



# The River's Edge

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## Kids' College 2009 Sets Enrollment Record

A record number of children attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids' College held by the Department of Continuing Education at Black River Technical in Pocahontas June 8-11. According to Patti Blaxton, Coordinator of Continuing Education and Business Outreach, approximately 115 children entering first through sixth grades attended the four-day event that provided seven classes of educational activities each day. "This is the largest group of students to attend Kids' College since it began ten years ago," noted Blaxton, "and we are so excited about the interest and continued growth."



The classes and presentations offered by volunteers during the week were: Arkansas Wildlife and Fishing 101, presented by Arkansas Game and Fish; Civic City, presented by Pocahontas Kiwanis; DARE and NASCAR, presented by Paragould Police Department; Fire Safety, presented by Pocahontas Fire Department; Horticulture, presented by Randolph

County Cooperative Extension; In the News, presented by Star Herald Publishing; Responsible You, presented by Bancorp South; Seeing Like an Archeologist, presented by Old Davidsonville State Park; and Tae Kwon Do, presented by Marilyn's Clogging Company. Other classes sponsored by BRTC were: Adventures in Cyber Space,

All About BRTC, Balloons and Magic, Carnival, Exercise is Cool, Fun-N-Games, Primary Colors, and Scrapbooking My Life. Numerous individuals from BRTC and the community volunteered their time to serve as group leaders and assistants throughout the week.

"Kids' College is designed to provide children with an opportunity to expand their

knowledge and creativity while having fun," Blaxton explained. "And because of the hard work and dedication of the many volunteers who have offered their talents and assisted with programs, Kids' College continues to be a huge success. (See Page 4 for additional photos)

### Important Dates

July 4

*Campus Closed*

July 7

*Summer II Classes Begin*

July 21

*Orientation*

August 6

*Board of Trustees Mtg*

August 14

*Foundation Board Mtg*

August 17

*In-Service*

August 24

*Classes Begin*

## McNabb Family Enjoys Gala Award - Flight to St. Louis, Cardinals Ball Game

Hank McNabb, along with his son, Henry, daughter, Hannah, and friend, Brittny Yancy, enjoyed a flight to St. Louis to watch a St. Louis Cardinal's baseball game last month, courtesy of a donation made by Steve Manley and Universal Asset Management.

McNabb received the trip by being the highest bidder on the donation during the Annual BRTC Foundation Gala Auction held earlier this year. In addition to tickets to the game, the package included a round trip flight between Walnut Ridge and St. Louis in a Piper Cheyenne, UAM's company airplane, piloted by Darren Butcher, a Boeing B727 Captain at FedEx.

"We had a great time," McNabb said. "We visited the Arch, and the Cardinals beat the Kansas City Royals."



*Pictured from left are Henry, Hank, and Hannah McNabb, and friend Brittny Yancy.*



Gabrielle Fisher

## Additional Academic Distinction Scholarships Awarded for Fall

Gabrielle Fisher, Joel MacDonald, James Matheny, and Ashley Street have accepted the Academic Distinction Scholarship to attend Black River Technical College in the fall, according to Natasha Rush, Financial Aid Officer. The scholarship provides full tuition renewable up to four semesters provided the recipient successfully completes a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester and maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.00 for the first two semesters and 3.25 for the remaining two semesters.

Fisher, a graduate of Twin Rivers (Oak Ridge Central campus), plans to pursue degrees in Early Childhood

Education and Psychology. She is the daughter of Ed and Julie Fisher.

MacDonald (not pictured) is the son of Cathy MacDonald and a graduate of Westside High School. The resident of Jonesboro plans to pursue a degree in Computer Science.

Marine Biology is the field of education that Pocahontas resident Matheny wishes to pursue. He is the son of Jay and Kim Matheny and is a graduate of Pocahontas High School.

Street, also a Pocahontas High School graduate, plans to major in Music Education. She is the daughter of Sheila Bean and is a resident of Pocahontas.



James Matheny



Ashley Street

## Scholarship Deadline Set for July 15

The deadline for students to apply for the Richard and Patti Gaines Scholarship or the BRTC/Wal-Mart Scholarship to attend BRTC in the Fall 2009 semester is July 15. The applications are available online at <http://finaid.blackrivertech.edu/> or through the Financial Aid link on the BRTC website [www.blackrivertech.edu](http://www.blackrivertech.edu). Applications may also be picked up in the Office of Financial Aid on either the Pocahontas or the Paragould campus.

The Gaines Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is open to full-time students. It is funded through a donation by IBERIABANK (formerly Pulaski Bank), and was established in honor of BRTC's President Richard Gaines and his wife, Patti.

The BRTC/Wal-Mart Scholarship in the amount of \$500 is available for current BRTC students who have completed at least one semester.

For more information on either scholarship, please contact Natasha Rush, Financial Aid Officer, at 870-248-4000.

## BRTC Hosts PTK Regional Conference



From left, Lawana Watson, Dr. Linda Moss, Samantha Johnson, Jodi Simpson, Christina Riddle and Karen Dodd.

BRTC was host to the 2009 Oklahoma/Arkansas Regional Leadership Conference of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society June 5-6 on the Pocahontas campus. According to Dr. Linda Moss, Phi Theta Kappa Advisor and instructor of science at BRTC, approximately forty members and advisors attended the conference held in conjunction with Pocahontas' annual Relay for Life event for the American Cancer Society in which all conference attendees participated.

Dr. Roger Johnson, Division Chair of General Education at BRTC welcomed the guests, and Dr. Marti Shull, keynote speaker, spoke about "Paradox of Affluence: Choices, Challenges, and Consequences." Christina Riddle, VP of Scholarships for the BRTC chapter, gave an environmental presentation on "Solid Waste Management." Bill Masiongale with the

Randolph County Tourism Board also gave a presentation.

During the Relay for Life event held from 6:00 p.m. Friday to 6:00 a.m. Saturday, Phi Theta Kappa received several awards: 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Best Spirit Stick; 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Best T-Shirt; 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Hats Contest; and 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Mr. Relay.

"I want to thank our chapter members and presenters for their help in making the conference a successful one," said Moss. "The Oklahoma/Arkansas Regional Alumni Association was also a tremendous asset."

## AmVet Donation



Ross McQueen, Commander of the American Veterans Post 62 in Pocahontas, presents a check for \$750 to Dr. Linda Moss, advisor of BRTC's Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. The money was raised during a recent Bingo fundraiser held to benefit the local Phi Theta Kappa chapter.

## Book Signing by Local Author is July 7

A book signing event featuring Jean Fort of Pocahontas and her recently published book, *A Slice of Life*, has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Black River Technical College library, according to Anne Simpson, librarian. The book is a collection of Fort's writings that include short stories, funny stories, and poems.



Jean Fort

A farmer's wife for the past 54 years, Fort said she has always been a writer. "I have always enjoyed writing," says Fort, "so I can always find something to write about." The former BRTC student who took Dr. Gary Buxton's Creative Writing class in 2006 has since returned to share with current students her experiences with the publishing process.

"The public is cordially invited to stop by the library to visit with Fort," said Simpson. For more information, Simpson can be contacted at 870-248-4000, ext. 4061.

## “Fun Before Finals” Brings Fun, Relieves Stress

BRTC’s sixth annual “Fun Before Finals” event was held May 5 with hundreds of students, faculty and staff enjoying a day of food, music, games and giveaways. “The event was developed five years ago as a way for students, faculty and staff to relax and have fun the day before final exams begin,” explained Dr. Roger Johnson, Division Chair of General Education and event coordinator.

Competitions included volleyball, horseshoes, golf pitching, scavenger hunt, 1.5 mile walk, free throw shoot, and toilet paper race. Participants were also provided with hot dogs, chips, drinks, cookies and popcorn thanks to generous donations.

Winners of the 1.5 mile walk were (faculty) 1<sup>st</sup> place tie, Mary Anderson and Donna Utnage; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Billie Fry; (students) 1<sup>st</sup> place, LeShane Partain; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Katelynn Brasfield; and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Lindsay Baney. Horseshoe winners were 1<sup>st</sup> place, Malissa Crawford and Jason Wren; and 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Jeffery Wheelless and Josh Collins. Basketball shootout winners were Sarah Jones, 1<sup>st</sup> place; April Sheffield, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and Layla Davis, 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Debora Jenkins and Kim Gray were winners of the scavenger hunt, and Christina Riddle and April Sheffield were winners of the toilet paper race.

Johnson acknowledged the following businesses, groups, and individuals who provided food, drinks, and prizes for the drawings: Bank of Pocahontas, Pulaski Bank, Mill Creek Gardens, Taylor-Pickett

Chiropractic, Inner Beauty Day Spa, Coral Reef, Hair Trend, Pocahontas Medical Clinic, Randolph County Nursing Home, City Pharmacy, Medical Center Pharmacy, Sugar Shak, Green Tomato Café, Randolph #71 Free and Accepted Masons, Personalities Day Spa & Salon, The Prescription House, Chastain Construction, Wal-Mart #71, J.M.R. Vending, Triple R Bail Bonds, Sysco, Glam Salon, Don’s Steakhouse, Ag Heritage, Farm Bureau of Lawrence County, Cavanaugh Marine Sales, Counter Top Concepts, Pocahontas Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Elmcroft of Pocahontas, Baltz & Tony Dentistry, Medic One, Apex Communications, Subway, Burgess Auto Body, Randolph County Heritage Museum, Ungerank Chiropractic, Posey Patch, Inc., Patrick Carroll D.D.S. General Dentistry, Randolph County Chiropractic, LLC, First National Bank, Carter Realty, Tool Central, Flower-n-Cuts, Redskin Auto Center, Pocahontas Glass, BRTC Law Enforcement Training Academy, Five Rivers Medical Center Dietary Department, McGraw-Hill, Corning Savings and Loan, Danny Bell Cancer Treatment Center, Don Liebhaber-Jade, Inc., and Phi Theta Kappa.

Johnson also expressed his appreciation to committee members who helped with the planning and organization of the event, and to the many volunteers and sub-committee members who assisted and donated equipment.

“Thanks to the generous donations and support of so many individuals, Fun Before Finals continues to be an event enjoyed each year by more and more students,” said Johnson.



## Williams Honored for 35 Years

Loretta Williams, VP for Finance at Black River Technical College, recently received a milestone award acknowledging her 35 years of service to the college. The award was presented at the annual end-of-semester potluck May 13.

Each year, administration, faculty, and staff participate in the event where awards are presented for each five year interval of employment at BRTC. Board of Trustees Chair Mike Dunn assisted President Richard Gaines in presenting the milestone awards.

Jack McCord and Debbie Prichard were each acknowledged for 30 years of service. Judy Forrester and Dr. Mike Sullens received 20 year awards while Al Dixon and Dr. Jan Ziegler were recognized for 15 years of service.

Ten year milestone awards were presented to David Bowlin, Harold Sharp, Malissa Crawford, Ann French, Glenda Hawkins, and Roger Johnson. Five year awards went to Dina Hufstедler, Joseph Chappell, Julie Williams, Dr. Jason Morrison, Regina Moore, Shana Akers, Linda Leslie, Joan Linnstaedter, Daphne Perkins, and Joniece Trammel.



*Loretta Williams*

## Doyle Retires from BRTC

Mike Doyle has retired from Black River Technical College after 10 years as a Law Enforcement Training Academy instructor. During this time, he also served as LETA’s Interim Director to complete the 2006-2007 school year.

At the end-of-semester potluck held in May, Vice-President for Academics Jack McCord recognized Doyle and presented him with a plaque for his years of service to the college.

Prior to joining BRTC, Doyle, who had served in the U.S. Navy for 21 years, worked as a patrolman for Tennessee State Parks, worked as a consultant/partner at a consulting firm, and worked as a patrolman in Cherokee Village.



*Mike Doyle and Jack McCord*

“Mike was a gifted, innovative and very effective instructor,” said Steve Shults, LETA Director. “He was always using techniques which forced students to be directly involved in the educational process. He was truly an asset to the academy and will be missed.”

A resident of Cherokee Village, Doyle said he plans to spend a lot of time traveling in retirement.

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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*

One of the national goals set by President Barack Obama deals directly with higher education institutions throughout the nation. He has called for a new national goal that "by 2020, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world." Not only has he made this goal a priority, but he has shown an understanding of the role of two-year colleges in making progress toward this goal. A recent report, *Blueprint for American Prosperity*, takes a close look at what

would be involved in renewing our country's status as the "world's leader in educational attainment."

The report, issued by the Brookings Institution in May of this year, points out that if we are to make real progress, two-year colleges are and will continue to be crucial to the process. One important fact is the sheer number of students attending two-year colleges—45 percent of all college students. When looking at percentages of certain student categories, such as the economically disadvantaged, that percentage is even higher. The report also notes that college completion rates are often substantially lower at the two-year colleges than at their four-year counterparts, due to various individual and institutional factors. These numbers are also significant in light of a third statistic: the report says that federal funding per FTE (full-time equivalency) is about three times higher at four-year colleges.

## Photos from Kids' College

(Continued from Page 1)



There is some good news—the fact that community colleges may be eligible for new funding through the president's American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. But this fact is tempered in that this potential new funding is to be handled through the WIA, or Workforce Investment Act, which generally focuses on short-term job-training programs. So,

although we look forward to any new source of funding, two-year colleges need new federal funding streams that allow us to fulfill all of our mission. We need new funding that will help our students complete the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> years of study leading to meaningful certificates and associate's degrees.