



The River's Edge

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Important Dates

- January 23
Serendipity
- February 5
Board of Trustees Mtg.
- February 24
Foundation Gala
- February 26
Tuskegee Airman Presentation
- March 3 - 4
Holocaust Survivor Visit
- March 16 - 21
Spring Break
- April 17
LETA Graduation
- April 23
Scholarship Luncheon
- May 14
BRTC Graduation

Foundation Announces Gala Plans

Tickets for the February 24 Gala are now on sale, according to Gala Chair and BRTC Foundation Board member Brenda Walls. This year's event, as in past years, will begin with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by an elegant, festive dinner and fun-filled live auction. A silent auction will be held throughout the evening.



Ann French, BRTC Director of Marketing and P.R., and Brenda Walls, Gala Chair, review Gala invitations.

said, "and this year we have some exciting items that should generate a lot of interest."

Seating at the Gala is limited due to space constraints, and this event typically sells out, she added. For ticket availability, contact any member of the BRTC Foundation Board or phone Vickie French at 870-248-4070.

In other business last week, the Foundation Board formally welcomed new board member, John Tucker, Administrator of Five Rivers Medical Center. Tucker brings to 19 the total number of Foundation Board members.

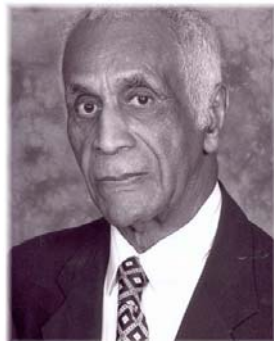


John Tucker and Foundation Board Chair Mike Miller.

The Gala is one of the Foundation's fundraising events, with proceeds going toward scholarships and other activities in support of BRTC. The event will be held in Randolph County Development Center, and this year includes optional valet parking by students in BRTC automotive programs.

"We always try to have unique auction items," Walls

Black History Month to Feature Original Tuskegee Airman



Crenshaw

Milton P. Crenshaw, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, will be on the campus of Black River Technical College in Pocahontas, Thursday, February 26, to give presentations for the public at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., in the Randolph County Development Center. BRTC, in collaboration with the Eddie Mae Herron Center, will be hosting Mr. Crenshaw in celebration of Black History Month.

The Tuskegee Airmen were dedicated and determined young men who enlisted to become America's first black military airmen, at a time when there were many people who thought that black men lacked intelligence, skill, courage and patriotism. Mr. Crenshaw was one of the first African Americans in the country and the first from Arkansas to be trained by the federal government as a civilian licensed pilot.

(Continued on page 3)

Eight Receive Gaines Scholarships



Ginger Britton



Judith Davis



Jean Ann Dugger



Adrian Freeman



Christine McIntire



Terri Milburn



Heather Simmons



Lawana Watson

Eight students have been awarded Gaines Scholarships for the Spring semester, according to the Office of Financial Aid. The awards, \$1,000 each, are made possible through a gift from Pulaski Bank in honor of BRTC President Richard Gaines and his wife, Patti. The eight are Christine Lynn McIntire, Heather Simmons, Lawana Watson, Judith Davis, Terri Milburn, Adrian Freeman, Jean Ann Dugger and Ginger Britton.

"We can't say enough about how much we appreciate this," said President Gaines. "Not only are we grateful to Pulaski Bank for what this brings to our students, but Patti and I

are extremely honored on a personal level that they have chosen to make this gesture in our names."

This semester's awards brings to 57 the number of Gaines scholarships awarded to date, for a total of \$57,000, according to information from the Office of Financial Aid.

Christine McIntire is working on an AA degree and plans to transfer to a four-year institution to pursue a BSE degree and become a teacher. The Brookland resident is the mother of two children.

Also the mother of two and a graduate of Richland High School,

Tennessee, Heather Simmons plans to complete an AAS degree in Criminal Justice and to continue studies for a four-year degree afterwards.

Pocahontas High School graduate Lawana Watson is working toward a BSE in Education, and then plans to seek a master's degree in Educational Counseling. She is the daughter of Garry and Karen Neece and Gary and Patricia Moore.

Judith Davis, a Black Rock High School graduate, hopes to enter BRTC's PN program. She and her family live in Imboden. Hoxie High School graduate Terri Milburn also plans to earn her degree in Practical

Nursing at BRTC, and is currently serving as president of the PN class.

Greene County Tech graduate Adrian Freeman plans to be a Dietetic Technician. She is a Paragould resident.

A graduate of Walnut Ridge High School, Jean Ann Dugger is seeking a degree in Registered Nursing. Her parents are Waymond and Jackie Hutton.

Also a Walnut Ridge graduate, Ginger Britton is the daughter of Ted Britton and Makenzie Britton. She also plans to become an RN and to specialize in cardiac care.

Play Features BRTC 'Talent'



Kelly Grooms, Karen Liebhaber, Mike Dunn and Al Dixon are all cast members of Imperial Dinner Theatre's currently running production of 'Dearly Departed.'

The currently running Imperial Dinner production *Dearly Departed* includes four individuals who are a part of the BRTC community. This highly acclaimed play, described as a "drop-dead comedy," opened earlier this month, and will continue with performances on January 23, 24 and 25, as well as shows the

Culp Presents Study to Library



Anne Simpson, BRTC Librarian, accepts publication from Jana Culp.

Jana Culp, Science Instructor at BRTC, presents a copy of a study prepared by her doctoral cohort to

following weekend, scheduled for January 30, 31, and February 1.

Among cast members are play director Kelly Grooms as Junior; Al Dixon as the dying Bud and also the elderly Norval; Karen Liebhaber as Juanita; and Mike Dunn as Clyde, owner of Clyde's Auto Body Repair.

Grooms, who serves as Artistic Director for the

Anne Simpson, BRTC Librarian. The study is titled *Curriculum Wars: The Cultural, Organizational and Instructional Conflicts in Current Policy and Practice*.

The study was a class project for Cohort XV in Arkansas State University's doctoral program in Educational Leadership. The course, Integrated Studies, is a part of the core curriculum for students pursuing the Ed.D. degree. Culp is a member of this cohort. She has now completed all coursework, and will soon begin work on her dissertation.

Culp joined the staff of BRTC several years ago as an adjunct instructor, and assumed full-time teaching duties in 2007.

theatre, instructs Communications and Theatre at BRTC. Dixon teaches Mathematics, while Liebhaber teaches English and coordinates the college's Distance Education program. Dunn is Chair of the BRTC Board of Trustees, and also a Board member at the Imperial Dinner Theatre/Studio for the Arts.

More information is available online at www.imperialdinnertheatre.com.

Tuskegee

(Cont'd from Page 1)

In 1939, Crenshaw was the first Arkansan to arrive at Moton Airbase in Tuskegee, Alabama, where he trained hundreds of cadet pilots while at Alabama's Tuskegee Institute in the 1940s. He received his civilian pilot license and commercial pilot certificate in August, 1941, and became a primary civilian flight instructor. He was one of the two original supervising squadron commanders who instructed the first group of student pilot trainees between 1941 and 1946. His combined service record extends for over 40 years of federal service with the U.S. Army Air Corps and eventually the U.S. Air Force.

Accompanying Mr. Crenshaw will be Edmond Davis, noted historian, author, and motivational speaker, whose published books include "Black Aviators of Arkansas" and "Airkansan: The Journey of Milton Crenshaw," which is due out this year. Davis will introduce and give a brief presentation about Mr. Crenshaw.

The presentations are free and open to the public. School groups are also invited to attend. For more information or to schedule a school group, contact Dina Hufstедler, Project Specialist, at 870-248-4000, ext. 4187.



Davis

Tuskegee Airman Milton Crenshaw

**Thursday
February 26, 2009
9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
RCDC**

*Sponsored by the
BRTC Foundation
SEAS Project and
Eddie Mae Herron
Center*

New, Returning Ambassadors Announced



Returning ambassadors are, from left, Lawana Watson, Garold Brady and Christina Riddle

Garold Brady, Lawana Watson and Christina Riddle.

Shasta Flanigan is pursuing an AA degree at BRTC with a career aspiration to become a Neurosurgeon. She is a graduate of the Home School Program and resides in Maynard.

transferring to a four-year college to obtain a degree in Physical Therapy. April Sheffield is currently seeking an AA degree from BRTC. She is a 1993 graduate from Van Buren High School. She now resides in Pocahontas.

Garold Brady is a 2000 graduate of Johanson High School in Modesto, California. He has been attending BRTC since Spring 2007 and is work-

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 Pocahontas.

Nine ambassadors have been named for the Spring 2009 semester at BRTC, according to Retention and Placement Coordinator, Laura Kuter-Woods. "I am excited to have such a great group of outstanding students who will represent our college well as BRTC Ambassadors," she said.

The purpose of the Ambassador 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. The nine are newly appointed Ambassadors Shasta Flanigan, Sarah Jones, Kaylon Kimble, Lynnea Causbie, Samantha Johnson and April Sheffield, and returning Ambassadors

Sarah Jones is a 2008 graduate of Maynard High School and is pursuing an AA degree. She plans to transfer to a four-year college upon completion at BRTC. Kaylon Kimble is a 2008 graduate of Maynard High School. He is pursuing an AA degree from BRTC and plans to transfer to Lyons to get a pre-med degree and then to UAMS for medical school.

Lynnea Causbie is a 2008 Rector High School graduate. She is currently pursuing a Microcomputer Business Technology degree at BRTC. Samantha Johnson is a 2003 graduate from Harlem High School in Illinois. She currently resides in Pocahontas and is taking the basic courses at BRTC before



Lynnea Causbie



April Sheffield



Shasta Flanigan



Sarah Jones



Samantha Johnson



Kaylon Kimble

ing 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

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.

Anyone interested in learning more about the BRTC Ambassador Program can visit the website at www.blackrivertech.edu. Click on the Site Index (A-Z).

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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

As we begin a new semester here at BRTC, we look to the months ahead as a time of both challenge and opportunity. Because this is a year in which the Legislature is in session as well as a period of economic difficulties generally, the challenges and the opportunities are especially significant.

On the one hand, we know that budgetary decisions at the state level will be made with the prospect of shrinking revenues. This means that institutions such as ours may be

fortunate if we experience funding at the same level as last year. However, no increase in funding tends to have the effect of a funding cut, because expenses, including salaries, do not decline, but generally increase.

One bright prospect for all the state's colleges and universities is the voter-approved lottery-funded scholarship program which should benefit a significant number of Arkansans. Many questions remain, however, surrounding the structuring of the program. Certainly those developing the scholarship program should consider the ability of the state's 22 two-year colleges to provide higher education—technical programs as well as the first two years of a baccalaureate degree—at a much lower cost than our four-year counterparts.

Colleges will be affected also by events on the national level. We will soon know the extent to which our new President's plan for economic stimulus holds opportunities for higher

education to be involved, through re-training and through new initiatives and programs. Certainly a renewed call for an educated workforce, one whose work will have

long-term environmental and economic benefits, bodes well for the future, not just for BRTC, but for all of us.



February 24
6:00 p.m. RCDC
For Tickets
Phone (870) 248-4070

LETA Faculty Announced



Darren Plaster

Darren Plaster of Batesville has joined the Law Enforcement Training Academy faculty. Previous to joining BRTC, Plaster worked for 15 years as a detective at the Independence County Sheriff's Office.

He has also worked as an adjunct instructor at the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville. Plaster has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Central Arkansas.