

November 16, 2009

Volume 7, Issue 15



The River's Edge

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Paragould Campus Dedicates New Complex

Black River Technical College recently held a dedication ceremony for the opening of the new academic complex on the Paragould campus. The near 22,000 square-foot building includes seven general education classrooms, two computer labs, a fully equipped wet/dry science lab, two lecture rooms, a student lounge, patio areas, faculty offices and work suite, and additional mechanical space.

The science lab makes it possible for the first time the completion of an entire Associate of Arts degree on the Paragould campus.

This complex is an addition to the Greene County Industrial Training Center, which stood at more than 16,000 square feet and was completed in 2001.

The surge in student enrollment on



BRTC Board of Directors, Administration and public dignitaries participated in the ribbon cutting dedication ceremony for the new academic complex opening at the Paragould campus.

the sister campus prompted the additional classroom/building space. The Paragould campus had a nearly 48% growth in this fall's enrollment compared to the previous fall's enrollment.

The campus also has a new entry drive that will accommodate an additional 100 vehicles, along with site lighting and drainage improvements.

"We are very pleased with the new facility," said BRTC President Richard Gaines. "It stands as proof of our longstanding commitment to the Paragould community, and as a reflection of the partnership we have with Greene County."

Important Dates

November 17-18

Phi Theta Kappa Blood Drive

November 20

Serendipity

LETA Graduation

November 25-27

Offices closed for Thanksgiving

December 6

RN Pinning

December 15

PN Pinning

December 17

BRTC Graduation

Rice-Upshaw House Dedication Ceremony

Family members and BRTC representatives and guests gathered for the official dedication of the Rice-Upshaw House on November 3. The 1828 structure, one of the state's oldest, forms a part of BRTC's Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage), a historic preservation effort funded by Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council.

BRTC Board of Trustees Chairman Mike Dunn served as Master of Ceremonies and together with BRTC



From left: BRTC President Richard Gaines; Michelle Andrews, Ann Gilliam, Don Upshaw, family members; and BRTC Board of Directors Chair Mike Dunn.

President Richard Gaines expressed appreciation and presented plaques acknowledging the contributions and vision of family descendants of Reuben Rice, who migrated from Tennessee to the Eleven Point River Valley in 1812. The structure was donated to the college for preservation by family members Jean Upshaw and her children, Don Upshaw, Ann Gilliam, and Michelle Andrews.

The ceremony also included special music performed by Dr. Gary Buxton,

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BRTC Staff Receive Dietary Manager Scholarships



BRTC Food Preparation Coordinator Sandra Parker and Food Preparation Specialist Margaret Manning recently received the Dietary Managers Association Certification Scholarships.

Black River Technical College's Food Preparation Coordinator, Sandra Parker, and Food Preparation Specialist, Margaret Manning, are the 2009 recipients of the Arkansas Dietary Managers Association Certification Scholarships. Only two scholarships are awarded from the Association each year.

In order to compete for the scholarship, which reimburses winners in the amount of \$380 (the cost of the Dietary Manager credentialing exam), applicants must meet strict criteria, which include having passed the credentialing exam, have knowledge and experience in the dietary field, be actively employed in a dietary department, show concern for Arkansas DMA, have a letter of reference from

a facility administrator and consulting dietitian and letter of support from the district president.

"This is a great honor and reflects pride back to BRTC," Tina Harris, Dietetics Instructor, said. "We're proud of Sandra and Margaret for their accomplishment. They are very deserving of this honor."

Parker and Manning joined BRTC in August and both hold AAS degrees in Dietetics from BRTC. Parker is also a Certified Dietary Manager and a Certified Food Protection Professional.

The Arkansas Dietary Managers Association is one of 47 active state chapters in the national non-for-profit association, and more than 160 active districts throughout the U.S.

Rice-Upshaw House

BRTC instructor of English and Heritage Studies. The pieces, performed on violin, were appropriate to the Scotch-Irish ancestry of the early settlers, and to the time period of the settlement. In addition, Bill Carroll represented Five Rivers Heritage in presenting a "Century Farm" sign to the Upshaw family. Katherine Aufderheide represented the Office of Congressman Marion Berry and presented a letter of appreciation to the family from Berry. Also present were many of the tradesmen who had worked on the structure, including Stone Mason Ben Hurd and Log Specialist Eric Sammons and crew.

The event also included tours and commentary by Historic Preservation Consultant Joan Gould, Architect Tommy Jameson, and BRTC Construction Manager Ronnie Walker.



Clayton Andrews (left) and Interpreter John Holt provided the opening performance.

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Dr. Gary Buxton, BRTC instructor of English and Heritage Studies, performed three time-period pieces on the fiddle.

A highlight was an 'appearance' and interpretive performance of Reuben Rice and his grandson, performed by John Holt, Interpreter, of Dell, and by Clayton Andrews, an eighth generation grandson of Reuben Rice.

"This dedication was our opportunity to express our deep appreciation to the Upshaw family," said Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development at the college. "Without their generous and visionary action, this valuable part of our state's heritage, along with the many educational opportunities this project provides, would have been lost."

She went on to add that the Rice-Upshaw house, though completed, is not yet available for public visitation pending completion of other site work. This work includes the construction of a driveway and parking area, restrooms and pavilion, and is projected for completion in the fall of 2010.

Sharp Joins Staff

Howard Sharp of Ravenden has been hired as Institutional Services Assistant at BRTC.

Prior to joining the BRTC staff, Sharp worked for Waterloo Industries and Spring River LLP Gas Company.



Howard Sharp

Nursing Students Earn Service Credits

BRTC nursing students received community service credit for assisting with First Aid at the recently held Pocahontas Redskin Classic.

As part of the Nursing Program, students are required to complete 12 hours of community service while in the program. This is in addition to the required clinical and classroom hours.



Jonathan Able, (from left), Teri Milburn and Shawna Nicholas provide a First Aide booth at the Redskin Classic.

Personal Finance Class Hosts Speakers



Mary Rapert



Dennis Calaway

Edward Jones Financial Advisor Mary Rapert and retired ASU instructor Dennis Calaway, were recent guest speakers for Ruth Schaa's Personal Finance class.

Rapert's topic was "Making Sense of Retirement."

"In life, the sooner you get true information, the truth on how things work, then you can begin to apply that, no matter what age you are," she said.

Rapert spoke of the five keys steps used to determine retirement plan: Where am I today? Where would I like to go? How can I get there? How do I get there? And, how can I stay on track? She encouraged the students to set goals. "The amazing power of setting a goal is that it enhances your odds of about 90 percent to get there."

Planning for retirement, she said, requires focus

on how much to save, when to begin saving, achievable goals, what a person is saving for, and putting in perspective inflation rates and length of retirement age.

Calaway presented information on life and health insurance. "You're going to spend a lot of money on insurance over the next 30, 40, 50 years," he said. "And you need to be educated about insurance."

His presentation touched on subjects including universal health care, privately owned health insurance and Medicare.

Other guest speakers this semester have included Kevin Rose, Vice-President for Commercial Lending, IberiaBank, "The Importance of Good Credit and How to Establish Credit"; Rob Olvey, Martin Insurance Agency, "What Is Insurance and Why Do You Need Property (Home and Auto) Insurance"; and Terry Dickson, Bank of Pocahontas, "Buying a House and Car."

"The guest speakers have really been an instrumental tool in providing expert advice about the different subjects discussed in the Personal Finance class," Schaa said. "This is a great opportunity for the students to hear what they have to say and gain knowledge from these sources."

Flu Shots in Demand

The Randolph County Health Unit held its annual flu clinic October 29 in the Randolph County Development Center and ran out of vaccines for the first time since holding the clinic at this site.

According to Kathy Smith with the Arkansas Department of Health, 1239 seasonal flu shots were given and 73 H1N1 shots were given. "Every year we give around 1200 seasonal flu shots at the mass clinic," Smith said, "but we have never run out of vaccine until this year."

BRTC nursing students helped to administer the shots that were provided free of charge to the public. The H1N1 vaccines were given to children, pregnant women and individuals with special medical conditions, but not to the general public.

Smith said they will be receiving more flu shots and plan to hold another mass clinic as soon as possible.

For more information, contact the Randolph County Health Unit.



Sarah Waits, a Nursing II student at BRTC, gives Jack Wilson a flu shot during the annual flu clinic.

Phi Theta Kappa Welcomes New Members Into Honor Society

The BRTC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa international honor society welcomed 39 new members during its fall induction ceremony held recently in the Randolph County Development Center on the Pocahontas campus.

Requirements for selection include maintaining a 3.5 grade point average or higher while enrolled in at least twelve college credit hours per semester. Phi Theta Kappa has been recognizing academic achievement in two-year colleges since 1918.

Current PTK officers are Samantha Johnson, President; Jody Simpson, Vice President of Service; Karen Dodd, Vice President of Leadership; Christina Riddle, Vice President of Scholarship; Summer Dale, Vice President of Fellowship; Todd Collins, Treasurer; and Jody Whitaker, Christine McIntire, and Jamie Swift, Secretary/Recorder.

Chapter advisors of PTK include Dr. Linda Moss, Dr. Gary Buxton, Phillip Dickson, Ruth Schaa and Joan Linnstaedter.

New inductees are Jo Carol Adams, Stephanie



Lynn Bagwell, Karen Lynn Barnes, Cathy Aileen Bobrowski, Kristi L. Bounds, Jennifer Lynn Bowles, Joslin L. Boyce, Ginger Renae Britton, Christina Dawn Broadway, Regina G. Carpenter, Emma Lou Cate, Richard C. Chambers, Laurie Faye Corbin, Bellys L. Cox, and Lavond A. Evans.

Also inducted are Shast Lynae Flanigan, Aaron Dale Franklin, Emily Ann Gipson, Camie Joyce Godwin, April Dawn Holland, David Bransford Holt, Brenda Sue Johnson, Charles Kaylon

Kimble, Brandi Gail Koschmann, Whitney Diane Martin, Gregory Joseph May, Tabatha Lynn McKay, Tracy Love Midkiff, Victoria M. Morgan, Tasha Shirleen Owens, Robin Darlene Parker, Debra D. Roberts, Jody Lanelle Simpson, Brittany Danae Skelton, Brittany D. Stephens, Jamie Renee Swift, Sarah Elizabeth Taylor, Cynthia Gail Tracer, Blake Tyler Travis, Ana Elise Williams, Natalee Christian Williams, and Sarah Anne Yates.

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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>

Campus Commentary



Joniece Trammel
Concurrent Coordinator

Over the years, Black River Technical College has provided students with many opportunities to further their education. One of these opportunities is through the BRTC Concurrent Program, a program that targets high school students that have completed the eighth grade and are classified as 9th through 12th graders in a public school.

The BRTC Concurrent Program, recently accredited by the National

Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, allows students to obtain credit toward a high school diploma while at the same time earning college credit. Concurrent enrollment first appeared in the United States in 1892 when William Harper, the president of the University of Chicago, restructured the university to allow high school students to get concurrent college credit. From that time until now, the concept of concurrent enrollment has spread and is now common across the United States. Over the past 20 years, large numbers of high school students have taken advantage of this opportunity at many public colleges and universities.

Since the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board first approved an Arkansas concurrent enrollment policy in October 1998, Black River Technical College has offered classes to high school students in several school districts throughout Arkansas and Missouri. Under the supervision of the Vice President for

Academics and the Division Chair of General Education, the BRTC Concurrent Program has maintained a steady increase in students over the past years. With a 35.9% increase from the fall of 2008 to the fall of 2009, BRTC continues to increase the concurrent enrollment.

Gaining college credit through the concurrent program is not the only advantage for high school students who participate in the program. Students may be required to pay half of the tuition rate, paying \$35.00 per credit hour instead of \$70.00 per credit hour. This 50% savings is an important issue when considering the cost of today's higher education. Taking concurrent classes also gives students a better understanding of the expectations of college level classes, and in doing so prepares them for their educational future in post-secondary education.

The BRTC Concurrent Program makes every effort to include all area

schools by inviting them to annual on-campus orientations. High school administrators, faculty and counselors are informed of the student and faculty qualifications that must be met, ensuring a quality program that meets the guidelines of the state of Arkansas.

They are also made aware that each course must be listed on the Arkansas Course Transfer System. Once the qualifications are met and the high school begins to participate in the program, the course content and assessment are reviewed by BRTC faculty, the Concurrent Coordinator, and the Division Chairs for General Education and Technical Education to ensure the material is consistent with BRTC course standards.

Offering BRTC concurrent classes to high school students is just another way of promoting higher education in the hopes of obtaining a brighter future for those who participate. For more information on this program, call 870-248-4000, ext. 4188.