



The River's Edge

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Many Scholarships Available - Apply Now!!!

Important Dates

- May 29**
BRTC Foundation Board Meeting
- June 12**
ASSET Test
- June 24**
ASSET Test
- July 2**
Summer II Classes Begin
- July 22**
Orientation - Paragould
- July 23**
Orientation - Pocahontas

Graduates, Families Celebrate



*Steve Manley
CEO of Universal Asset Management*

A total of 178 students received diplomas Thursday, May 8, during Commencement ceremonies held in Randolph County Development Center, signaling the completion of their degrees and certificates at Black River Technical College. Added to the 114 students who graduated in December 2007, this brings to 292 the total number of graduates for the 2007-08 academic year.

Of that number, one lucky student, Jimmy Harold McPhink of Paragould, was selected as winner of "The River's End" Incentive Award, a brand new automobile presented annually by Universal Asset Management as a means of encouraging students to complete their programs of study.

Degrees were conferred by BRTC President Richard Gaines, assisted in handing out diplomas by Academic Vice President Jack McCord. McCord also recognized students receiving Departmental Awards.

The graduates were represented by class spokesperson Randle Booker of Jonesboro, who reminded his fellow classmates as well as the standing-room-only-crowd that without the constant encouragement of faculty and family, the students "could have lost hope."

The commencement address was delivered by UAM's CEO Steve Manley of Memphis, Tennessee. Manley stressed that one of the characteristics all successful individuals share is belief in oneself. "No one will ever believe in you more than you believe in your-

self," Manley said. He also noted three "ingredients" potential employers seek and reward as being a positive attitude, trustworthiness and dependability, and the ability and willingness to be innovative, creative, and to 'think out of the box.'

Manley noted that 80 percent of his company's employees at the Walnut Ridge and Pocahontas plant are BRTC graduates. UAM is an international corporation in the aviation industry, focusing on the purchase, disassembly, refurbishing and re-sale of aircraft parts.

On hand for the drawing of the name of "The River's End" award recipient was Keri Wiznerowicz, UAM's Vice President for Asset Management.



Jimmy McPhink and wife Pamala with 'River's End' Incentive Award.

Employees Receive 'Milestone' Awards

A number of BRTC employees were recognized during the end-of-semester potluck for faculty and staff on May 7. The recognition included a 35-year award to BRTC President Richard Gaines, and a retirement award for Carolyn Collins, Director of Financial Aid.

Collins will be retiring from full-time duties next

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Foundation Scholarships Announced



Cortney Bennett



Jonathan Cagle



Hope Cox



Ashley Durham



Emily Gibson



Michael Gossett



Matthew Smith



Rachel Smith



Samantha Vancil



Faye Williford

The Office of Financial Aid announces the awarding of additional Fall 2008 scholarships. This announcement includes ten scholarships funded by the BRTC Foundation. The awards include two scholarships which the Foundation has named in honor of individuals, the Richard Kerley Memorial Scholarship and the Beth Collins Bagwell Memorial Scholarship.

The Kerley scholarship was designated by Foundation member Stephanie Sutton in honor of her father. Sutton was given this opportunity as a result of her outstanding work on behalf of the BRTC Foundation Gala. The Bagwell scholarship was designated by the Foundation in recognition of the commitment and service to

BRTC by longtime Financial Aid Director Carolyn Collins.

Receiving the Kerley Memorial Foundation Scholarship is PHS graduate Ashley Durham, daughter of Mark and Jeanette Durham of Pocahontas. She plans to complete an AAS degree in Business Technology at BRTC and then to pursue a career as a massage therapist.

Corning High School graduate and valedictorian Matt Smith is the recipient of the Beth Collins Bagwell Memorial Scholarship. He plans to take college basics at BRTC while deciding on his major. His parents are Mark and Lou Ann Smith.

Foundation scholarships have also been awarded to Michael Gossett, Jonathan Cagle, Samantha Vancil, Cortney Bennett, Rachel Smith, Hope Cox, Emily Gipson and Faye Williford.

Gossett is the son of Richard and Debbie Gossett. A Rector High School graduate, he plans to com-

plete his AAS degree in Registered Nursing, and plans to work as a flight nurse for an Air Evacuation firm.

Cagle is a Maynard High School graduate. The son of Marty and Pat Cagle, he plans to take college basics at BRTC while deciding on a major field of study.

The daughter of Mark and Tracey Vancil, Samantha Vancil plans to complete college basics at BRTC and then transfer to a four-year institution to major in Physical Therapy. She is a Maynard High School graduate.

Oak Ridge Central graduate Cortney Bennett plans to become a Registered Nurse, completing an AAS degree at BRTC. She is the daughter of Scott and Janie Bennett.

Smith, also an ORC graduate, is the daughter of Jody and Ellen Smith. She plans to major in nursing at BRTC.

Westside High School graduate Hope Cox is majoring in history.

She is the daughter of Tommy and Jackie Cox of Jonesboro.

The daughter of Allan and Pamela Sharp of Imboden, Emily Gipson plans to complete college basics at BRTC and then to transfer to a four-year institution and major in biology. The Sloan-Hendrix High School graduate plans a career working with animals.

Faye Williford, who currently teaches pre-schoolers at First Baptist Church in Pocahontas, plans to major in Early Childhood Education. She has three children and two granddaughters. Williford graduated from Neelyville High School.

All Foundation scholarships provide \$1,000 to the recipients per semester. The funds for these scholarships are generated by various Foundation activities: an annual Golf Tournament co-sponsored by Pulaski Bank, an annual Gala, and an annual "Growing Strong" campaign.

Pinning Ceremony Held for Nursing Students



Practical Nursing students in Pinning Ceremony.

Family members and friends were on hand for a celebratory dinner and Pinning Ceremony held Wednesday, May 7, in Randolph County Development Center for 23 students completing the Practical Nursing Program at BRTC. According to Ramonda Housh, Director of Nursing at BRTC, a

'pinning ceremony' is a symbolic welcoming of newly-graduated nurses into the nursing profession.

The following special awards were presented: The Faculty Choice Award was given to Kim Lamb. The Florence Nightingale Award was awarded three students, Teri Graham, Bridgett Kick and Sarah Rogers.

Several other awards were also presented, including Nursing I Practicum, Kelly Whitmire; Nursing I Theory, Karis Swanner; Geriatric Clinical, Dawn Chitty and Meredith Allred; Medsurg Theory, Kristen Hall; and Medsurg Clinical, Jennifer Rice.

Also, Pediatric Theory, Kim Lamb; Pediatric

Nursing Clinical, Sarah Rogers; OB Theory, Kayla Harris; OB Clinical, Kim Lamb; Psych Theory, Rebecca Robbins, and Overall Specialty Nursing, Kristen Hall.

Also, Leadership, Kayla Harris; Pharmacology/IV Therapy Theory, Kristen Hall; IV Clinical, Teri Graham; and Skills Completion, Samantha Cates.

During the ceremony, students were presented with nursing pins by nursing faculty and then passed the flame of a candle to each other while reciting the 'Nightingale Pledge,' all traditions that began in the 1860's by nurse Florence Nightingale.

The students participated in the college's graduation ceremonies, also held in RCDC, the following evening.

REACH Project Progresses

Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage) has made great progress in the past few weeks, according to VP for Finance Loretta Williams and VP for Development Dr. Jan Ziegler. The month of May has seen the awarding



Architect Tommy Jameson with potential contractors.

of a significant grant for the restoration of the Looney Tavern, as well as a pre-bid conference for the restoration of the Rice House. Both historic structures are at the heart of REACH, a project of BRTC that will eventually bring the two log structures to an interpretation date of about 1836.

BRTC was awarded a grant for \$500,000 from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resource Council for the Looney Tavern project, to include architectural, archeological and historical research, as well as actual reconstruction of the structure. The funds stem from deed stamp taxes, and are earmarked for historic preservation. These activities are a part of Phase II of REACH.

Phase I of REACH includes the restoration of the Rice House, work that is expected to begin in early June, following the May 29 bid opening and subsequent awarding of a contract.

The Rice House has been documented by dendrochronology as the oldest structure of its type still standing in the state, with an 1828 construction date. The Looney Tavern was constructed in 1833. The two structures have been donated to BRTC for preservation and use as an educational center by surviving family members of the two pioneering individuals who built them, Reuben Rice and William Looney.

'Milestone' Awards

(Continued from page 1)

month, but will return in the fall semester to work part-time in Student Services on the Paragould campus. She is completing eighteen years at BRTC, with employment as a faculty member in the Business Department, as Division Chair for Technical Education, and, since 2000, as Director of Financial Aid. Gaines praised Collins' capable work and her high level of commitment for BRTC and to its students in an area which has seen tremendous growth.



President Richard Gaines and Financial Aid Director Carolyn Collins.

In addition to President Gaines, who received a clock presented by BRTC Board of Trustees member Dr. Paul Baltz in honor of his 35 years of service, the following other milestone awards were presented: Larry (Butch) Dail and Donna Statler, twenty years; Carolyn Jones, fifteen years; Judy Ballard, Norma Ashburn, Vicki Kuykendall, Georgia Morgan, Janice Harvey and Gail Dodd, ten years.

Also, Kimberly Bigger, Debbye Jarrett, Kellee Hardage, Gary Meier, Jacinda Welch and Janna Guthrey, five years.

Privately Funded Scholarships Awarded



Rachel Drummonds Lenora Israel Alisha Murray Faye Williford

Several privately funded scholarships have been awarded for the Fall 2008 semester. These include scholarships given by businesses and organizations, including the Eddie Mae Herron Center, Scentations, and Northeast Arkansas Respiratory Therapists, as well as the endowed Lee and Samantha Rice Memorial Scholarship given by Jim and Wanda Lea Vaughn of Jonesboro.

Alisha Murray has been awarded the Rice Scholarship, which provides

full tuition for the year. A Pocahontas High School graduate, she is the daughter of Dale and Lisa Murray. She plans a career as a Dental Hygienist.

Faye Williford will receive the Eddie Mae Herron Center Scholarship. This award is renewable for two semesters, and provides \$250 per semester. She plans to major in Early Childhood Education.

The Jo Larsen Memorial Scholar-

ship has been awarded to Lenora Israel, a Sloan-Hendrix graduate. Her parents are Danny and Linda Israel. She plans to complete basics at BRTC and then transfer to a four-year university and major in Psychology. The scholarship provides \$1,000, and can be renewed for the subsequent semester.

Rachel Drummonds has been awarded the Jay Williams Memorial Scholarship. Established by family and co-workers, the scholarship is awarded to a Respiratory Care student in his/her second and third semesters of study. The late Jay Williams served on BRTC's Advisory Board for Respiratory Care. Drummonds is a Westside High School graduate.

The BRTC Foundation

Offers for Sale

to Highest Bidder

a 1992 Geo Tracker

Available to View

at BRTC.

Phone 870-248-4070

for More Information.

Sealed Bids Accepted in the

Office of the President

until 4 p.m.

on Thursday, June 5.

Those interested in establishing scholarships in memory or in honor of a loved one should contact the Office of Financial Aid or Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development, at 248-4000.

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

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
annf@blackrivertech.org
dina.hufstедler@blackrivertech.org*



On-line Application address:

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

From the President's Desk



Richard Gaines

The continued growth at our BRTC-Paragould campus has created one of those problems we all like to have: we need additional space to meet the increasing demand for classes on that campus. We are very pleased to be nearing the start of construction on an expansion there.

Our Paragould campus is a part of the BRTC/Greene County Industrial Training Center. In addition to the college transfer classes, we also provide extensive training for local industry. We were invited to offer

credit classes at a Paragould public school in 1995, and later relocated these to the ITC site. Today our enrollment at the Paragould campus is nearing 25% of BRTC's enrollment.

The new Academic Complex will replace an older temporary modular building that no longer can provide either the adequate space or functions the new complex will offer. This expansion, some 16,500 sq. ft., will include science labs, enabling us to offer science courses not presently available. A new distance learning area will expand those options also. We anticipate this new facility will be completed within a year.

While not an expansion, we are also pleased to have begun the remodeling of the cafeteria/banquet room in RCDC. This space is heavily used by the community and the college. We think the improvements will be greatly appreciated. None of this would be necessary—or possible—without the continued support of the people in the communities we serve.

Instructor Presents at Historical Association

Courtney Clements, English instructor at BRTC, recently presented her paper "Beauty Queens in Bass Boats: Mardi Gras in Arkansas" at the 67th annual conference of the Arkansas Historical Association. The theme of this year's conference, held in Eureka Springs, was "Arkansas: Land of Eccentricity."

"This was my first presentation at a history conference," noted Clements. "The paper was based on research done when I was working on my MA in history." Three of Clements' professors from Arkansas State University were also in attendance at the conference. Clements earned her MA in history from ASU in December.

New Secretary Added

Autumn Wright of Jonesboro has been hired as Secretary for the Academic office at BRTC's Paragould campus. She is a



Autumn Wright

graduate of Jonesboro High School and previously worked for Walgreen's in Jonesboro.

According to Vicki Kuykendall, Director of Off-Campus Operations, Paragould campus, Wright will be working in the Academic office assisting instructors and helping with various academic activities and events.