Watson, Melissa Wilson, and Ricky Tribble. Each student expressed appreciation both personally and on behalf of his or her peers to the donors for their financial support. Each also spoke of his or her individual challenges and obstacles, as well as goals for building a better future for their families.

Ruth Ann Ellis, Foundation Vice Chairman, emceed the event held in Randolph County Development Center. Also participating in the program were Foundation Chair Mike Miller and Foundation Board member Scott Trammel.

## Country Feast Highlights Russian Culture

This semester, the Country Feast centered on one country, Russia, rather than the usual multiple countries of ten to fifteen. Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz’s World Civilization class centered their speeches around the culture of Russia, as did her Drawing II, Painting, and Graphic Design classes, producing imagery from or about Russia. Students from Dr. Martie Shull’s three sections of Writing Fundamentals classes read a Russian piece as a class project and some attended the feast to observe the cultural examples. Ms. Tina Harris’s students from the Dietetics department prepared an authentic full course Russian meal and

explained the ingredients of the dishes to the group in the RCDC Cafeteria. Dr. Shull brought Russian artifacts, icons, and clothing for observation and the group enjoyed a delicious meal, being attentive to students presenting facts about the region, while they observed artwork and listened to Tchaikovsky’s lovely music. At the conclusion of the event, Dr. Shull was presented a plaque by the Dietetic department in appreciation for her help and expertise of Russian foods and culture. Others attending the feast were Technical Chair Ms. Angie Caldwell and Vice President of Student Services, Dr. Mike Sullens.



*Dr. Martha Shull*

## Bookstore Offers Great Gifts

The BRTC Bookstore has become so much more than just a bookstore, according to VP for Finance Loretta Williams. In fact, the current selection of affordable gift items features gifts that are typically found in more exclusive shops or boutiques. “New products we have would make great gift items for graduation, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, showers—whatever,” Williams said. “We keep the markup as low as possible,” she added.

Items include Yankee Candles; decorative folders, albums and stationary from Vera Bradley; mugs, umbrellas and journals depicting famous writers from Literary Luminaries; Yakety Saks gift bags; handcrafted gifts made by artisans around the globe from “World of Good”; Art Presentation folders and portfolios; a bold, eclectic collection of flip-flops by Hot Flops; and a large array of leather purses, checkbook

covers, wallets, totes, iPod cases and other items by Baekgaard. Also on hand is a large array of new clothing items.



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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.*

*The River's Edge is produced by the  
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## On-line Application address:

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

## From the President's Desk



*Richard Gaines*

Our annual Scholarship/Donor Luncheon held recently gives evidence to the tremendous level of support this college and its students receive from the communities we serve. Each year at this luncheon, sponsored by the BRTC Foundation, we see growth both in the number of students who are assisted with scholarships and in the number and amount of donations made by so many individuals, organizations and businesses.

In many instances the donors

include our own employees as well as individuals who simply care about the needs of our students and the college. In other instances the donors include local businessmen and women who understand that by giving a helping hand to our students through scholarship dollars, they are helping not only the recipients of the scholarships but also the entire community.

At this annual event, we always showcase student representatives who share their stories with our guests. This continues to be a highlight because the students speak from their hearts and help all of us understand how greatly they appreciate the assistance they have received.

This year the importance of scholarships generated through private donations was driven home by our special guest speaker, Jeff Hankins, formerly editor of the *Star Herald*. He encouraged students to continue to seek out opportunities, listing the various people and organizations who had played

a part in supporting his educational pursuits. He also encouraged local businesses to create opportunities for students, not only through scholarships, but also through mentoring

and through paid internships and other means whenever possible. His own success in the publishing business is impressive. All of us were enriched by his message.

## Fun Before Finals Continued from Page 1

helped with various aspects of the activities: Rhonda Foster, Mary Anderson, Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz, Jack McCord, Gary Meier, Victoria Robinett, Kim White, Ann French, Julie Williams, Jana Culp, Steve Williams, Rachel Koons, Pathways staff members, Carolyn Collins, Jan Ziegler, Mary Carter, Sharon Watson, Steve Shults, and others, including the Maintenance staff.

Students on the BRTC/Paragould campus enjoyed a free lunch, courtesy of the Greene County Industrial Training Center.

