

# The River's Edge

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## Inside this issue:

<i>Phi Theta Kappa Regional Conference</i>	2
<i>College Goal Sunday</i>	2
<i>Concurrent Enrollment Accreditation</i>	2
<i>Gaines' Scholarship</i>	2
<i>Etiquette Luncheon</i>	3
<i>Academic Scholarships</i>	3
<i>"Looting" Presentation</i>	3
<i>Campus Commentary</i>	4

## "Spit for the Cure" to be at Health Fair

"Spit for the Cure," a research study conducted at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences will participate at the BRTC Nursing Department's Health Fair on March 16.



According to UAMS, the goal of "Spit for the Cure" is to "identify women who genetically, along with their environmental exposure, may be at risk for developing breast cancer." Women age 18 or older are invited to participate in this study that will benefit breast cancer research. Participants will be asked to provide a saliva sample (for DNA extraction), answer a

short questionnaire and indicate if they are willing to be re-contacted for follow up studies.

This research study was launched at the 2007 Susan G. Komen Arkansas Race for the Cure. Thousands of women throughout Arkansas have already volunteered their time to participate. Each participant's personal identification is protected through the use of unique ID.

Other vendors who will be attending the annual BRTC Health Fair will be the Arkansas Prostate Cancer Foundation, Pocahontas Eye Clinic, Kids First, Randolph County Health Unit, Air Evac, Legacy Hospice, HealthWay Medical Supplies, Pocahontas Family Medical Clinic, Area Agency on

Aging, Karla Baltz DDS, Black River Health Club, Mid-South Health Systems, and BRTC Departments: Paramedic, Fire Science, Nursing, Respiratory, Dietetics and Phlebotomy.

For more information on the BRTC Health Fair, contact Dana Clay at 870-248-4000, ext. 4150, or via e-mail at DanaC@blackrivertech.org.



*LPN graduate Cindy Burns takes the blood pressure of a participant at last year's Health Fair.*

## Important Dates

- March 16**  
BRTC Health Fair
- March 22-26**  
Spring Break
- March 18**  
Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony
- March 31-April 1**  
Phi Theta Kappa Blood Drive
- April 2**  
Closed for Good Friday

## IBERIABANK Donates to Scholarship



*IBERIABANK fsb Vice President Kevin Rose (left) presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 to Patti and Richard Gaines last week. The donation helps fund the Gaines' Scholarship Program*

Officials of IBERIABANK fsb continue their funding support of the Richard and Patti Gaines Scholarship program at Black River Technical College with another \$10,000 donation, presented last week by Vice President Kevin Rose.

"IBERIABANK fsb is proud to support our community by continuing our \$10,000 scholarship contribution to Black River Technical College," says Phillip Jett, IBERIABANK fsb Northeast Arkansas President. "The Richard and Patti Gaines Scholarship Program provides an educational opportunity for those who otherwise may not have option for continued education and we are proud to support BRTC and the continuous growth of the college," he continued.

Gaines commented, "Patti and I wish to express our gratitude to IBERIABANK for their continued support of this scholarship program. This donation helps give financial support to many students at Black River Technical College."

The scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 are awarded each semester to full-time students seeking a degree or certificate at BRTC.

For more information on the Gaines Scholarship program, go to the Financial Aid link of the BRTC website at <http://finaid.blackrivertech.edu/>.

## Financial Aid Says 'Fill Out FAFSA'

"Now is the time to be filing your financial aid. As soon as you can get your 2009 tax return filed, it's important to get your FAFSA filed for timely award notifications," BRTC Financial Aid Director Brandi Chester said.

BRTC recently hosted the annual College Goal Sunday. The event was an opportunity for area high school seniors to get one-on-one assistance in completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for college.

BRTC was just one of the many sites in the state that participated in this event. "There was a great amount of participation from the volunteers this year and everything went smoothly,"

Chester said.

The Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship (lottery-funded scholarship) also requires the FAFSA application to be filed in addition to other requirements it may have.

In other financial aid news, the deadline for BRTC Institutional Scholarships is April 1, 2010. Information on these scholarships can be found on the financial aid link on the college website.

For more information, contact the BRTC Financial Aid Office at 870-248-4000 or e-mail at brandic@blackrivertech.org.

## Phi Theta Kappa Receives Awards



**Members of Phi Theta Kappa participated in the Regional Conference held in Oklahoma recently and brought home several awards and honors.**

**Pictured from left, back row: John Rainwater, Karen Dodd, Dr. Linda Moss. From left, front row: Victoria Morgan, Sarah Yates and Brenda Johnson.**

Phi Theta Kappa recently attended the Oklahoma/Arkansas Regional Convention in El Reno, OK. Member Sarah Yates was elected Regional Vice President over the Eastern District, which covers 22 Phi Theta Kappa chapters in the state of Arkansas.

The honor society also received the Travel Award for traveling the farthest distance and with the most students. Dr. Linda Moss, BRTC instructor and advisor for the Oklahoma/Arkansas Region Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association, received the Horizon Award for her assistance with the organization throughout this region.

Moss was also elected Secretary of the Regional Association of Chapter Advisors. This is a three-year term where she will be the VP elect next year and the President the year following.

As a chapter, Phi Theta Kappa received the 5-Star

Development Award based on activities and work put forth over the past year. One of those activities was baking and handing out 100 lbs of cookies in the first two days of the Spring 2010 semester on the Pocahontas campus.

Former BRTC students, Christina Riddle and Summer Dale, accompanied the group to the convention. They participated as alumni members.

Phi Theta Kappa's mission is two-fold:

1) recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students

(2) provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming.

Phi Theta Kappa activities and opportunities available to members include scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship opportunities through various activities.

Students are eligible for membership if they hold a 3.50 grade average. This is cumulative and based on a completion minimum of 12 college credit hours and for students actively seeking a degree. This excludes any remedial classes.

Once a member, they are required to maintain a 3.25 cumulative grade point average in order to maintain membership. For more information contact chapter advisor Dr. Moss at 870-248-4000, ext. 4136, or via e-mail at lindam@blackrivertech.edu.

## Griggs is Recipient of Gaines Scholarship



*Amy Griggs*

Amy Griggs, daughter of Donny and Sherry Griggs of Maynard, has been awarded the Richard and Patti Gaines Scholarship for the Spring 2010 semester at BRTC. She plans

to pursue a degree in nursing.

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

For more information on the Gaines Scholarship, contact Natasha Rush, Financial Aid Officer, at 870-248-4000 ext. 4019.

## Concurrent Program Joins Alliance

The Concurrent Enrollment program at Black River Technical College was recently awarded a certificate of accreditation from the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships.



The program targets high school students who have completed the eighth grade and are classified as 9th through 12th graders in a public school.

With the accreditation, students in the program can obtain credit not just toward a high school diploma but also earn college credit at the same time.

The certificate of accreditation is effective from 2009 through 2016. According to NACEP, the accreditation "signifies a highly effective concurrent enrollment partnership which has met national standards in the areas of curriculum, faculty, student assessment, program administration, and program evaluation."

BRTC Concurrent Coordinator Joniece Trammel said, "Offering BRTC concurrent classes to high school students is just another way of promoting higher education in the hopes of obtaining a brighter future for those who participate."

For more information on the Concurrent Program at BRTC, contact Trammel at 870-248-4000, ext. 4188, or via e-mail at [Joniece.Trammel@blackrivertech.org](mailto:Joniece.Trammel@blackrivertech.org).

## Two Additional Academic Scholarships Accepted



Kathryn Beck



Kara Morris

Kathryn Beck of Brookland and Kara Morris of Ravenen have each accepted the Academic Distinction Scholarship to attend BRTC in the fall, according to Financial Aid Officer Natasha Rush.

Beck is the daughter of Steve Beck and Tina Lively and is senior at Brookland High School. Her plans in-

clude majoring in secondary education to become an English teacher and then later to earn a Masters in Library Science and become a librarian.

Morris is a senior at Sloan-Hendrix High School and is the daughter of Wendell and Lavenia Morris. She plans to pursue an education in general agriculture.

The Academic Distinction 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.

## Etiquette Luncheon Held for Business Students

The Annual Business Etiquette Luncheon hosted by the Business Technology Department of BRTC was last week in the Randolph County Development Center, according to Business Technology Instructor and Event Coordinator Kay Ellis. Students enrolled in business classes at BRTC participated in the luncheon along with business instructors and other special guests.

"The luncheon serves as an educational tool for students," said Ellis. "It helps to prepare students for business luncheons and dinners that the students are likely to experience in the future, and also helps prepare them for job interviews with potential employers that may be conducted during a meal."

Dr. Martie Shull presided over the

luncheon by guiding the guests through the full-course meal beginning with an explanation of each piece in the place setting and then giving instructions and tips on proper dining etiquette.

The event was funded through the BRTC Foundation SEAS (Special Events and Activities Support) program, and the meal was prepared by students in BRTC's Dietetics program under the direction of Dietary Instructor Tina Harris. BRTC's Student Ambassadors served the guests.

"The luncheon continues to be a popular event each year and a wonderful learning experience for the students," commented Ellis. "Special thanks are extended to the BRTC Foundation for funding the event, in addition to the hard work of many individuals."



Ambassador Derek Waddell serves the main dish to Technical Education Chair Angie Caldwell at the Annual Etiquette Luncheon.

## "Looting of Baghdad" is Topic of Presentation



Louis Intres gives a presentation on "The Looting of Baghdad" at the BRTC Paragould campus last week.

Louis Intres, former Jonesboro banker but currently a Ph.D. candidate and a visiting scholar with Interpol, provided insight into the looting of antiquities to an audience of history students and others on the BRTC-Paragould campus last week.

The informative presentation was arranged by Traci Burgess, Instructor of History. Intres originally met Burgess when she was his instructor in a history class at ASU. "I always had a desire to be a history teacher," he added.

Interpol, Intres explained, is an international think tank for worldwide law enforce-

ment efforts.

Intres is currently working on his doctorate in ASU's Heritage Studies program. Archeologists and others attending one of his earlier presentations on the theft of cultural properties contacted Interpol. The agency then contacted Intres and arranged for his involvement to assist in their efforts, particularly in the research of the looting of antiquities in the Middle East.

Intres told his audience that much of the money from stolen artifacts winds up in the hands of terrorists, such as al-Qaeda. His

(Continued on page 4)

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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://www.blackrivertech.org/rivers\\_edge/](http://www.blackrivertech.org/rivers_edge/)

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## **Campus Commentary**



**Mike Greene**  
*Director of Computer Services*

“It’s an exciting time at BRTC.” Over the past few years I’ve given President Gaines all kinds of grief for his frequent use of this phrase in his letters for *The River’s Edge*, but when it came time for me to write one concerning the technological aspects of the college, I honestly couldn’t think of a more fitting way to begin.

In the ten years I’ve been at BRTC we’ve more than doubled the number of computers on campus to over six hundred. We’ve increased

our Internet presence from offering a simple website to a full web presence that offers services to students ranging from admission and registration to online classes and teacher evaluations.

There is not a program or department at BRTC in which Computer Services has not been involved. During the course of one day, Computer Services deals with a variety of interesting technology support issues.

We may go from Financial Aid reporting to LETA handgun simulators, from computer-controlled heat and air systems to online classes, or from direct deposit to video editing. The variety of things that fall under technology support and the rate of growth in the scope and scale over the last ten years has definitely given us some “exciting” times.

In the immediate future, most of our efforts will be focused on making major infrastructure changes. We

will be upgrading our network equipment and will be restructuring the domain and addressing scheme of the campus. (That’s the least geeky way of me explaining that, by the way.) The end results will be a faster in-network performance and more options in the computer labs. While not obvious to the user, this upgrade will also allow us to provide a much more secure network environment.

The biggest change during the upcoming summer will be the upgrade of every PC on campus from Windows XP to Windows 7.

I’m confident that the transition will go smoothly, and for those users familiar with Vista, the transition will be painless.

Please remember that technically it’s *always* an exciting time at BRTC and we look forward to working with the faculty, staff, students and community to keep it that way.

## **LOOTING**

(Cont’d from Page 3)

slides included many showing the National Museum of Iraq, which was looted by bands of armed thieves in 2003 after the U.S. takeover of Baghdad. This involved the ransacking or looting of thousands of priceless artifacts, of which only about half have been recovered.

Information Intres has gathered has come from several sources including Scotland Yard, FBI and museums, all in search of the routes these looters have taken to smuggle the artifacts.

The loss is measured in more than the millions of dollars, Intres stressed. “This represents the stealing of the heritage that marks the genius of human development.”

Intres will be traveling to the Middle East later this year where he will spend time staying with and researching Bedouin tribes and their culture.