



The River's Edge

Inside this issue:

<i>Etiquette Skills Essential to Success in Workplace</i>	2
<i>Art Displayed at Area Banks</i>	2
<i>Dietetics Club Participates in Fundraiser</i>	2
<i>Moore Promoted to DE Position</i>	2
<i>Financial Aid Department has Busy Months</i>	3
<i>Phi Theta Kappa 2009 Pageant</i>	3
<i>NASCAR Mural (Cont'd from Page 1)</i>	3
<i>From the President's Desk</i>	4
<i>Murrell Earns Master's Degree</i>	4

Important Dates

April 2

'Art' of NASCAR Exhibit!

April 3

Serendipity

April 17

LETA Graduation

April 23

Scholarship Luncheon

May 7

Board of Trustees Mtg

May 12

Alumni Fish Fry

May 14

BRTC Graduation

'Art' of NASCAR Exhibit April 2

The history of NASCAR is featured in the form of a mural painted on the lobby walls of the Automotive Complex located on the campus of Black River Technical College in Pocahontas. A special public viewing of the NASCAR mural created by Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz, Fine Arts Instructor, and her Design I students will be held Thursday, April 2, from 2:00-5:30 p.m. The public is invited to stop by during this time to view the mural and to visit with Baltz and other BRTC faculty and staff.

Baltz was asked to paint the wall as a class project for one of her studio groups. "I envisioned a mural highlighting fast cars, sleek cars, NASCARs," said Baltz, "but I also wanted to incorporate the history of the automobile itself." The design includes the NASCAR logo, a white checkered background of monumental images of the automobile's history, painted in black and white to match the time before color photography.

The main part of the mural exhibits cars racing around tracks, from the beginning of NASCAR, with the races in the sands of Daytona Beach beside the ocean, to the dirt

tracks before finishing on the pavement racetrack showing past winners rapidly circling forward as time marches on. "Winners from each decade were chosen to give a general feel for the models of the cars as they progressed through time," Baltz explained.



Design I students who helped create the NASCAR mural are, front row from left, Tasha Stroud, Shenea Dean, and Jessica Spink; back row from left, Brendan Grooms, Tegan Crader, Donna Hackworth, Eric Nelson, and Tim Schnack.

For nearly three months this past semester, Baltz and her students spent a combined 352 hours creating the NASCAR mural. The project began October 2 with students gridding the wall with chalk, then sketching the drawing designed by Baltz. "For 140 hours the students worked during their class period and sometimes during their free time to paint on the mural," Baltz said. "I, myself, put in 212 hours of painting by working afterhours and over Christmas break to complete the project December 31."

"The artists often had aching backs, shoulders, and knees, and had to work on ladders in uncomfortable positions for hours at a time," noted Baltz. "It was a difficult task, but one worth the effort. Much research was neces-

(Continued on page 3)

BOP Presents Gift to College

Officials of Bank of Pocahontas presented the fourth installment of their pledged gift in support of the new Business Technology Center to BRTC last week. President Richard Gaines (second from left) accepted the financial contribution and expressed the college's appreciation to the Bank for its pledge. On hand for the presentation were Mike Miller, Senior Vice President of BOP, Bank President Terry Dickson, and Carol Belford-Lewallen, Business Development Officer.

The new Business Technology Center opened just over a year ago, and features classrooms, computer labs, lecture halls, and a Community Conference Center Seminar room, as well as the Bank of Pocahontas Student Center/InternetCafé. Several local businesses and organizations helped finance the

facility, giving a total of just over one-half million dollars toward the \$4.5 million project.



Etiquette Skills Essential to Success in Workplace



Ruth Schaa explains place setting as Vickie French looks on.

Knowing proper social etiquette skills can sometimes be a determining factor in employment. It can also be a “deal-closer” for work projects and

advancement. For this reason, the Black River Technical College Business Department hosted the annual Etiquette Luncheon March 12.

Ruth Schaa, Business Instructor, stepped in for the scheduled presenter, Dr. Martie Shull, and gave an introduction of the history and proper use of the silverware, napkin, and even how to scoop the sherbet.

“You scoop sherbet away from you so you don’t dribble,” Schaa said. “If the bowl of the spoon is too full, scooping away will allow the excess to fall back into the bowl.”

More than 60 people attended the luncheon including administration members, instructors, staff and students. Those in attendance enjoyed a four-course meal provided by the Dietetics Department. Schaa was on hand to provide commentary through-

out the meal as well as continued instruction on proper etiquette.

Instruction included such comments as where to place the fork and knife once the meal is finished and where to place the napkin when one gets up from the table to leave.

Once the meal was finished, Kay Ellis, Business Instructor, gave thanks to those attending. “This was for you,” she said to the attending business students. “I commend you for coming.”

“After the luncheon, many of the students expressed their appreciation and told us how beneficial this luncheon was to them,” Debbie Prichard, Business Chair, said. “They also said that they would feel much more comfortable and confident at a business lunch or dinner.” The luncheon was funded by the BRTC Foundation’s SEAS project.



Students in Graphic Design, Drawing II and Painting classes at BRTC displayed their work in all of the Pocahontas area banks March 16-21. The banks display the students’ artwork each year, according to Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz, Fine Arts Instructor.



Last month, the Dietetics Club of Black River Technical College participated in a fundraiser for BRAD Food Bank. The club raised \$361 and presented a check to Jean Oaks, administration officer for BRAD Food Bank (pictured above with Dietetics Club). Dana Clay was the recipient of a gift certificate valued at \$170 from Opera House Jewelry, which the club purchased to raffle as a thank you to those who made donations.

Moore Promoted to DE Position

Regina Moore has been promoted to the newly created position of Blackboard/Distance Education Program Coordinator at BRTC, announced Karen Liebhaber, Distance Education Coordinator. “She will be in charge of scheduling CVN classes, Blackboard support, and technical training for faculty, staff, students and organizations,” said Liebhaber, “in addition to helping me with other distance education projects such as our three Distance Education websites.”



Regina Moore

Moore has been working at BRTC since 2003 in the position of Administrative Secretary to the Vice President for Student Services. Prior to joining BRTC, she worked for 19 years in the Randolph County Tax Assessor’s office. She is a graduate of Pocahontas High School and holds an Associate of Arts in General Education degree from BRTC.

“She will be a great asset to BRTC’s fast growing Distance Education Program,” said Liebhaber of Moore. For any questions pertaining to Blackboard or CVN, Moore can be contacted by email at regina.moore@blackrivertech.org.”

Financial Aid Department has Busy Months



Brandi Chester (standing), Director of Financial Aid, and Natasha Rush (background), Financial Aid Officer, attend informational meetings.

Between December and February, members of the Financial Aid Department at BRTC were busy traveling to seven area high schools where they conducted "Financial Aid Nights" for seniors and their parents, according to Brandi Chester, Director of Financial Aid. Also in February, the group was

involved with the nationwide "College Goal Sunday" event.

Chester, along with Financial Aid Officers Misty Bradley and Natasha Rush, conducted evening financial aid meetings at Walnut Ridge, Corning, Hoxie, Black Rock, Sloan-Hendrix, and Maynard High Schools during the two-month period. The meetings were held to discuss the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available scholarships, qualifications and the application process, and to answer any questions they had pertaining to financial aid. A slide-show presentation was also shown during the meetings, and BRTC Recruiter Rhonda Foster, who accompanied the financial aid staff to most of the meetings, gave a brief presentation about the college and handed out promotional items.

"We were glad to visit the schools and have the opportunity to meet with

the parents and students to answer their financial aid questions," Chester said. "We look forward to meeting with them again in the future if they choose to attend BRTC or need additional information."

Another big event for the Financial Aid Department was College Goal Sunday, which took place February 21 at 37 locations throughout Arkansas, including the campus of BRTC in Pochontas. This nationwide event began as an effort to increase financial aid awareness and to encourage students to apply early for financial aid, in a setting that provides one-on-one application assistance from financial aid professionals.

According to Chester, there were 66 students and parents who attended and 32 FAFSA applications were filed during the event, which was held in the new Business Technology Building.

"College Goal Sunday also provided students the opportunity to get a first-hand look at the wonderful facilities we have on campus, "and they were able to utilize the new computer labs to electronically file their financial aid applications."

"I'd like to thank the volunteers who assisted with this year's event," said Chester. "Without their help, the event would not have been successful, and it was time well spent for all involved." Those helping in addition to Chester, Bradley and Rush were Mylea White, Mary Anderson, Rachel Koons, and Laura Keuter-Woods, also of BRTC; Lawana Watson, Samantha Johnson, and Sara Jones, BRTC Student Ambassadors; and financial aid personnel from Williams Baptist College, Barbara Turner and Stacey Dunlap.

Phi Theta Kappa 2009 Pageant

Black River Technical College's honor society, Phi Theta Kappa- Beta Delta Phi Chapter, will host the Mr./Miss Phi Theta Kappa 2009 Pageant. The event will take place April 25 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Randolph County Development Center.

Those interested in competing need to fill out the entry form, which can be found online at blackrivertech.edu, and mail to Black River Technical College, c/o Dr. Linda Moss, 1410 Hwy. 304 East, Pochontas, AR 72455.

Entry fee is \$15. There is a \$5 additional fee for photographs (optional); this fee will apply to the Photogenic Award. Deadline for entry is April 17.

Categories and times are: Girls: 0 months - 1 year 9:00; 1 - 2 years 10:00 a.m.; 3 - 5 years 11:00 a.m.; Kindergarten - 2nd grade 1:00 p.m.; 3rd - 6th grade 2:00 p.m.; 7th - 9th grade 3:00 p.m.; 10th - 12th grade 4:00 p.m.; High School Grad - 30 years 5:00 p.m. Boys: 0 months-1 year 9:30 a.m.; 1-2 years 10:30 a.m.; 3-5 years 11:30 a.m.; "Pretty Woman" Mock Pageant 6:00 p.m.

The dress code is Sunday best, NO FORMAL WEAR. Proceeds will be donated to the Relay for Life (American Cancer Society).



Standing from left Karen Dodd, Lawana Watson, President, Past Regional V.P., Dr. Linda Moss; Advisor and Jimmy Cross, Treasurer of PTK.

PTK Chapter/Advisor Receive Awards

BRTC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and Dr. Linda Moss, advisor, received awards at the Oklahoma/Arkansas Regional Convention held recently in Eureka Springs. The "Horizon Award" was presented to the BRTC chapter for being the most improved chapter this past year. They also received the "Five Star Award." Moss received "Most Distinguished Chapter Advisor" for the region, as well as the "Horizon Award," given by PTK headquarters in appreciation for being supportive, reliable, and helpful to headquarters during the past year.

Students who attended the convention along with Moss were Lawana Watson, Past Regional Vice-

President of the Eastern District, Christina Riddle, Tracy Ballard, Karen Dodd, Mary Hodge, Lynnea Causbie, Garold Brady, and Santiago Vasquez.

For receiving the Most Distinguished Chapter Advisor award, Moss is a contender for one of the International Distinguished Advisor awards that will be presented in April at the International Convention in Grapevine, Texas. Moss serves as the Regional Alumni Association Advisor and is a member of the Regional Coordinator's Advisory Committee.

"I commend Dr. Moss and the students of PTK for their dedication and service to the college and to the community," said VP for Academics Jack McCord. "They are very deserving of the awards they received, and I am proud of their accomplishments."

NASCAR Mural Continued from Page 1

sary on this project before a brush ever touched the wall." Students working on the exhibit were Brendan Grooms, Tegan Crader, Donna Hackworth, Eric Nelson, Tim Schnack, Tasha Stroud, Shenea Dean, and Jessica Spink.

The Automotive Complex is located at the corner of Airport Road and Patrick Drive on the BRTC campus. For more information, contact Baltz or Dina Hufstedler at 870-248-4000.

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

Phone: 870-239-0969

Fax: 870-248-4100

Fax: 870-239-2050

Website: www.blackrivertech.edu

*The River's Edge is produced by the
Office of Development.*

janz@blackrivertech.org
annf@blackrivertech.org
dina.hufstедler@blackrivertech.org
amber.sarhan@blackrivertech.org



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 BRTC Foundation is a group of individuals who volunteer their time and their talents in support of this college and its efforts to serve the community. Right now, the Foundation consists of 18 men and women, but can include up to a total of 25. Most of these individuals live in Randolph and Lawrence Counties, though we are very interested in expanding our membership to include representation from Clay and Greene Counties as well. Some of the Foundation members are retired,

while others have full-time career commitments. Regardless, whatever time they choose to devote to the Foundation and its projects is a precious gift of great value. These individuals attend meetings every other month in order to conduct the business and develop plans for the future of this organization. As a tax-exempt body, the Foundation is the fund-raising arm of the college and is empowered to accept and administer gifts of money, real estate, or other items of value given to the college. The Foundation also acts as a grant seeking entity for the college, as well as conducting various fund-raising events throughout the year. These events include an annual Golf Tournament, co-sponsored by Pulaski Bank, an annual "Growing Strong" Campaign, and the annual Gala, which we consider not only a fund-raising but also a "friend-raising" event. The Foundation is the entity to whom scholarship donations are made on behalf of students. In addition

Murrell Earns Master's Degree



Janet Murrell

Janet Murrell, Clinical Education Coordinator for the Respiratory Care Program at BRTC, was recently awarded a Master of Business Administration for Healthcare Management degree from American Intercontinental University. She has been working in her current position at BRTC since August 2005.

Murrell also holds two Associate of Applied Science degrees, Business Technology and Respiratory Care, both of which she earned at BRTC. Prior to joining the BRTC staff, she worked as a Respiratory Therapist.

tion to the fund-raising activities, the Foundation also sponsors an annual Scholarship Luncheon to bring together those who fund and those who receive scholarships. The organization also underwrites and supports the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship program. As a result of its activities, significant scholarship dollars are generated and given to deserving students. In addition, through its SEAS (Special Event and Activity

Support) program, the Foundation provides funding support for events that touch the lives of countless students, staff, and members of the community by funding student travel events, public speakers, special presentations, and other special activities that fall outside the normal college funding stream. I salute the work of our BRTC Foundation. They make a tremendous difference in the life of this college and of this community.