

The River's Edge

May 6, 2010

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Inside this issue:

<i>Third Generation Graduate</i>	2
<i>Alum Receives High Honor</i>	2
<i>Dr. Buxton Presents Lecture at Delta Symposium</i>	2
<i>Fun Before Finals Preview</i>	2
<i>Foundation Scholarships</i>	3
<i>GED Scholarship</i>	3
<i>President's Scholarships</i>	3
<i>Campus Commentary</i>	4
<i>Ellis Joins BRTC Staff</i>	4

Important Dates

May 5-11

Final Exams

May 7

RT Pinning Ceremony

May 10

PN Pinning Ceremony

May 13

BRTC Graduation

May 17

Intersession Classes Begin

May 27

Serendipity Banquet

June 9

PTK Blood Drive

LETA Graduates 43 at Spring Ceremony



Graduation ceremonies were held April 16 for 43 law enforcement officers from across the state who successfully completed the thirteen-week, 620-hour Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA) course at Black River Technical College. Instruction covers the areas of standard police tactics, firearms, legal, education, technical skills, and practical exercises. To successfully complete the course, an officer must maintain an academic score of at least 70% on each examination and consistently fire at least 80% during firearms training exercises.

Judge Harold Erwin, Circuit Judge of the 3rd Judicial District of Arkansas, served as guest speaker, and Vincent Thornton of the North Little Rock Police Department was chosen as class spokesperson.

Thornton was the recipient of the Top Overall Award in addition to the Top Firearms Award. The Top Academic Award went to John Scott, also of the North Little Rock Police Department. And the Top Physical Training Award went to Cody Coley of the Maumelle Police Department.

Country Feast Features Turkish Guest



Amy Hava Darnell

A resident of Poplar Bluff, MO, Darnell, who is of American and Turkish ethnicity, celebrates customs and traditions of Turkey. "Turkey is the land of the ancient civilizations. It's a very religious country," Darnell

said. "The atmosphere and people in Turkey are warm and friendly," she added. Darnell also spoke of two of the religious holidays celebrated in Turkey - Ramadan and Eid. Ramadan includes a month of fasting from dawn until sunset, which is intended to teach modesty and spirituality. Eid marks the end of Ramadan and includes celebrations. "Soccer is the number one sport in Turkey," Darnell said. One important note she repeated was that "the people of Turkey are not Arab, they are Turkey."

Darnell is currently working on dual citizenship and plans to pursue a career in teaching in Turkey. She graduated in December 2009 with a Bachelor's degree in English Literature from Arkansas State University. She is currently working on her Master's degree in Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from Southeast Missouri State University. She is also currently teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) at ASU.

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Third Generation Student Completes Respiratory Program



Crystal Ray, Gale Ray, Sharlean Avery

The Respiratory Care program will soon see its first third-generation graduate with the upcoming May ceremony. Crystal Ray of Supply is stated to graduate May 13 from BRTC's Respiratory Care program following in the footsteps of her mother, Gale Ray, and her grandmother, Sharlean Avery, who are BRTC alum.

Avery is from Maynard and is a 1988 graduate. She is currently working for North Central IV and Respiratory in Jonesboro while pursuing an education in sleep medicine. Her daughter, Gale, of Supply is a 1997 graduate and is working at Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center in Missouri as a staff therapist. "She (Gale) also serves as a volunteer clinical preceptor when the BRTC students rotate through that facility," said Suzette Hicks, Respiratory Care Instructor.

"As far as I know, this is a first for the Respiratory program here at BRTC," Hicks noted, referring to three generations of students graduating from the program. Both former graduates participate in student lectures during the year.

BRTC Alum Is Honored as ASU Scholar



Mantha Baltz

Samantha (Mantha) Baltz of Pocahontas recently received the Chancellor's Scholar Award for the college of Humanities and Social Sciences at Arkansas State University. The Chancellor's Scholar Award, the second highest honor given to students at ASU, is presented to the graduating senior in each college who has the highest overall grade point average. The college of Humanities and Social Sciences includes the departments of English, Philosophy, Criminology, Sociology, Geography, Political Science, History, and Foreign Languages.

With a 4.0 GPA, Baltz will graduate this month with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. She is the daughter of Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz, Fine Arts and History Instructor at Black River Technical College. During an awards banquet held for the college of Humanities and Social Sciences, both mother and daughter were recognized by Dr. Clyde Milner, Director of the college, who said "This is such a wonderful example of the connectedness of ASU. We have a fine young lady, Mantha, receiving the Chancellor's Scholar Award and her mother, Sandy, was the first doctoral graduate from the Heritage Studies program."

Baltz is a 2008 graduate of BRTC and plans to begin working on her Master's degree in English at ASU beginning in August. She hopes to one day teach English and Literature at the collegiate level.

Dr. Buxton Presents Lecture at ASU's Delta Symposium



Dr. Gary Buxton

Dr. Gary L. Buxton, instructor of English and Local Community Heritage at BRTC, lectured at the Delta Symposium XVI: "Region and the Politics of Culture" held recently at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. His lecture topic was "'Shivaree/Chivaree' in the Ozarks: A Past Tradition."

Buxton says, "shivaree," of European origin, describes a serenade of rough music using pots and pans, bells, horns circular saws, shotguns, small cannons, and even dynamite sounded off outside the house of a newlywed couple by an assembled crowd of neighbors and friends.

Being surprised by the cacophonous interlude, the couple invites the party into their house for treats and refreshments consisting of whatever they previously bought for this occasion such as candy bars and cigars or whatever might be readily available. If the newlyweds served no treats, the husband might be given a ride on a rail to a creek, pond, or other water source and dipped. Variations might include having the husband push the bride around the house or down the street in a wheelbarrow.

At times shivarees played a number of pranks such as putting salt, beans, crackers, rice, or corn flakes between the bed sheets; removing the labels from cans in the pantry; switching salt for sugar or starch for baking powder; moving the bed to the house top; or taking out the bed slats.

Buxton related several shivaree stories from the Ozarks and concluded with samples of "rough music" using pots, pans, a cowbell, a fox horn, and various sound makers made from tin cans and string.



Fun Before Finals 2010 will be featured in the next issue of *The River's Edge*.



Scholarships Awarded by BRTC Foundation



Amber Lamb



Ashley Stallings



Brittany Hembrey



Brittany Niswonger

BRTC Foundation Scholarships have been awarded to eight area high school seniors to attend BRTC for the 2010-2011 academic year. Amber Lamb, Ashley Stallings, Brittany Hembrey, Brittany Niswonger, James Collier, and Trisha Glenn have been awarded scholarships for General Education while Allison Harris and Alyssa McConnell were each awarded scholarships for Technical Education.

To qualify for the scholarship the recipient must be a resident of Arkansas and graduating from an accredited Arkansas High School. The scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000 per semester, is awarded for two semesters provided the recipient maintains a cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and completes twelve credit hours per semester.

Lamb is the daughter of Bobby and Sharon Lamb and is a senior at Black Rock High School. Her educational plans are undecided at this time. Stallings is the daughter of Jason Stallings and Susan Houltzhouzer. She is a senior at Black Rock High School and plans to major in pre-med and become an anesthesiologist.



James Collier



Trisha Glenn



Allison Harris



Alyssa McConnell

Hembrey, who resides in Walnut Ridge, is the daughter

of Linda and Eddie Hembrey. She is a senior at Hoxie High School and hopes to complete the nursing programs at BRTC before transferring to ASU to major in nursing. Niswonger, Glenn and Harris are all seniors at Hillcrest High School.

Niswonger is the daughter of Penny Niswonger and David Niswonger of Lynn. She plans to pursue an AA in Gen Ed degree. Glenn is the daughter of Randy and Belinda Glenn of Lynn and her plans are undecided. Harris is the daughter of Anthony and Rhonda Harris of Smithville and plans to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education and then teach elementary school.

Collier, a senior at Greene County Tech, is the son of Deanna Almquist and James Collier of Paragould. He plans to enter the aviation program and some day become a jet mechanic. McConnell is the daughter of Melissa and Jeff Moskop. She is a senior at Hoxie High School and plans to become a registered nurse.

Cox Receives Award



Bellys Cox

Bellys Cox of Paragould has been awarded the BRTC Foundation GED Scholarship. The scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000 per semester, is awarded to a GED recipient and is for two semesters provided the recipient maintains a cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and completes twelve credit hours per semester.

Cox is the daughter of Felix and Adilia Contreras Topez.

President's Scholarships

President's Scholarships, which are institutional scholarships, are for full tuition awarded up to two semesters provided the student maintains a 2.5 GPA and completes a minimum of twelve credit hours per semester. For the Fall 2010 semester, the following have been awarded the President's Scholarship to attend BRTC: Ashley Hoffman, Brittany Niswonger (pictured at top of page), Caroline Graham, Holly Reed, Melanie Mann, and Wesley Davis.

Hoffman is a senior at Walnut Ridge High School. She received her scholarship for Business Education and plans to earn an Associates in Business. She is the daughter of Donald Hoffman and the late Teresa Hoffman. Niswonger received the General Education Scholarship and plans to earn her AA degree. She is the daughter of Penny and David Niswonger and is a senior at Hillcrest.

Graham and Mann both earned the Health Education Scholarship and both plan to major in nursing. Graham is a senior at Maynard High School and is the daughter of Tommy and Sarah Graham and the mother of Julianna and Ladora. Mann is a senior at Paragould High School and the daughter of Melvin Mann and Rosie Mann. Reed is a senior at Pocahontas and the daughter of Patty and Don Reed. She plans to major in pre-dental with a biology emphasis. Davis, a senior at Mammoth Spring, is the son of John and Denise Davis. He received the scholarship for Technical Education and plans to enter the Fire Science program.

For more information on BRTC Scholarships, contact Natahsa Rush at 870-248-4000, ext. 4019.



Ashley Hoffman



Caroline Graham



Holly Reed



Melanie Mann



Wesley Davis

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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 River's Edge Address:

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Campus Commentary



Debbie Prichard

Business Department Head

Business is one of the most lucrative career choices a person can pursue—the career options are more varied than most people realize. Business principles are the backbone for economic, political and social systems at all levels.

All types of businesses and institutions must have capable business people working for them. I see our Business Technology graduates every day in all work settings, such as the

different offices on our campus, the local hospital, physicians' offices, legal offices, city, county and state agencies, and in many retail businesses in our service area.

The business field is also a highly practical area of study since it provides students with real world experiences and enables them to have a smooth transition from academics to work. The business technology degree can be applied to virtually any industry and is extremely important for graduates who wish to start their own businesses.

Students in all degree options need to gain valuable technological skills, such as Microsoft Office. They need to be proficient in Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint..

I regularly check the Help Wanted ads in area papers, and most ads, even ads in non-business careers, state that computer skills are required. Specifically, applicants should be proficient in Microsoft

Ellis Joins BRTC Staff

Nancy Ellis of Jonesboro has been hired as Academic Secretary for the BRTC-Paragould campus.

Prior to joining the BRTC staff, she worked for seven years at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro and at Collin College, a community college in Texas, prior to that.

"I love working in the education environment and plan on furthering my education while I'm here," said Ellis.

The California native has one daughter who will be graduating from Brookland High School next month.



Nancy Ellis

Office, QuickBooks, and other software applications.

With the aging of the baby boomers, the healthcare field has seen an explosion in employment opportunities. The business technology department responded with a new AAS degree option, Health Information. In response to this need of techno-savvy office professionals, the Health Information option focuses on business courses

which emphasize computer skills and people skills, along with medical courses, such as medical terminology, two levels of medical coding and billing, medical transcription, and Anatomy and Physiology.

All graduates need some business classes to help them with their personal lives. For example, students need to know how to balance their checkbooks, prepare budgets, and plan for their future retirement needs.