



## CPI Earns Extra \$68,000 to Help Students

Black River's Career Pathways Initiative program was ranked third highest in a state-wide pool of 25 Career Pathways Initiative programs. The financial award for this high ranking was over \$68,000. This ranking, according to CPI Director Tom Baker, is based on the department meeting and exceeding the performance goals set out in the state Career Pathways grant program.

The main measures of the success of this program at BRTC are listed in the table on page 2.

Pathways provides eligible students assistance with tuition, fees, books, childcare, and even gas. Pathways

also offers students individual career counseling, interest inventories for career exploration, tutoring, employability skills training, assistance finding employment, and computer access.

"We believe this program has impacted our students in extremely positive ways," said BRTC President Richard Gaines. "Not only the money, but the interaction with Pathways staff members, we believe, has made a difference for many students, and may have been a deciding factor in their persisting

and completing their degrees. We are very proud of the work of the Pathways staff, and congratulate them on their well-deserved award."

*(Continued on page 2)*



**CPI Staff, left to right:** Bridget Guess, Counselor/Student Advisor; Margo Johnson, Recruitment, Retention, and Placement Coordinator; Tom Baker, Director; Helen Shipley, Intake/Administrative Assistant and Rhonda Crabtree, Career Support Services Facilitator

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## Staff, Students Receive AATYC Awards

Four from BRTC were honored recently with the awards of Outstanding Faculty, Outstanding Staff, Outstanding Alumni, and Academic All-Star. The awards were announced at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual AATYC Conference that was held on October 17-19 in the Hot Springs Convention Center.

BRTC Outstanding Staff this year goes to Janna Guthrey of Pocahontas. She has been on staff as a secretary at BRTC since 2003, first as Secretary to Division Chairs, and now as

Secretary to VP of Technical Education. She was chosen for this award based on her adept skills in organization, and her ability to create a work environment that is both professional and friendly.

This year's Outstanding Alumni award goes to Philip Dickson, who is both an Alum and an Instructor of Business and Technology for BRTC. After coming to BRTC from Imboden, Dickson was a part of the pilot program for the AAS in Business Technology with a Networking Option and, in 2000, was the first student to graduate the

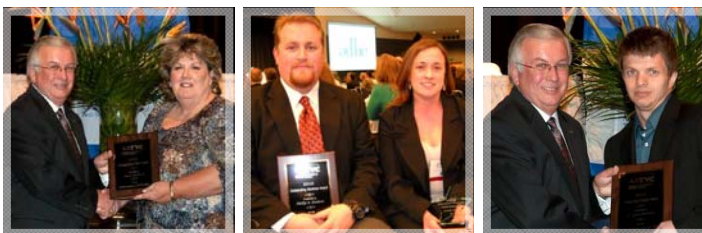
program. He also holds an AA from BRTC completed in 1998. Dickson followed these degrees with a BS in Management Information Systems from Arkansas State University in 2001 and an MS in Information Systems and E-Commerce, also from Arkansas State University, in 2005.

In 2001, Dickson came on staff at BRTC and now works to develop the educational programs which he had gone through only a few years before.

The Academic All-Star Award for

Black River went to PTK Member Jessica Rainwater. She is a resident of O'Kean and a 2001 graduate of Delaplaine High School. She was selected for the award based on her 4.0 GPA, commitment to education, and leadership shown inside and outside of the classroom. She is in the AA program at BRTC, and plans to afterwards pursue both a Bachelor's and a Master's in Journalism from Arkansas State University. This award has made those dreams much more achievable, as it also carries a scholarship worth tuition and fees for at least two consecutive years to any Arkansas college and, in the

*(Continued on page 3)*



**AATYC Award recipients, left to right:** Janna Guthrey, Outstanding Staff; Phillip Dickson, Outstanding Alumni; Jessica Rainwater, Academic All-Star and Jason Morrison, Outstanding Faculty. Presenting plaques at left and right, Dr. Ed Franklin.

### Important Dates

- Nov. 9  
*PN Meet and Greet*
- Nov. 19  
*LETA Graduation*
- Nov. 19  
*Serendipity*
- Nov. 23  
*Book Store Open House*
- Nov. 24-26  
*Thanksgiving Holiday – Campus Closed*
- Dec. 5  
*RN Pinning Ceremony*
- Dec. 16  
*BRTC Graduation*

# Holocaust Survivor Presentation Reaches Many

Combined audiences of approximately 1,700 individuals attended the presentations by Holocaust Survivor Freddie Traum at BRTC October 25-27. Through a partnership between BRTC and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Department of Survivor Affairs in Washington D.C., Traum shared his story and his memories of being a part of the Kindertransport during the Holocaust. He is a native of Vienna, Austria, and recounted the days and weeks after Hitler annexed Austria to the Third Reich.

Traum, along with approximately 10,000 other children, was sent by his parents to England where he would spend the duration of the war. The Kindertransport was a unique effort by Great Britain in an attempt to save the lives of Jewish children in Nazi-occupied Europe prior to the outbreak of war.

His presentation acknowledged the magnitude of this extraordinary action by the British, a decision made by the Parliament as the Nazis expanded their conquest and increased their violence against the Jews and others group Hitler deemed "inferior."

Development and BRTC coordinator for the event. Also attending were students from area schools, including Wynona, Doniphan, and Neeleyville, Missouri; and students from Arkansas schools in Nettleton, Black Rock, Highland, Paragould, Cave City, Rector, Maynard, Weiner, Pocahontas, Marmaduke, Crowley's Ridge Academy, Mammoth Spring, Hoxie, Walnut Ridge, and Sloan-Hendrix.

The annual event was made possible through funding support by Mike and Barbara Dunn, iBERIABANK, Bank of Pocahontas, and First National Bank of Walnut Ridge, Pocahontas, Hoxie and Bono, and by the SEAS program of the BRTC Foundation. Hufstедler expressed the college's deep appreciation to these donors.

Traum, a volunteer at the museum, was accompanied to Pocahontas by Rachel Wagner of the USHMM, whose office works with the survivors and arranges such visits.

*Right: Freddie is greeted by local WWII Veteran and Liberator, Herb Turner.*

*Below: Freddie autographs photos for local high school students.*



Britain's foresight and generosity did, in fact, save the lives of those children fortunate enough to be a part of the Kindertransport. Only a few of the parents of the Kindertransport children survived; Traum's were not among them.

"We are so fortunate to have had this opportunity once again," said Dr. Jan Ziegler, who teaches a class on the Holocaust at BRTC. "We know it is not easy for those like Freddie to re-live the experience each time he shares it with others, but hearing about the Holocaust from someone who lived through it is valuable and makes an unforgettable impression on those who hear the story."

Traum's audience members at the various venues where he spoke included BRTC and WBC faculty and students, Serendipity members, and members of the public, according to Dina Hufstедler, Project Specialist of the Office of

*Dr. Jan Ziegler's Holocaust class takes an opportunity to visit with Freddie.*



## Positions Filled

Staff positions at Black River continue to change as existing staff are promoted and new members are brought in to fill their vacated positions.

Shana Akers has changed positions. She started out at BRTC in 2003 as Secretary for

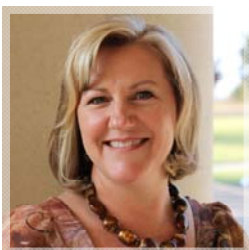
Student Services, then was moved to Registrar's Assistant. She has just recently been named Academic Advisor. Before coming to BRTC, she worked at Lawrence County Family Clinic in Walnut Ridge. She holds an AAS in Business and an AA from Black River and a Bachelor of Arts from UALR. She is a resident of Annieville.

Angie French is new to the Student Services Department. She has just been hired as Administrative Assistant. She comes from Pocahontas and has previously worked in Banking, Retail Sales, and Accounting.

For information about open positions at Black River, visit us on the web at [www.blackrivertech.edu/jobs](http://www.blackrivertech.edu/jobs).



*Shana Akers*



*Angie French*

## CPI Cont'd from pg.1

Performance goals are set out in the grant agreement and financial awards are given based on the success of the local program in attaining those goals, according to Baker. The award money will be used to assist eligible

students. "The CPI staff is to be commended for their dedication to the success of this program," Baker added, asserting that all of this was made possible by

the hard working staff members in his department.

To be eligible for Pathways assistance, a student must have custody of a minor child and meet certain

financial qualifications. Students interested in this program should visit the Career Pathways Department in AD 114 or view the Pathways website at <http://pathways.blackrivertech.edu/>

	Enrollment	Transitional Employment Assistance/Work Pays	New students	Certificates/Degrees
Goal (from state)	470	13	94	235
BRTC Actual	599	20	254	283

## Six Earn Full-Tuition Scholarship

Among those students receiving this year's Academic Distinction Scholarship are Eric Gosset, Stevie Howard, Timmy Stallings Jr, Westley Snyder, Marc Barrett, and Elizabeth Potter.

Eric Gosset comes to BRTC from Brookland, where he graduated from Brookland High School. He is seeking a degree in Auto Service. He is also a recipient of the Arkansas Scholar Award, Perfect Attendance, Geometry Award, Electricity Award, and the FFA Green Hand Award.

Stevie Howard is a graduate of Hillcrest High School who comes from Smithville. Her

major area of study is Radiological Sciences.

Timmy Stallings Jr. of Corning graduated from Corning High School. He is pursuing an Associate of Arts at Black River.

Westley Snyder is a Hoxie resident and graduate of Hoxie High School. She is a member of BETA club. She plans to earn a degree in Culinary Arts and aspires to pursue a career as a chef.

Marc Barrett is a resident of Jonesboro and a graduate of Jonesboro High School. He is pursuing an Associate of Arts Degree.

Elizabeth Potter of Paragould is a graduate of Greene County Tech.

She plans to earn a degree in Middle School Language Arts/Social Sciences.

All of the students receiving this scholarship must have either a composite ACT score of 24 or better, or be in the top 10% of their graduating class. The scholarship covers full tuition at BRTC and is renewable for up to four semesters under the condition that the students continue to meet certain academic requirements.

For more information about scholarships available at BRTC, visit the Financial Aid page at [www.finaid.blackrivertech.org](http://www.finaid.blackrivertech.org), or contact the Financial Aid office at 870-248-4000.



Timmy Stallings Jr.



Eric Gosset



Stevie Howard

## BRTC-Paragould Announces Saturday Nursing Pre-Reqs

BRTC Paragould has expanded the Saturday classes to include a two-year rotation schedule for those interested in entering the Practical Nursing, Registered Nursing, and Respiratory Programs. Individuals who wish to continue working and also work toward completing the prerequisites for these programs can continue to do so by taking classes on Saturdays.

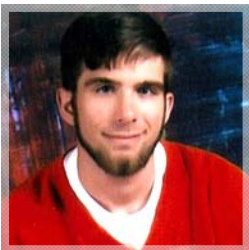
Classes on the schedule for Spring 2011 include the following:

- Basic Human Nutrition
- Introduction to Psychology
- Human A & P II with Lab

Each semester thereafter a new set of prerequisite courses will be placed on the Saturday schedule.

If you have questions about BRTC or any of its programs, do not hesitate to call 870-239-0969 in Paragould or 870-248-4000 in Pocahtontas.

## Cross Receives Matt Walls Memorial Scholarship



Christopher Cross

The first annual Matt Walls Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to Christopher Cross, a 2010 graduate of Walnut Ridge High School. Cross is pursuing a degree in Criminal Jus-

tice and plans to focus on Crime Scene Investigation as a career. The two-semester scholarship will provide \$1,000 each semester.

The scholarship is funded through dona-

tions to the BRTC Foundation, as well as through the annual Foundation/iBERIABANK Golf Tournament, and special fundraising events spearheaded by BRTC Foun-

dation member, Kevin Rose. Walls died as a result of a work-related accident last year. His mother, Brenda Walls, is a longtime member of the BRTC Foundation.

"We wanted to establish this scholarship in order to remember Matt and to honor his family, especially Brenda, with her dedication and commitment to the work of the BRTC Foundation," Rose said.

## BRTC Bookstore Sets November 23 Open House

The BRTC Bookstore will host a "Holiday Open House" for staff and students on Tuesday, November 23, from 8 to 4:30. The event will feature new merchandise and bargain prices on a wide range of items, according to Bookstore Cashier Beverly Edington.

"We have many new items to unveil—ideal Christmas gifts—and

we're offering to each customer a 10% discount on one item of their choice," she said. "We invite all the staff and students to come and sign up for our many door prizes, and enjoy refreshments while you're there." "Get a jump start on your holiday shopping!"

Among the new items are a line of

"Marie Osmond Jewelry," Yankee Candles, home décor items, and mugs, plus new lines of college clothing, including hoodies, t-shirts, jackets and pants.



### Awards Cont'd from pg.1

case of ASU, provides for housing also.

The BRTC faculty member who received the Outstanding Faculty Award is Dr. Jason Morrison. He has been a part of the BRTC faculty since 2003 as a Instructor of Social Sciences. He was born

in Bastrop, Louisiana, and graduated from Harmony Grove High School in Benton, Arkansas in 1992. He holds a BA degree in Political Science from Henderson State University, a Master of Arts in Political Science from Arkansas

State University, and a Doctorate in Education also from Arkansas State University. He was selected for this award based on his activism in community, state, national, and world matters.



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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.*

## Campus Commentary



*Regina Moore, BA  
Blackboard/Distance Ed.  
Coordinator*

It comes as no surprise that technology has made significant changes over the past few years. In fact, it would have been hard for anyone to have predicted that the cell phone would eventually have the features of – and replace, according to PC World, ZDNet, AOL, and others – alarm clocks, digital cameras, camcorders, GPS systems, maps, flashlights, paper calendars, and address books.

Also no surprise is the technological sophistication of incoming tradi-

tional students. The Class of 2010 was the first class to ever have lived their entire lives with computers. According to the Beloit College Mindset List for the class of 2014, few of these millennials know how to write in cursive, they consider e-mail “just too slow,” and have never needed a watch – thanks to their cell phones. Most traditional students are very tech-savvy. For these incoming freshmen, using cell phones to call someone is only secondary; their primary purpose is to surf the net, text, take pictures, or post to Facebook.

Technology does not come as easily to many of the non-traditional students. With their time allocated elsewhere, many non-traditionals have a limited amount of time to learn and play with technology. However, their increased workloads often dictate that they take distance education courses. Many are apprehensive to take an online class and wonder if they will be successful in anything but a lecture

## Book Store Open House November 23rd

class. Once exposed to Moodle and the virtual classroom, many non-traditional students realize they can complete a distance education course with confidence and some find they prefer online classes. Evidence is seen in the popularity of the online classes as almost every section is filled within the first week of registration.

For the Spring 2011 semester, BRTC is currently offering 51 sections of online classes including business, social science, science, English, literature, poetry/drama, technical writing, fine arts, dietetics, and mathematics. Of the 51 sections, 19 have met the enrollment limit just three days into the spring registration period with other online sections expecting to be filled by the end of the week. A total of 30 sections are being offered via CVN (compressed video network), hybrid, and a combination of the two. With a CVN course, students attend

classes on campus, and the instructor may either be in the classroom or be broadcast to students via television from a remote site. Hybrid courses deliver at least 50% of the course material online with the remainder being taught in the traditional face-to-face setting, which requires the student to attend class on campus.

These technology-based courses are popular with the students, and with the advancing technologies, the distance education department strives to keep up with the needs of the tech-savvy freshmen, while still making it an easy transition for non-traditional students to learn how to use technology and access web material for classes. BRTC's Distance Ed. Department tries to close the technology gap by offering training, assistance through e-mail and phone, and a Student Lounge area on Moodle which is filled with helpful hints, discussion boards, and training manuals.