



The River's Edge

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LETA Graduation Honors 45 Officers



BRTC's Law Enforcement Training Academy held a graduation ceremony Friday for 45 officers completing the Basic Police Training Course. Dr. Cheryl May, Assistant Director of the Criminal Justice Institute served as guest speaker during the ceremony held in the Randolph County Development Center on the Pocahontas campus.

Graduating students completed a thirteen-week course that included instruction in standard police tactics, firearms, legal education, technical skills and practical exercises. Officers are required to score at least 70% on each exam, and consistently fire at least 80% during firearms

training exercises in order to graduate.

Shelby Hunter of the North Little Rock Police Department received the Top Overall Award, which is earned by having the highest overall average in the areas of academics, firearms, and physical fitness. He also received the Top Physical Fitness Award. Heath Loggains of the Jonesboro Police Department received the Top Firearms Award, and Christopher Toland of the Independence County Sheriff's Office received the Top

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Important Dates

April 23

Scholarship Luncheon

May 7

Board of Trustees Mtg

May 11

RT Pinning

May 13

Potluck and Milestone Awards

May 14

BRTC Graduation

May 18

Intercession Begins

June 1

Summer I Begins

BRTC Hosts Guest Speaker from France

Marion Chatelin was guest speaker at the semi-annual country feast hosted by Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz' classes last week. Chatelin, a native of Paris, France, and French instructor at ASU-Jonesboro, talked about the cultural differences between the U.S. and France.



Marion Chatelin

"Here, students wear pajamas to class, you do not do that in France," she said. She spoke about other differences such as education, greetings, food, automobiles, and in general the lifestyles between the two countries.

"Everything is huge here," she said. "France is 17 times smaller than the U.S.," she added. French people also greet differently. Here, Chatelin said, people hug other people even if they don't know one another but in France that does not happen. "We kiss on the cheek, but only if we know the person really well."

"Here, people are very easy going," she said. A typical family consists of two children and sometimes the parents are not married, she said. "Kids Days" are Wednesday and Saturday. Usually, Chatelin said, if the kids are going to play a sport on those days it will be soccer and the girls sometimes practice ballet.

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Academic Distinction Scholarships



Michael Allen



Brandi Allison



Brittany Autry



Tara Cates



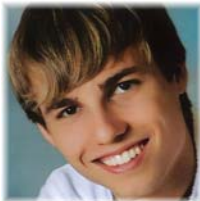
Trevor DeAngelo



Brooke French



Melody Laky



Nathan Harper



Christin Highfield



Tasha Keough



Carrie Massey



Julie Taylor



Derek Waddell



Justin Weitkamp

Sixteen Academic Distinction Scholarships have been awarded for the Spring Semester according to the Office of Financial Aid.

Those accepting the scholarship are Derek Waddell of Maynard High School, Brittany Autry of Maynard High School, Carrie Massey of Walnut Ridge High School, Melody Laky of Oak Ridge Central High School, Tasha Keough of Sloan-Hendrix High School, Michael Allen of Pocahontas High School, Brandi Allison of Greene County Tech High School, Nathan Cody Harper of Hoxie High School, Julie Taylor of Hoxie High School, Tara Cates of Maynard High School, Trevor DeAngelo of Greene County Tech High School, Brooke French of Hoxie High School, Christin Highfield of Hillcrest High School, Justin Weitkamp of Hoxie High School, Sarah Murrell (not pictured) of Piggott High School, and Destiny Ray Holloway (not pictured) of Hoxie High School.

The Academic Distinction Scholarship provides full tuition and is renewable up to four semesters provided the recipient successfully completes a minimum of 12 credit hours (excluding developmental courses) each semester and maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.00 for the first two semesters increasing to a 3.25 GPA for the remaining two semesters. Those receiving met one of the following criteria: making an ACT composite score of at least 24 or in the top ten percent of their graduating class with a 3.00 GPA at seven semesters.

Derek Waddell, son of Ligie and Kim Waddell, plans to complete college basics with an emphasis in Psychology before transferring to a four-year university with plans to become a social worker. Brittany Autry is considering a career in either Early Childhood Education or Business Management. She is the daughter of Donnie and René

Autry.

Carrie Massey, the daughter of Cary and Raelynne Massey, plans to complete college basics and transfer to a four-year university to major in Communications. Melody Laky has plans to become a Veterinary Technologist. She is the daughter of Brent and Tammy Bolton.

The daughter of Brian and Kim Keough, Tasha Keough plans to pursue a career in teaching middle school math. The son of Rick and Pam Allen, Michael Allen's future plans include a degree in Journalism/Coaching.

Brandi Allison has chosen to pursue a career in Nursing. She is the daughter of Kenny and Lisa Allison and Rickey and Linda Dennis. The son of David and Sandi Harper, Nathan Cody Harper plans to complete college basics with a focus in Biology before transferring to a four-year university.

Julia Taylor, daughter of Larry and Keri Taylor and Monica Taylor, plans to complete college ba-

sics and transfer to a four-year university to major in pre-law/journalism. The daughter of Martin and Debbie Cates, Tara Cates plans to major in Nursing at BRTC.

The son of Chris and Kelly DeAngelo, Trevor DeAngelo plans to complete college basics and transfer to a four-year university to major in Cardiology. Brooke French, daughter of Mike and Becky French, has future plans to become a Dental Hygienist.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography is the career field chosen by Christin Highfield. She is the daughter of Eric and Lori Highfield. Justin Weitkamp, son of Billy Don and Melissa Weitkamp, plans to pursue a career in Criminal Justice.

Sarah Murrell, daughter of Allen and Sharon Murrell, plans to pursue a career in Early Childhood Education. The daughter of Donna and Anthony Simpson, Destiny Holloway plans to major in Nursing at BRTC.

Speaker from France (Continued from Page 1)

In France, employees get five weeks of vacation a year and the maximum hours worked is 35 a week. Fast food is a treat for only once a week or once a month. Answering one of the questions from the audience, Chatelin said that if she could she would bring French food to the area. "It's what I miss the most." And if she could take one thing to France from the U.S., it would be the lifestyle, particularly American's easy-going attitude.

"This event benefited the students. I enjoy having it every semester because it gives the students the opportunity to taste the food and get the facts

about other countries," Dr. Baltz said. "Having someone such as Marion was great. It made it more special to have here someone from the country we were discussing."

She has a B.S. in International Business from the Université De Cergy Pontoise in France and is currently working on her MBA at ASU. She said she would like to stay in the U.S. if possible to work after graduation. The country feast was prepared by the BRTC Dietetics program and the event was hosted by Dr. Baltz' World Civilization and studio art classes.

Health Fair Involves BRTC Students and Public



Pathways Director Tom Baker gets weighed in at the Annual Health Fair with assistance from the Dietetics students.

More than 110 people came to the Randolph County Development Center recently for BRTC's annual health fair. Students from the Dietetics, Phlebotomy, Respiratory Care and Nursing departments, along with many area healthcare professionals, provided free health screenings and information about the resources available to the public.

The booths provided information on diseases, nutrition,

heart health, and lung function testing.

One of the more interesting items that was available this year was a booth the respiratory care students set up showing a pig's lungs and how they function. Dewayne Warner, a third semester Respiratory Care student, provided the lungs for the students to see firsthand how the different settings on a mechanical ventilator affect the lungs.

At the Prostate Cancer

Screening information booth, students were joined throughout the day by several cancer survivors. One was Bill Smith of Pocahontas, a prostate cancer survivor for 19 years. The gentlemen stayed for most of the day letting the public know how important it is to have the screening that can save lives.

BRTC Health programs would like to thank all of the people who attended this year's health fair.

International Tour Destination: Egypt

This year, BRTC's annual International Tour led a group of seven individuals to Egypt where they visited Cairo, Africa's largest city; Memphis, the first capital of a united Egypt; Sakkara, site of the oldest Egyptian pyramids, and Giza, home to the Great Pyramid of Cheops, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The group also enjoyed a cruise along Egypt's Nile River and sailing in a *felucca* to the Elephantine Island, and visiting other legendary sites such as the Temple of Luxor.

The tour, coordinated through EF (Educational Foundations) and conducted each



year during spring break, provides past and present BRTC students and members of the community an opportunity for a lifelong learning experience. Making this year's trip to Egypt were, pictured left to right, Joyce Radcliff, Ken and Dr. Jan Ziegler, and Cindy and James Throgmorton, all of Pocahontas; Wilene Marasigan of Canton, Ohio; and Georgia Berry of Corning.

Next year's spring break trip will be an 11-day visit to Peru. For more information, contact Dr. Ziegler at 870-248-4000 ext. 4185.

United Way Scholarships Awarded

Three BRTC students, Mylea White, Reva Mitchell and Laura McGinnis, have each been awarded the United Way/BRTC Success Scholarship for the Spring 2009 semester, according to Natasha Rush, Financial Aid Officer.

The scholarship is awarded in the amount of \$500 for part-time students (6-11 credit hours), and \$1,000 for full-time students (12 or more credit hours).

White, a Corning High School graduate, is a part-time student pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education. She and her husband Darrin have two children and reside in Biggers. She is the daughter of Fred and Doni Martin of Corning.



Mylea White

Mitchell, a full-time student from Strawberry, is also pursuing an Early Childhood Education degree. She is the daughter of Dale and Tressa Mitchell of Imboden, and Tina Mitchell and Kim Dodson, both of Batesville. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society.

McGinnis, of Pocahontas, is a student in the Practical Nursing program and is expected to graduate in December. Upon graduating, she plans to pursue a Registered Nursing degree.



Reva Mitchell



Laura McGinnis

LETA Graduation (Continued from Page 1)

Academics Award.

In addition to the awards received, Hunter was selected by fellow classmates to serve as class spokesperson at graduation. He also produced a video that captured events of the class during their 13-week training. The video was shared with family and friends prior to the graduation ceremony.

Highlighting Friday's graduation was Andrea Cherry of the Pine Bluff Police Department who sang the National Anthem to open the ceremony. "This was the first time for an officer to sing the National Anthem as part of LETA graduation," said LETA Director Steve Shults who served as Master of Ceremonies. "She did an amazing job and it was a special addition to the ceremony."

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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

In his recently released strategic plan for economic development, Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe addresses workforce training and development as one of five components in growing a strong economy. His report focuses on issues that are critically important here at BRTC, where we serve a total student population of around 2,000 each semester. That number is roughly divided into approximately 55 percent in the college transfer track, also referred to as Gen Ed courses, and some 45

percent in our technical programs of study, leading to various degrees or certificates.

The governor's report acknowledges a trend statewide, saying the two-year colleges have "gravitated to courses that are more closely aligned with four-year schools." He goes on to acknowledge that the needs of businesses for skilled workers with specialized training often goes "unmet by post-secondary institutions who receive funding based largely on enrollment of students taking credit classes for degrees." The situation currently is that the state's funding formula "may not adequately compensate schools for courses that draw lower numbers of students or for courses that cost more to offer." These are typically programs where expensive equipment must be constantly kept up to date, and two-year college budgets do not allow for this at current levels.

I'm pleased that here at BRTC we

Two Accept BRTC Positions

Claudette Hackworth has joined BRTC as the administrative assistant for Student Services. She previously worked at Pulaski Bank (formerly known as Pocahontas Federal) for 25 years. "We are pleased to have Claudette join the Student Services Department and look forward to working with her," Dr.



Claudette Hackworth



Brenda King

Mike Sullens, VP for Student Services, said.

Brenda King of Paragould has been hired as custodian for Black River Technical College's Paragould campus. She previously worked at Cinch in Pocahontas and ADT in Jonesboro, and most recently as a full time homemaker.

have tried to maintain an emphasis on both segments of education—college basics and high quality technical programs. I'm also pleased to see that our governor recognizes the difficulties we often face, as described above. He understands, too, the link between a highly skilled work force and a healthy economy. This understanding has prompted him, in his report,

to propose action that, if followed through, would resolve some of the issues. Many action items are suggested, all of them valid. Most significantly, the reports suggest a need "to review the funding formula for two-year schools to ensure that schools offering courses that address the needs of business and industry are not unduly penalized."

We could not agree more.