

# The River's Edge

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## Important Dates

**August 31 & Sept. 1**

*PTK Blood Drive,  
11:00-4:00*

**September 6**

*Labor Day Holiday  
Campus Closed*

**September 16**

*MSSPS/Foundation  
Cookbook Kickoff*

**September 23**

*Foundation Board Mtg*

**October 1**

*IBERIABANK/BRTC  
Foundation Golf Tournament*

## Remembering Joe R. Martin

A man whose leadership was key in the establishment of then-Black River Vo-Tech School in Pocahontas died this week. Joe Martin, banker and community leader, chaired the committee that spearheaded the move to build the institution, which opened as BRVTS in 1972.

Martin also chaired the school's General Advisory Committee for more than two decades.

In 1991, when the institution became a two-year college, he was elected chairman of the Board of Trustees, the governing body for Black River Technical College. Martin served in that capacity until his retirement in 1996.

Always a proponent of education, Martin was a major contributor to BRTC and its needs. In 2001, the Board named the Health Science Complex in his honor.

Joe Martin continued to support BRTC throughout his life.



*Joe R. Martin  
1925-2010*

## MSSPS/Foundation 'Cookbook Kickoff'

Janna Guthrey, Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship (MSSPS) Chair, has announced plans for a special event to be held in honor of Mary Sallee, former Home Economics teacher at Pocahontas High School and namesake of Randolph County's Single Parent Scholarship.

Guthrey came up with the idea of gathering a compilation of recipes that BRTC employees have enjoyed at potlucks and other events over the years, and making a cookbook of the recipes for everyone to have.

"This was also an opportunity to have a written record of some of 'Miss Mary's' recipes to share with generations who didn't have the privilege of having her as a teacher," said Guthrey.

With the assistance of BRTC's Foundation Board, a special event has been planned for the unveiling of the cookbook and to raise additional funds for MSSPS. A "Cookbook Kickoff Dinner" is scheduled for Thursday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m., in the Randolph County Development Center Banquet Room. Mrs. Sallee's daughter, Dr. Mary Ann Sallee Greenwood will be the guest of honor.



*Janna Guthrey, MSSPS Chair,  
looks at pictures of Mary Sallee in  
a 1972 Pocahontas yearbook.*

Greenwood is President of Greenwood and Associates, Inc., in Fayetteville.

If you are interested in attending this very special event to help 'kickoff' the sale of the cookbooks, as well as to honor Miss Mary, tickets may be purchased for \$25. This price includes one copy of the MSSPS/BRTC Foundation 2010 Cookbook and a buffet-style dinner consisting of dishes prepared from Miss Mary's very own recipes. According to Guthrey, those familiar with Miss Mary's recipes will recognize the Johnny Mezzetti dish that will be served as the main course.

To purchase a ticket or for further information, contact Guthrey at 870-248-4092, Dina Hufstедler at 870-248-4000 ext. 4187, or Vickie French at 870-248-4070. Proceeds from the cookbook sales will go to benefit the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship Fund.

"On behalf of the MSSPS Committee and the BRTC Foundation, I want to thank everyone who submitted recipes for the cookbook," noted Guthrey. "Without your contributions, the cookbook would not have been possible. We had over 80 contributors, which speaks well for the school and foundation."



*Dr. Mary Ann Sallee Greenwood*

## BRTC Fills Nine Full-Time Positions

As enrollment has increased at both the Pocahontas and Paragould campuses, so has the need for workers. This Fall nine full-time positions have been filled. The new staff include six faculty members, four at Pocahontas and two at Paragould. The institution has also hired two new office personnel, one in Pocahontas and one in Paragould.

Derek Clements of Pocahontas, who has been teaching classes as an adjunct for BRTC since 1998, is now a full-time History instructor on the Paragould campus. His education consists of a number of degrees from ASU, including a BSE in Social Science, MA in History, SCCT in History, and MA in Heritage Studies. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in Heritage Studies. Clements served as a History teacher at Pocahontas High School from 1997-2010 and also as an adjunct instructor for ASU in both Jonesboro and Newport.

Rex Flagg has joined the faculty of BRTC as a Science Instructor. During the 2009-2010 year he taught as a BRTC adjunct instructor after several years with World Color as a continuous improvement manager. He received his BS in zoology and MS in biology from ASU before working with the US Fish & Wildlife service as a fishery biologist, monitoring diseases of fish hatchery stocks.

Cyndi Rudy is working as Administrative Specialist I for Student Services on the campus in Paragould, the town in which she also resides. Her previous work experience includes being an Administrative Assistant to the County Judge at the Greene County Courthouse and working for fifteen years as a Circuit Court Deputy.

Thomas Fielder has been hired as full-time instructor of Fine Arts Theatre and Oral Communications. He is a resident of Paragould who has served BRTC as an adjunct faculty member since the summer of 2002. He is a member of the Actors Equity Association who remains active in the theater realm, having served as the Artistic Director at the Thunder Bay Theater in Alpena, Michigan, and appearing on Broadway. He has a BFA from the University of Michigan and an MFA from Southern Mississippi University.

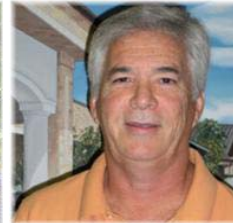
The BRTC Nursing Faculty is welcoming two new instructors. Shay Brewer comes to BRTC from NEA Baptist where he worked in Outpatient Surgery, the GI Lab and the Medical Surgery floor. He also held a position at Five Rivers Home Health. Brewer has a BS in Nursing from ASU and resides in Portia.

Jonesboro resident Robin Banks has also joined the BRTC Nursing Faculty. She, too, has a BS in Nursing from ASU. Banks has served as a nursing instructor at Arkansas Northeastern College and has been employed by The Center On Aging-Northeast.

Pocahontas resident Sonya Walker has been hired as the Finance Department's Fiscal Support Specialist. She has extensive experience with the col-



*Derek Clements*



*Rex Flagg*



*Cyndi Rudy*



*Thomas Fielder*



*Shay Brewer*



*Robin Banks*



*Sonya Walker*



*Rachel Koons*



*Melissa Mewborn*

lege, holding an AA from BRTC and having worked full-time for BRTC from 1999-2004 in the Personnel and Payroll offices. She has also been part-time in her current department since May 2009. Before joining BRTC in 2009, she worked at the Lakeport Plantation where she provided tours of the restored structure and also worked with artifacts.

Rachel Koons of Stokes has been hired as a full-time instructor to teach Human Growth and Development, Psychology, and Anthropology. She has been working at BRTC for the past three years as Academic Advisor and ADA Coordinator, prior to which she worked for Families Incorporated. She holds an AA in Gen Ed from BRTC, a BS in Psychology from WBC, and an MA from New Mexico State University.

Melissa Mewborn of Russellville is now serving in the capacity of Administrative Specialist I in the Office of Development. She recently completed her Bachelor's degree in English at Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, where she currently resides.

## Phi Theta Kappa Treats Students At the Start of Classes



Members of BRTC's Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society welcomed students on the first two class days of the semester by treating them to fresh baked cookies and cold slushes. At left is Victoria Morgan, BRTC student and member of PTK, preparing cookies while students (pictured at right) wait in line for the goodies.

PTK will also be sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive August 31 and September 1 in the Randolph County Development Center from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. For more information on PTK contact PTK Advisor Linda Moss at 870-248-4000, etc. 4136



## Faculty/Staff Tour Now-Restored Looney Tavern

Several members of the BRTC faculty and staff and guests toured the now-restored Looney Tavern during the college's in-service week. The historic structure on the west bank of the Eleven Point River near Dalton, together with the Rice-Upshaw House, is a part of BRTC's Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage).

Ronnie Walker, BRTC's Construction Manager and Historic Trades Specialist, and Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development and REACH Coordinator, accompanied their co-workers on the visit and provided background information.

Attending BRTC faculty members included Kristy Whitmire and Judy Forrester, Nursing; Anne Simpson, Library; Steve Shults, LETA Director; Norma Ashburn and Scott Casady, Aviation; Mary Nell Baltz, Anthropology; Gary Meier, Machine Shop; Travis DeClerk, Automotive Services; Rex Flagg, Biology; Dr. Linda Moss, Chemistry; David Bowlin, Electricity; and Janet Murrell, Respiratory Care. BRTC staff attending included Dina Hufstедler, Amber Ballard, and Melissa Mew-born of the Office of Development. Other guests were Whitmire's husband, Mitch Whitmire, and mother-in-law, Sue Whitmire, and Dalton Sullivan of the Star Herald.

The structures were donated to the college by former owners and family descendants Jack and Christina French (Looney Tavern) and Jean Upshaw and family (Rice-Upshaw House) for preservation and use as educational settings. Several BRTC faculty members have already used aspects of REACH in educational applications, and others are now considering and planning possible involvement of the structures to enhance student learning. "There is, of course, the pure area of history these structures represent," Ziegler said. "That's a given, and we hope our history faculty, faculty from other colleges, as well as public school teachers of history, will get involved in this educational opportunity," she added. "But we are so pleased with the way faculty in other disciplines - art, writing, chemistry, nursing, for example - have found ways to use the old structures as sites or subjects for expanding education beyond the class-



*BRTC Faculty and Staff on site at the historic Looney Tavern in Dalton.*

room walls." She explained that several faculty have used REACH as a lab site where the things students are learning in the classroom can be put to practical application. This occurred with art students using the structures in the drawings, and with chemistry students performing chemical analysis on the mortar retrieved during the restoration process.

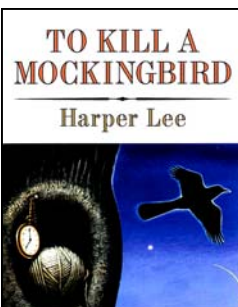
Students learned about dendrochronology, or tree-ring dating, and subsequently were able to travel to the Tree Ring Dating Lab at the University of Arkansas. While there, they spent time with Dr. Dave Stahle, who had conducted dendrochronology on the two structures during the Early Arkansas Settlement Study which led the way for Project REACH. They

also visited the Arkansas Archeological Survey in Fayetteville where they viewed REACH artifacts and learned about archeological archival work.

One of those faculty touring the site last week, adjunct instructor Mary Nell Baltz, is considering ways in which the role of storytelling, a much-used research element of REACH, can enhance student learning in her anthropology class, according to Ziegler. "As we continue to collect stories from family members, we can open these sessions to anthropology students so they can observe the role of stories as conveyors of culture," Ziegler explained. Another faculty member, Janet Murrell, Respiratory Care, may integrate information on the evolution of treatment of respiratory illnesses, tying this into the early pioneering families that comprise REACH studies. Early legal disputes uncovered through REACH research may form the basis for involvement of students in Criminal Justice classes.

The project also includes opportunities for welding and machine shop students to participate in the fabrication of signage and a special gate for the Rice-Upshaw House. Ziegler said an obvious connection for BRTC's technical students also lies in the emphasis on skill acquisition through the college's technical programs, and its obvious parallel with the pioneering individuals who settled, lived and worked in the structures and were dependent on skills passed on through the generations.

## Serendipity Begins New Season with Harper Lee Classic



Serendipity began its sixth season today with an 11:30 luncheon meeting and discussion of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the Harper Lee classic published fifty years ago.

A joint project of the Office of Development and Department of Continuing Education, Serendipity is an organization designed for "retired or nearly retired" individuals who like to keep intellectually and socially active, go places, meet new people, share their wisdom and opinions and occasionally be challenged to think about life in new ways, according to Dr. Jan Ziegler and

Patti Blaxton, co-leaders of the group.

"Serendipity is one of the ways we [BRTC] fulfill our mission to provide lifelong learning opportunities," Blaxton added.

Serendipity members attend monthly luncheons and discuss books, excerpts of which they have been given. But, Ziegler noted, reading the excerpts is not required. "Our discussions often migrate from the text to real life experiences—universal

*(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 River's Edge Address:

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

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## Campus Commentary



*Richard Gaines  
 BRTC President*

I join with Black River Technical College and the entire community in remembrance this week of Joe Martin, a man whose key role in leading to the establishment and then the success of this college cannot be overstated.

Long before most people could imagine that an institution such as this one could actually exist in Randolph County, Joe was working diligently, chairing a committee with just that goal in mind.

The construction of the campus here in 1972 was in many ways a reflection of and tribute to the work and vision of this man. He understood then what would later become apparent to everyone: education and economic development are closely linked. To have one, you must have the other.

He continued his involvement and support of the school throughout the years of its early existence, chairing the Advisory Committee for 25 years. When the school became a two-year college in 1991, it was fitting that a newly formed Board of Trustees would elect Joe Martin as its first chairman, a position he held until his retirement in 1996.

Even then, Joe Martin continued his support of BRTC, giving of his time, his expansive knowledge of business and finance, and his resources when needs arose. It is entirely fitting that the Joe Martin Health Science Complex bears his

## Serendipity

ideas or experiences we all have lived. Some of our members read not just the excerpt we give them, but the entire book. Some don't read any of it, but still can add to the discussion."

The theme for the year is "Through a Glass Darkly: Exploring Race in 20<sup>th</sup> Century America." In addition to the Harper Lee novel, Serendipity members will be discussing a total of eight books focusing on stories of American diversity.

The other selections include: *Farewell to Manzanar, the House on Mango Street, I Heard the Owl Call My Name, The Help, No-No Boy, Pocho, and Ceremony.* "These titles were selected because they increase our understanding of the experiences

name, an action taken by the Board in 2001.

He was our friend. He was my friend. We will miss him.

## Cont'd from page 3

of America's African American, Asian American, Hispanic American and Native American people in 20<sup>th</sup> century America," Ziegler explained. "I believe our discussions of those stories will enhance our ability to have meaningful conversations about race issues in American society today."

"We try also to integrate special guests and short trips into Serendipity," Blaxton said, "depending on the interest of the members. Typically for a day trip we provide transportation and the members cover the cost of meals, and, when appropriate, overnight lodging."

Membership for one year in Serendipity is \$60, which covers the cost of the monthly luncheon. Any interested person may still join at any time.

For more information, contact Blaxton in the Office of Continuing Education at 870-248-4181.