

The River's Edge

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Inside this issue:

Fire Science Donation	2
Aviation Scholarships	2
Enrollment (Continued)	3
Log Specialist	3
Golf (Continued)	3
PTK Blood Drive Success	4
Campus Commentary	4

17th Annual Foundation/iBERIABANK Golf Tournament Scheduled for October 1

The 17th Annual iBERIABANK-BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, October 1, at Rolling Hills Country Club. This two-person scramble, underwritten and supported by iBERIABANK, is a major fundraising event for BRTC, providing funding for scholarships and other college needs.

Tee-off times are 8:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The morning and afternoon rounds each stand alone, with cash prizes being awarded to the top three teams in the Championship, A, and B flights of each round.

Team entry fee is \$100, which this year includes the price of two mulligans for each team member. The entry fee also includes a free barbecue lunch and eligibility for drawings for prizes. Golf cart rental is \$25.

Three-star, two-star, and one-star sponsorships with signage are available at \$500, \$250, and \$125, respectively. Three-star sponsorships include one team entry fee and a golf cart.



Pictured left to right are Kelly Rose and Kevin Rose, both VP/ Commercial Relationship Managers for iBERIABANK; BRTC President Richard Gaines; VP for Development Dr. Jan Ziegler; and Mike Miller, BRTC Foundation President and VP for Bank of Pocahontas.

(Continued on page 2)

Important Dates

September 23

Foundation Board Mtg.

October 1

iBERIABANK/BRTC
Foundation Golf
Tournament

October 7

Phi Theta Kappa
Induction Ceremony

October 12

Advisory Dinner

October 26-27

Holocaust Survivor
Presentations

Fall 2010 Enrollment Breaks 2500

In an all-time record, enrollment at BRTC totaled 2508 students for the fall semester. The number represents an increase of 12% over the previous high of 2245.

Officials attribute the increase to several factors, including changes to the Federal Pell Grant program increasing the amount of funds available annually, low employment opportunities, and a surge in college-

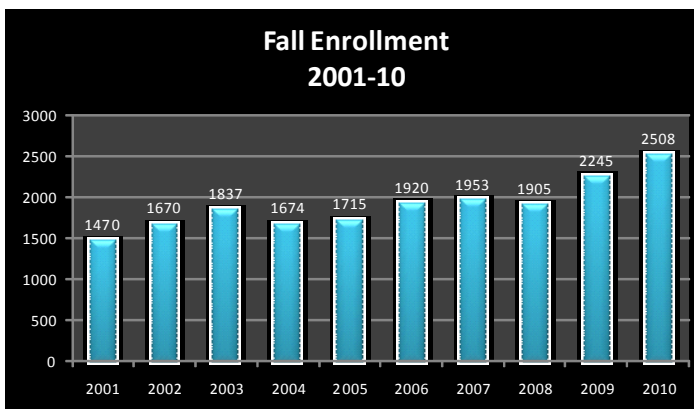
going interest spurred in part by the Arkansas Academic Challenge (Lottery) Scholarship program.

Part of the increase is fueled also, administrators believe, by the completion last spring of the Academic Complex at

Paragould and the addition of many classes and sections of classes offered on that campus. The new record number reflects a significant increase on the Paragould campus, where 840 students attend classes, up almost 22% from the previous record high for Paragould. The

actual increase at the Pocahontas campus is 115 students, or

(Continued on page 2)



Fire Science Receives Donation From Piggott Fire Dept.

Chief Brad Scheffler of the Piggott Fire Department recently made a donation of turnouts to BRTC's Fire Science program for use by the students.

"Turnouts are protective gear worn by firefighters while dealing with any type of fire," explained Alan Haskins, Director/Instructor of the Fire Science program.

According to Haskins, the donation will enable students who do not have turnouts provided to them by their own department, or who are not part of a fire department, to participate in the live fire exercises held each spring and fall as part of the program.

The four boxes of used turnouts have an estimated value of \$1500 and will save the college a great deal of money. "Turnouts cost around \$2500 a set and we were considering the purchase of two or three sets for the students to use," said Haskins.

"We are extremely grateful to Chief Scheffler and the Piggott Fire Department for this donation," Haskins added. "We appreciate their support financially and in other ways."



Piggott Fire Chief Brad Scheffler (left) presents donation of gear to BRTC Fire Science Director/Instructor Alan Haskins.

Aviation Students Receive Scholarships from the USDOL

Darell Shelby of Jonesboro, Coy Karr of Biggers, Seth Hardage of Pocahontas, and Ronald Mounts of Hoxie, students in BRTC's Aviation Maintenance program, have each received Aviation Maintenance/Manufacturing Training Scholarships in the amount of \$500 for the Fall 2010 semester.

The scholarships are made possible through a Community-Based Job Training Grant from the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) and the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges (AATYC) Aerospace Training Consortium.

The AATYC Aerospace Training Consortium includes two-year colleges with aerospace-related programs and manufacturing technologies that are convertible to aerospace/aviation applications.

BRTC is one of 13 colleges that are part of the Consortium, which is strongly aligned to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Aerospace Alliance Initiative and the Governor's Workforce Cabinet.

"We are excited to be a part of the Consortium and the opportunities it will provide for BRTC's Aviation program and its students," said Aviation Instructor Scott Cassidy.

The scholarship is for one semester, but students are allowed to re-apply each semester. For more information, contact the Financial Aid Office at 870-248-4000.



Darell Shelby



Coy Karr



Seth Hardage



Ronald Mounts

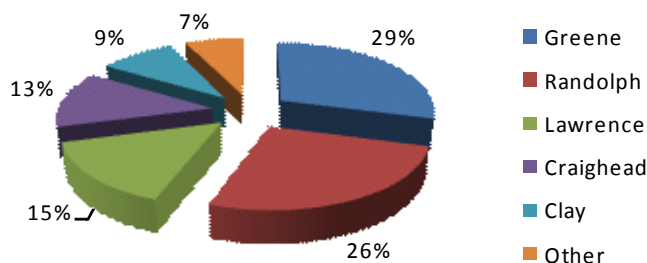
Enrollment (Cont'd from Page 1)

approximately 8% more than last fall.

In line with that increase at Paragould is the fact that the county of origin for the largest percentage of BRTC students is Greene County, home to almost 29% of the total student body. Randolph County follows closely with just over 26%; Lawrence County is home to almost 16%; Craighead to 13%; and Clay to more than 9%. The balance, about 7%, come from other in-state and out-of-state counties.

Knowing exactly how many of the 2508 students are attending solely because of the lottery-funded scholarships is a difficult number to calculate, according to Dr. Mike Sullens, VP for Student Services. Estimates are that the number is surprisingly low, fewer than 100, he said. That holds true statewide, according to other reports.

**Enrollment by County of Origin
Fall 2010**



REACH Log Specialist Brings 'Art' to 'Axemanship'

Restoring the historic granary at the Rice-Upshaw House is exactly the sort of work Robert Runyan says he is "oriented" to doing. "That's my lifestyle," he says simply. It is a lifestyle that began in Northeast Arkansas, where he grew up. The road then led to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and back to his native state, this time landing him in the rough Northwest Arkansas terrain of Winslow, where Runyan says he has everything he needs. The "everything" is a short list: timber and rock.

Runyan is the log specialist charged with disassembly, log repair, and re-assembly of the 1828 granary, or barn, at the Rice-Upshaw. His restorative work is one part of the "site enhancement" phase of REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage), a grant-funded historic preservation project of Black River Technical College. Runyan estimates the granary work to take five to six weeks time to complete

He brings to the task what he calls an "eye for design," born of his artistic background and training, along with a knack developed while working with his father in Trumann as a young man. He brings also the traditional log working skills of "axemanship," traceable to his days as a Boy Scout, and other skills associated with the traditional tools of the trade: a single bit axe, foot adze, broad axe, various log chisels and mallet, and cross-cut saw.

Runyan's first foray into what he considers the "ethnic and pioneer" style of architecture came shortly after college when the owner of a Depression-era cabin on the side of a Colorado mountain allowed him to restore and live in the structure for a time. "It sort of took off from there," he explained. In the years since, the logsman has worked on numerous historic projects throughout Arkansas, including jobs at private and public museums and parks. His current "main job" is the construction of "post and beam" style art studio in Northwest Arkansas.

"I love building with raw indigenous materials to bring together a completed project," Runyan said. "I'm old school." Timber is becoming

scarce, and sustainable foresting is important, he asserts. "I'm somewhat of an environmentalist." Just how "old school" and "environmentalist"? Enough that Runyan's draft mules Jasper and Jenny drag out the 30- to 40-foot logs after he has judiciously selected and cut the trees in the woods on his land. "The old timers," he explained, "when they went out and logged, they knew that in fifteen or twenty years they would have to do it again. So they had respect for the land. Today, with the profit



Robert Runyan

margin so small, timber companies have to do everything fast and large scale. To them, a tree might be worth \$50 or \$60. To me, it might be worth \$3-\$5 thousand. Of course I realize that not everyone can go out and do logging that way," he added.

But "old school" is exactly the way the logs in the granary would have been harvested, he pointed out. Though it is small, the structure does pose some special challenges.

"For one thing," he said, "it is not a piece of finished work. It's a utilitarian structure, not top quality, the technique not too exact. So I've got to watch

and not make it too square and plumb. We want to duplicate it—to keep it as it was as much as possible."

The granary restoration work for Runyan began with the dismantling and careful inventory of the logs, followed by a meeting with the project architect, Tommy Jameson of Little Rock, to review and make a "game plan" for log replacement needs. This first phase included development of a mock-up of a corner, showing the notching and joinery. Runyan will actually "work up" replacement logs from his own stockpile of seasoned white oaks at his home in Winslow. Once the logs are prepared, including the hewing to the proper size and shape, he will bring the logs to the site where they will be "laid out and reassembled, according to plan." The process will include joinery using the traditional Appalachian "half dovetailed notch" technique designed to shed water.

In the meantime, site enhancement work at the Rice-Upshaw House is also well underway. These elements, which are crucial in preparing the site for public visitation, include constructing a roadway, parking lot, drilling a well, constructing a pavilion with restrooms, and establishing walkways from the parking area to the house making the site accessible to visitors. Also ongoing is the development of interpretive materials, digital as well as print.

A final site enhancement will be the addition of a period-appropriate split-rail fence.

The 1828-constructed Rice-Upshaw House and surrounding property were donated to BRTC for restoration and educational use by Jean Upshaw and family, direct descendants of the structure's builder, Reuben Rice. A companion structure, the recently restored 1833-constructed Looney Tavern, was similarly gifted to the college by the Jack and Christina French family, descendants of that structure's builder, William Looney. Together the structures form Project REACH. Restoration and related architectural, archeological, and historical research have been funded by multi-year grants to BRTC from Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council.

Golf (Cont'd from Page 1)

The Grand Prize for a hole-in-one on #15 is a 2011 Chevrolet truck, compliments of Baltz Chevrolet-Olds.

"We greatly appreciate this continued generosity of iBERIABANK," said BRTC President Richard Gaines. "Not only is this an important source of scholarship funding," he said, "but it is also a lot of fun. I look forward to it every

year, and I appreciate also the support of the community, the Foundation, the staff of the college, and especially the golfers who enter this tournament."

An added feature this year, according to Kevin Rose of iBERIABANK, is the "19th Hole After-Party" featuring Happy Hour and the band "Chillyrose." This added feature is being sponsored by iBERIABANK.

For more information, contact Golf Tournament Chairs Dr. Roger Johnson or Dina Hufstedler at 870-248-4000.

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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/

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Campus Commentary



*Rhonda Foster
Coordinator of Student Recruitment/
Alumni Association*

With economy problems lingering, many college students are increasingly turning to career and technical education programs which allow most students to go directly into the work force after graduation. Even though the economy is not strong, many jobs are recession-proof.

When cars break down, an auto mechanic is needed. For the sick, a competent nurse, phlebotomist, and dietary

technician are needed to care for the patient. Skilled individuals are needed to repair airplane engines, put out a house fire, or develop and produce the mold for shampoo bottles.

These are professions that are usually taken for granted. Some students do not want to pursue a college degree immediately; rather they want a job as soon as they graduate from high school but may soon realize obtaining a technical skill degree is one step above those looking for a job without any formal education.

Many businesses seek the technical program graduates and promise employment while the students are still in college. These businesses know the students are better prepared to enter the job market in their chosen trade because of the level of training and experience received while the student is in the program.

Many of the BRTC Electrical graduates enter into an electrical apprenticeship. The training they receive at

BRTC gives them a good head start for the instruction they obtain under an apprentice electrician.

Automotive dealers in the region also take advantage of the BRTC graduates to fill needed jobs within their service department and auto repair centers. A technical education provides a great foundation especially for those students who are not sure what educational path to pursue.

BRTC offers technical programs in many professional areas. Programs offered in Allied Healthcare include Dietetics, EMT/Paramedic, RN, LPN, C.N.A., Respiratory Care, Medical Coding/Transcription, Patient Care Technician, and Phlebotomy.

In Business Technology BRTC offers Accounting, Administrative Services, Business Administration, Microcomputer Business Applications, and Networking programs. Offerings in the Law Enforcement arena are Criminal Justice, Crime Scene Investigation, and Law Enforcement Administration.

Other technical programs include: Auto Collision Repair, Automotive

Service Technology, Aviation Maintenance, Fire Science, Industrial Maintenance, Industrial Electricity/Electronics, Machine Shop, and Welding.

Anyone interested in one of these programs can contact me at 870-248-4000, ext. 4157, for a campus tour and to discuss the wonderful programs available at BRTC!

Blood Drive is Success

The blood drive hosted by Phi Theta Kappa August 31-September 1 was a huge success, according to Sponsor Dr. Linda Moss. "We broke all records with a total of 97 units of blood collected over the two-day period, exceeding the goal set by the Red Cross," said Moss. "Thanks to everyone who donated blood to save lives and for making the blood drive a success. Your donations are greatly appreciated."