



# The River's Edge

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## Golf Event is October 3

The annual Pulaski Bank/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament will be held Friday, October 3, with separate morning and afternoon flights. This is a major source of funding for the Foundation, whose activities provide scholarships and other services to BRTC. Pulaski Bank supports the event with a donation of \$10,000. The tournament will be held at Rolling Hills Country Club.

Tournament co-chairs Mike Miller, BRTC Foundation Chair, Kevin Rose of Pulaski Bank, and Dr. Roger Johnson, Division Chair for Gen Ed at the college, note that the different time frame and different structure, Friday, instead of the usual Saturday date, with separate prizes awarded for the morning and afternoon cuts, are in response to

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*Standing from left, BRTC President, Richard Gaines, VP of Commercial Relationship Manager and BRTC Foundation Member, Kevin Rose, BRTC Academic Chair and Golf Tournament Chair, Dr. Roger Johnson and Senior VP of Bank of Pocahontas and Chair of BRTC Foundation Mike Miller.*

## Restoration Work Moves Forward



*Archeologists, from left, Larry Porter, Marion Haynes and Melinda Martin, examine shards unearthed at the Rice house.*

Archeological work at the Rice House has provided not only answers, but more questions, apparently not an unusual fact, according to Historic Preservationist Joan Gould of Fayetteville, a consultant with BRTC's Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage). Among the areas of investigation are questions on

the shape of the original structure, including the existence, size and location of the porch or porches, as well as questions surrounding the fireplace foundation.

On-site for the past two weeks, members of the Arkansas Archeological Survey at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and from the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute and Blytheville stations investigated areas beneath the 1828 log structure, around the now-dismantled stone fireplace, and a nearby area determined to have been a pit where trash would have been discarded.

Archeologists unearthed a number of artifacts. An extremely old piece of flint, a button, and numerous shards of varied china dishes dating to the early 1800s and native to England were documented, along with many other items of interest. The archeological team, comprised of many of the same archeologists who have worked on "digs" at Old Davidsonville State Park, said much of the china is identical to patterns found at the park site.

A final report on the findings will be completed soon.

In addition to the archeological work, log preparation is well

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### Important Dates

September 17

*Constitution Day*

September 26

*Serendipity Mtg*

October 3

*Pulaski Bank/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament*

October 7

*PTK Induction*

October 28 - 29

*Marc Prensky - Teaching Digital Natives*

November 6

*Board of Trustees Mtg*



Thomas Crum



Shana Douglas



Alex Hogan



Courtney Hull



Steven Holloway

## Academic Scholarships Awarded

An additional five Academic Distinction Scholarships to attend BRTC in the Fall 2008 semester have been awarded, according to information from the Office of Financial Aid. These awards, renewable for subsequent semesters, cover the cost of full tuition and are based on ACT scores and/or ranking in the top ten percent of the student's graduating class.

The awards bring to 55 the total scholarships awarded to date for this semester.

The five are Thomas Crum, Alex Hogan, Steven Holloway, Courtney Hull and Shana Douglas.

The son of Creston E. Crum III and Janet Crum, Pocahontas High School graduate Thomas Crum plans to seek an Associate of Applied Science degree in EMT/Paramedic.

Hogan will pursue a degree in Computer Management. He is the son of Wendell and Marilyn Hogan, and is a Walnut Ridge High School graduate.

Software Engineering is the career choice for Steven Holloway, son of Frank and Chythia Holloway. He is a Hoxie High School graduate.

Also a Hoxie graduate, Courtney Hull is the daughter of Tim and Melinda Ray. Her major is Business Administration and/or Physical Therapy.

The daughter of Larry Douglas and Tina Douglas, Shana plans to complete an Associate of Arts degree at BRTC and continue her studies in the field of Nursing.

## Reading Dynamics Seminar Scheduled

The Department of Continuing Education and Business Outreach at Black River Technical College will be offering, for the first time, a seminar on reading dynamics for individuals in the business sector. "Read Faster, Remember More: An Indispensable Seminar for All Business People," will be held Friday, November 7 from 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. on the BRTC-Pocahontas campus.

The Evelyn Wood Reading Dynamics seminar promises participants an improvement in comprehension, a more focused perception, an increased retention rate, more efficient note taking skills, increased productivity, time savings, active listening, and dynamic and purposeful reading.

"We are excited to be able to offer a seminar of this nature at BRTC," said Patti Blaxton, Coordinator of Continuing Education and Business Outreach. "This type of seminar is a first for our campus and for our

community. I would like to encourage individuals in the area to take advantage of this unique opportunity."

The cost of the seminar is \$169 per person, and deadline to register is Tuesday, September 30. For more information, or to register, contact the Continuing Education Office at 870-248-4180 or email Blaxton at [pattib@blackrivertech.org](mailto:pattib@blackrivertech.org).

## Restoration

(Cont'd from Page 1)

underway. A team of workers under the direction of log specialist Eric Samons of Mountain Home has been hewing massive wall and other logs which will take the place of deteriorated logs in the structure. The process includes the use of near-authentic tools so that the replacement logs will closely replicate the original pieces, believed to have been old growth virgin timber.

Project Architect Tommy Jameson of Little Rock, who specializes in

historic architecture, reviewed the archeology work, and also gave attention to a preliminary phase of the restoration of the 1833-constructed Looney Tavern. Work on the second structure will begin once the Rice House work is completed.

Both are Territorial-era structures, built by Reuben Rice and William Looney, respectively, pioneering acquaintances who migrated from Tennessee to the Eleven Point River Valley in the early 1800s. The two men would become economic, civic, and governmental leaders, both of them important individuals in the development of what would become Randolph County.

## Enrollment Numbers Announced

The Fall 2008 enrollment at BRTC showed a slight decline—about 2.5%—from Fall 2007, according to figures from the Office of Student Services. The official eleventh-day "snapshot" figure stood at 1905, a headcount number that actually reflects an increase of just over 5% on the Paragould campus.

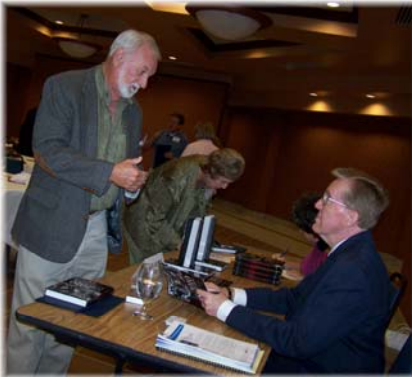
The data shows that just over 75% of the students attend on the Pocahontas campus, and that some 62% of the students are attending full-time.

Counties of origin for the student body remain fairly constant with previous semesters, with the following approximate percentages:

Randolph, 34%; Greene, 19%; Lawrence, 18%; Clay, 11%; Craighead, 11%; Other in-state, 4%; and Out-of-state, 2%.

The student body is nearly equally divided between traditional (up to age 25) and non-traditional (over 25). Females make up nearly 64% of the total number.

# Education-to-Employment Approach Touted



Danny Ellis receives an autographed copy of *2010 Meltdown: The Impending Job Crisis* by Dr. Edward Gordon following his presentation to community leaders.

Dr. Edward E. Gordon, author of *The 2010 Meltdown: Solving the Impending Job Crisis*, addressed roughly 350 audience members in recent presentations at Black River Technical College. Funded with a Carl Perkins grant, Gordon's visit included addresses to faculty, staff, students, civic leaders and community members about the need for change in the American education system to accommodate the increasing demand for well-educated and well-trained technical workers.

He also presented a faculty workshop during his time in Pocahontas. According to Gordon, a shortage of qualified workers threatens to derail the quest for individual and national economic security, a problem made real by declining skill levels coupled

with increasing Baby-Boomer retirement.

Gordon stressed the situation need not be hopeless, provided businesses, communities and educational institutions together invest in the education of the next generation of workers, equipping them with the skills required for jobs of the future.



Garold Brady



Whitney Caldwell



Reva Mitchell



Christina Riddle



Lawana Watson

## BRTC Ambassadors for Fall 09 Announced

Five ambassadors have been named, announced Retention and Placement Coordinator Laura Kueter-Woods. The purpose of the Ambassador Scholarship Program is to involve students more deeply with BRTC, build greater awareness of the opportunities available at BRTC, increase the general level of awareness of BRTC throughout the service area and provide recognition and scholarship assistance to deserving students.

Whitney Caldwell, a graduate from Doniphan High School, is currently seeking an AA degree from BRTC. Her plans include pursuing a four-year degree in Psychology. She's been attending BRTC since Fall 2006 and will be graduating in December. She has been an ambassador since Summer 2007.

Reva Mitchell, a graduate from River Valley High School, is currently working on her AAS in Early Childhood Education. She plans to transfer to Williams Baptist where she will pursue a bache-

lor's degree in Early Childhood Education. She has been a student at BRTC since Fall 2007 and resides in Lynn.

Garold Brady is a 2000 graduate of Johanson High School in Modesto, California. He has been attending BRTC since Spring 2007 and is working toward an AA degree. He has previous military experience with four years in the U.S. ARMY. He currently resides in Success.

Lawana Watson is currently completing college basics and plans to become a special education teacher, eventually completing a Master's degree in Counseling. She is a Pocahontas High School graduate.

Christina M. Riddle has been a BRTC student since Spring 2007 and is working toward an AA degree. She plans to major in animal science, eventually becoming a veterinarian. She attended Pocahontas Junior High until ninth grade and then was homeschooled. She currently resides in Poca-

hontas.

Ambassadors are required to work 160-200 hours per semester performing such duties as office work and representing the college at functions. They must maintain 12 or more credit hours at BRTC and a 3.0 GPA.

Benefits include a full tuition scholarship for the length of position, source of letters of recommendation and early registration privileges.

"As coordinator of the BRTC Student Ambassador Program, I enjoy the opportunity to work closely with these outstanding students and learn more about them and their personal and professional aspirations," Kueter-Woods said.

"I am thrilled to have Whitney, Christina, Reva, Garold and Lawana as our student ambassadors representing our college. They are doing a great job and I look forward to their continued enthusiasm and commitment to BRTC," she added.

# Black River Technical College

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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*

The much-needed expansion at BRTC-Paragould is now underway, with a scheduled opening date of the Fall semester, 2009. This 16,120-square foot expansion will house two computer labs, three classrooms, a wet lab for science classes, and a large multi-purpose room which can be divided into two smaller lecture rooms as needed. In addition, the Paragould campus will gain a new student lounge, faculty offices, and a workroom and related space.

BRTC has long been a presence

in the Paragould community, offering credit classes since 1995 at the request of Paragould's economic and governmental leaders. From the time of our beginning in local school facilities, we have continued to upgrade and expand as did the demand in that region.

The Paragould campus currently includes the heavily utilized Greene County Industrial Training Center, completed in 2001. This facility serves both credit and non-credit classes, and will be connected to the expanded academic building.

The progress this expansion will allow includes the offering of complete two-year degrees on the Paragould campus. In addition, expanded Distance Education options will be possible with the expansion.

Currently BRTC-Paragould serves approximately one-fourth of the entire BRTC student body. This expansion will better position the college to serve these and future BRTC-Paragould students.

## Golf (Cont'd from Page 1)

requests by several people, and should make for a better overall tournament.

Tee-off times will be at 8 a.m., and at 1 p.m. As in the past, entry fees include a complimentary barbecue lunch. Golfers may purchase two mulligans per player for \$5 each, and will compete for a new Chevro-

let truck sponsored by Baltz Chevrolet-Olds for a hole-in-one on #15.

Entry fee is \$80 per team.

More information and registration forms may be downloaded from the BRTC Website at [www.blackrivertech.edu](http://www.blackrivertech.edu), or by contacting Vickie French, 870-248-4070.

## Financial Aid Officer Named



*Natasha Rush*

Natasha Rush has joined BRTC as Financial Aid Officer I. She has an AA degree from BRTC and a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from ASU-Jonesboro. Before joining BRTC, she worked as marketing director at Legacy Hospice in Walnut Ridge. She currently resides in Pocahontas. "We are pleased to have Natasha join our staff. She will be a great addition to the financial aid team," Financial Aid Director Brandi Chester said.