



BRTC Board Announces Presidential Search

Inside this issue:

<i>Training Held for Business Instructors</i>	2
<i>Griffin Hired as Science Instructor</i>	2
<i>Dr. Mark Taylor Presents to BRTC Faculty and Staff</i>	2
<i>Sherwin Williams Reps Give Certification Exam</i>	3
<i>Scholarships Awarded for Fall 2011</i>	3
<i>Randolph Home Scholarship</i>	3
<i>Respiratory (Continued)</i>	4
<i>Campus Commentary - Loretta Williams</i>	4

The Black River Technical College Board of Trustees has announced that a search is underway for the college's next president. Current President Richard Gaines, who has headed BRTC since 1978, will be retiring effective July 1.

Applications and nominations for the position of BRTC President are currently being accepted. The target date for applications to be submitted is March 1, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

The position is being advertised in numerous state, regional, and national publications and through online sources, according to VP for Finance Loretta Williams who serves on the search screening committee. (Further details regarding advertisement of the position can be found in the Campus Commentary on page four.)

The presidential search materials can also be accessed online at www.blackrivertechpresident.com or by contacting Julie Edington, personnel assistant, (870) 248-4032 or email search@blackrivertechpresident.com.



BRTC President Richard Gaines

Walker Elected to Serve on Board of Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas

Ronnie Walker, Construction Supervisor/Project Manager for BRTC, was recently elected to serve on the board of the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas.

The Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas, which is celebrating its 30th year, is the only statewide nonprofit organization focused on preserving Arkansas's architectural and cultural resources, according to the Alliance website. The mission of the Alliance is to educate, advocate and assist preservation efforts across the state of Arkansas.

The Alliance board meets quarterly and all board members are required to actively participate in at least one committee, as well as participate in annual events, special presentations and programs, all to promote historic

preservation education and value in Arkansas.

Walker holds an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Historic Preservation Trades from the Arkansas Institute for Building Preservation Trades. This Preservation Education Institute was created by collaboration between the "Arkansas Historic Preservation Program" of the Department of Arkansas Heritage and Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas.

"My background and education are in Historic Preservation of our structural and built heritage," says Walker. "I feel it is a great honor to have been elected to the Historic Preservation Alliance Board and look forward to being a part of such a rewarding organization in this capacity."



Above: Ronnie Walker explains the preservation process to a visitor of the Rice-Upshaw House. Below: Walker examines a window in one of the historical structures.

Important Dates

- Jan. 14**
Business Tech. Day
- Jan. 25-26**
PTK Blood Drive
- Feb. 3**
Foundation Board Mtg.
- Feb. 10**
Board of Trustees Mtg.
- Feb. 20**
College Goal Sunday
- March 1**
Foundation Gala

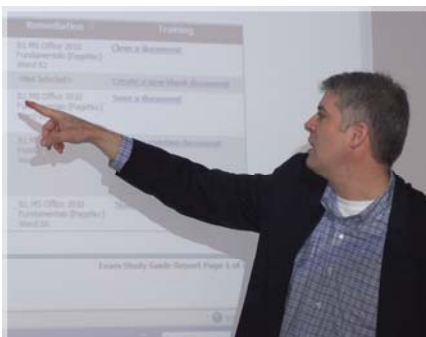
Training Held for Business Instructors

Mark Orr, Technology Service and Training Consultant with Cengage Learning Group, was on campus recently to provide SAM (Skills Assessment Manager) training for BRTC's Business Technology faculty.

SAM is a web-based assessment and training application for Microsoft Office and produced by Cengage. It is sold with the new MS Office textbooks for Computer Concepts, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access and has been implemented for use by students this semester.

With SAM, students are continually engaged in their learning process, according to information obtained from the Cengage website, with the focus on outcomes as the key factor to using SAM successfully. Detailed reporting by assignment or by student is available to the instructor and includes a frequency analysis and more so instructors can easily track student work.

According to Debbie Prichard, Business Department Head, students will be able to use SAM as a reference for as long as Office 2010 is in use. She explained that if a student were writing a paper for another class and forgot how to number pages, for example, they could complete SAM's tutorial for page numbering. "We are excited to learn and implement this new training and assessment tool," said Prichard. "I think the new application will be very beneficial for instructors and students alike."



Mark Orr, Cengage Learning Group, provides SAM training to BRTC Business Faculty.

Griffin Hired as Science Instructor

Lynda Griffin of Paragould has been hired as full-time instructor of Anatomy and Physiology at BRTC. For the past two years, she has served as adjunct science instructor at both Crowley's Ridge Community College and BRTC. She spent 13 years working as a Radiology Technologist prior to that.



Lynda Griffin

Griffin holds both Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Radiological Science degrees from Arkansas State University and a Master of Science in Education degree from Midwestern State University.

Dr. Mark Taylor Presents to BRTC Faculty and Staff

Faculty and Staff from Black River's Pocahontas and Paragould campuses came together on December 17 for a Professional Development Seminar held as the end of year in-service program. The program featured nationally acclaimed speaker, Dr. Mark Taylor, who spoke about generational differences, especially concerning today's youngest group of adults, "Generation NeXt." He is dedicated to helping various organizations learn to cope with generational differences.

Dr. Taylor's program at Black River was geared toward educating Generation NeXt, which he classifies to be persons under the age of 26 years old. "NeXters," as he call them, differ largely from the previous generations for several reasons. "Few schools, colleges and universities understand these differences well enough to respond effectively to bring about meaningful learning and developmental outcomes," claims Taylor.

A major factor in Generations Next's composition is the advancement of technology. Taylor says that as a result, largely, of being raised with video games, computers, and cell phones, NeXters come to college (and also enter the work place) with "issues with academic preparation, responsibility and self-esteem, consumer expectations, use of technology

and styles of interacting" that "can impact, and interfere with their learning, persistence and academic success at school, and workplace readiness and success."

He claims that as "the products of a technology-rich, consumer-driven culture, Generation NeXt presents special challenges to the purposes, structures and methods of educational systems, challenges complicated by the generational differences between these young people and the Traditionals, Baby Boomers and Xers who predominate faculty and staff."

During his programs, Dr. Taylor strives to "help faculty and staff understand the social, personal and academic traits and preferences our students bring to college, how these characteristics impact learning, persistence and success, and how we can best help our students reach their educational and personal goals."

Taylor explained how faculty could adjust their teaching styles to accommodate the educational needs of the NeXters. Some of his suggestions included assigning pre-class research, so that the students come knowing something about the topic to be discussed that day. Discussion style teaching, he explained, works better than lectures for NeXters.

He also suggested having students teach or lead discussions on selected topics as well as the use of technology and various types of media as teaching tools. The point that he seemed to want to emphasize most to faculty was that NeXters should be required to acquire necessary information outside of class, and that class time should be for utilization of the information they have acquired.

An Arkansas native, Dr. Taylor holds graduate degrees from the University of Arkansas and academic appointments at Arkansas State University and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Graduate School. His career began in higher education and management, opportunities which allowed him to acquire knowledge about generational differences.



Dr. Mark Taylor



Dr. Linda Moss and PTK President John Rainwater prepare cookies for students during registration.

New Facility for Respiratory Care

The former AutoBody building on the BRTC Pocahontas campus is now home to the Respiratory Care Program. According to Angie Caldwell, Vice President for Technical Education, additional space was needed in the current health building to house the growing nursing programs. Previously, all health care programs and science classes were together in one building.



Jessica Alphin, Clinical Specialist, prepares the SimBaby for training in the new facility.

“This move allows enough space needed for the new CRT-RRT Bridge Program, which consists of one semester for graduates to return and complete advanced class work to sit for the RRT exam,” Caldwell explained. “It also provided room in the current health building to add a third LPN class.”

A proposal was prepared and submitted last February by Respiratory Care Program Director Suzette Hicks, and renovation of the new facility began in October. “The time frame was very tight for this renovation to occur,” said Caldwell. “There was no time to spare with moving in the building on Friday, January 7, before classes began Monday, January 10.”

Caldwell credits the construction team from Stonebridge Construction of Jonesboro; Ronnie Walker, Construction Supervisor for BRTC; the BRTC maintenance and computer

Continued on pg. 4

Sherwin Williams Reps Give Certification Exam

Representatives of Sherwin Williams paint company, Sales Representative Tina Pickney and Branch Manager



Tina Pickney (left) and Tara House (right), representing Sherwin Williams, prepare students for EPA exam.

Tara House, were at the BRTC AutoBody Collision Repair Complex this week to teach a chemical safety course.

The course was part of a National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) certification program required by the EPA for any laborers working with certain types of paints and painting chemicals, according to Butch Dail, AutoBody Instructor.

The course was offered to individuals from area painting companies and collision repair centers in addition to the AutoBody students.

Individuals completing the course were given an exam and those passing the exam were awarded NESHAP certification.

Scholarships Awarded for Fall 2011

The following students have been awarded the Academic Distinction Scholarship to attend Black River Technical College for the 2011-2012 school year: Gabrielle Haney, Lauren Jetton, and Tadd Fore (not pictured).

Gabrielle Haney is the daughter of Ronda and John Haney of Rector. She will graduate from Rector High School in May 2011. She plans to study Registered Nursing at BRTC.

Lauren Jetton is the daughter of Chester and Cathy Jetton. She is attending Paragould High School. After receiving her diploma, she intends to study Nursing and then go into a career in Labor and Deliver.

Tadd Fore is the son of Steve and Robyn Fore. He is attending Black Rock High School and is also enrolled in classes at Black River. He intends to attain a Pre-Medical Degree.

The scholarship is for full tuition and is renewable up to four semesters provided the recipient successfully completes a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester and maintains a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 for the first two semesters.



Lauren Jetton

Gabrielle Haney

The cumulative GPA requirement increases to 3.25 for the remaining two semesters.

Recipients must be Arkansas residents graduating from an accredited high school, have an ACT composite score of at least 24, and be in the top 10% of their graduating class with least a 3.00 GPA.

For more information about scholarships available at BRTC, go to www.blackrivertech.org and click on the Financial Aid link, or contact the Financial Aid Office at (870) 248-4000.

Randolph Home Scholarship Awarded

Samantha Fry of Brookland has been named the recipient of the Randolph Home Memorial Scholarship, according to Natasha Rush, Financial Aid Clerk. She is in the Registered Nursing Program at BRTC.



Samantha Fry

The Randolph Home Scholarship is \$1000 per semester and it is awarded to a student who is pursuing a healthcare related certificate or degree. The scholarship is awarded for both the Fall and the Spring semesters, provided that the recipient maintains a cumulative GPA of a 2.5. The application process includes submission of the scholarship application, a transcript, and a 100-200 word self-descriptive essay.

For more information about the Randolph Home Scholarship, contact Rush at 870-248-4000, or visit the Financial Aid website at finaid.blackrivertech.edu/.



P.O. Box 468
1410 Hwy 304 East
Pocahontas, AR 72455

Phone: 870-248-4000
Fax: 870-248-4100

P.O. Box 1565
1 Black River Drive
Paragould, AR 72450

Phone: 870-239-0969
Fax: 870-239-2050

www.blackrivertech.edu

On-Line River's Edge Address:
http://www.blackrivertech.org/rivers_edge/

The River's Edge is produced by the
Office of Development.

janz@blackrivertech.org
dina.hufstedler@blackrivertech.org
melissa.mewborn@blackrivertech.org
rhonda.foster@blackrivertech.org
anns@blackrivertech.org

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



Loretta Williams
VP for Finance

The Board of Trustees of Black River Technical College has announced the search for a new president and is encouraging expressions of interest in the opportunity to lead a highly regarded, dynamic, community-oriented institution of higher education to new levels of excellence. The search is prompted by the decision of the college's longtime president, Richard Gaines, to retire.

The third person to head BRTC will assume leadership of an institution of great stability and great potential which has been achieved under the leadership of President Gaines. Widely regarded as an economic foundation and driving force in economic development in its four-county service area, BRTC offers its new president the opportunity to build on the college's proud heritage with new initiatives and vision. The possibilities are endless with an exciting future ahead!

BRTC is 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. BRTC opened its doors as a vocational technical school in 1972 and became a comprehensive two-year college in 1991. Steady and impressive growth has continued with a current student

population of over 2500 students, 68 full-time faculty, 61 adjunct faculty, and 85 non-instructional staff members on two campuses. Degree offerings include the Associate of Arts, Associate of Arts in Teaching, Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Science, one-year Certificates, and one-semester Certificates of Proficiency.

To learn more about our search, follow the link on the BRTC website (blackrivertech.edu) or visit the following website: blackrivertechpresident.com. You will also find on this website a "Search for President" booklet which provides more detailed information about the college, its mission, future challenges, and desired presidential candidate qualifications. The booklet may be downloaded or a copy may be requested by contacting Julie Edington at 870-248-4032 or search@blackrivertechpresident.com.

It is our goal to have a new president in office by July. We welcome your interest and inquiries regarding this position which will remain open until a final decision has been made by the BRTC Board of Trustees.

Respiratory Cont'd from Pg 3

services departments; as well as the respiratory faculty for pulling it off. "There are still a few pieces of equipment yet to arrive, but we were able to start the semester in this exceptional facility that provides future growth opportunities for the respiratory program."

The new area houses two classrooms with a separate computer lab, storage facility, and a lab with four beds, including one for SimMan and one for SimBaby (patient simulators used for training), and then some new equipment, including a blood gas machine. There is also a cardiopulmonary lab with capabilities of doing stress testing and pulmonary functions.

"I visited the respiratory students the first day of classes," Caldwell said, "They were excited about and very appreciative of the investment that has been made in the facility to enhance their educational process."