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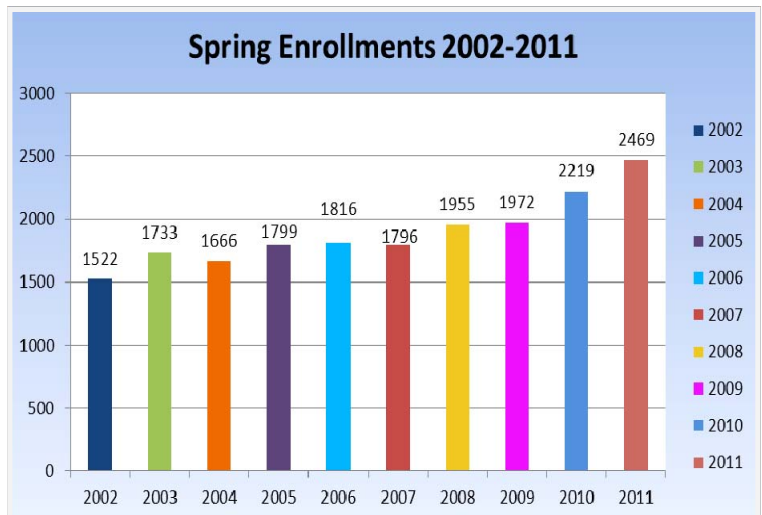
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Spring 2011 Enrollment is New Record

BRTC has set a new record for a spring enrollment period, according to VP for Student Services Dr. Mike Sullens. The number, 2469, represents an increase of 11.3% over the previous record in the previous spring semester. The spring number is down by less than 40 students from the Fall 2010 all-time record enrollment of 2508.

Approximately 65% of those enrolled are full-time students, and approximately 63% of the total student cohort are females.

In a continuing trend, the county that is home to the largest percentage of BRTC



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Academic Night at Paragould Recognizes BRTC's Concurrent Credit Program

Joniece Trammel and Dr. Roger Johnson of Black River Technical College recently attended the First Anniversary Celebration of Paragould High School's Academic Night held at the Paragould Country Club. Trammel, Concurrent Coordinator, and Johnson, VP for General Education, gave opening remarks at the event in recognition of the concurrent credit program at BRTC. Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill was guest speaker.

BRTC is Paragould High School's partner in the college concurrent credit class program. Through the concurrent program, participating students have the opportunity to study and learn at the college level while still in high school. Upon successful

completion of the specified courses, the students receive credit at both levels.

"Paragould High School had 96 students who completed



Dr. Roger Johnson (from left), Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill, and Paragould High School Principal Brett Gibson speak at Paragould High School's Academic Night event.

concurrent credit classes through BRTC during the Fall 2010 semester," said Trammel. There are 15 concurrent classes offered at Paragould: Chemistry with Lab, Physical Science with Lab, World Civilization To 1660, World Civilization Since 1660, Human Anatomy & Physiology I and II, Freshman English I and II, World Literature I and II, U.S. History To 1876, U.S. History Since 1876, Trigonometry,

College Algebra, and Introduction to Computer Concepts.

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Important Dates

- Feb. 10**
Board of Trustees Mtg.
- Feb. 20**
College Goal Sunday
- Feb. 25**
Serendipity
- March 1**
Foundation Gala
- March 8**
BRTC Health Fair
- March 21-25**
Spring Break

Technical Students Received Grainger Scholarships

BRTC students Daniel Runyon of Marmaduke and Ronald Mounts of Hoxie have each received a \$2,000 scholarship through the "Grainger Tools for Tomorrow" scholarship program. Mark Smith, Manager of Grainger Company's Jonesboro branch, was on the BRTC campus January 27 to make the presentation. Runyon is in the Automotive Service Technology program and Mounts is in the Aviation Maintenance program.

Grainger is a distributor of facilities maintenance supplies and has been serving businesses for more than 80 years, providing supplies and equipment needed to keep their facilities running. In 2006, the "Grainger Tools for Tomorrow" scholarship program was launched in conjunction with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

The program is designed to help students in the skilled trades curriculum realize their educational and career goals. The program awards outstanding students at 75 selected AACC member colleges across the country with a \$2,000 scholarship and, upon completion of the student's technical program, the customized Westward toolkit valued at more

than \$1,000.

"Today's technical education students will become tomorrow's industrial skilled tradesmen, dedicated to keeping our communities working and growing," said Smith. "These students play a critical role in helping to close the growing skills gap in our country. We must support these students and our local technical and community colleges today for a solid infrastructure tomorrow."

To qualify for the scholarship, students must be in their second year of college and working towards an Associate's degree or certification in specified industrial trades and have demonstrated drive, commitment and leadership. Recipients are chosen in a two-step process involving both BRTC and Grainger, with Grainger making



Ronald Mounts (from left), Mark Smith, Grainger Company Branch Manager, and Daniel Runyon

the final decision.

Smith noted that BRTC is the only community college in Arkansas partnered with Grainger in the scholarship program.

Holocaust Class Receives Materials From Jehovah's Witnesses

Barbara Floyd presented educational materials on the experience of the Jehovah's Witnesses in the Holocaust to BRTC last week. Accepting the materials was Dr. Jan Ziegler, who teaches a class on the Holocaust in the fall semester.

Floyd brought a video and several Holocaust-related books on loan to the college.

"We really appreciate this gesture," Ziegler said. "Many people still do not realize that Jehovah's Witnesses were one of the groups targeted by

Adolf Hitler and the Nazis. Because of their refusal to vow allegiance to Hitler and the Reich, they, too, were persecuted, imprisoned in camps, and many were murdered in Nazi-controlled Europe."

Ziegler said the United States Holocaust Memo-

rial Museum is careful to include the story of the Jehovah's Witnesses in all their educational material, but many do not know about this part of the story. "The Holocaust is a very complex event, and

the experiences of the many groups of victims, perpetrators, and bystanders are incredibly varied. Each experience is unique and important to give us a better and more accurate understanding of this watershed event."

Victim groups were selected on so-called racial, political, ideologi-

cal and behavioral grounds. Among the major victims groups were Jews, who were the primary target of the Nazis, along with the Jehovah's Witnesses, the handicapped, Communists, homosexuals, Roma (gypsies), Poles, and Soviet POWs.



Barbara Floyd (left), Jehovah's Witness, presents Holocaust Instructor Dr. Jan Ziegler with Holocaust materials.

Savage to Serve on Chamber Board

Ann Savage, Director of Marketing and Public Relations at Black River Technical College, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Randolph County Chamber of Commerce. She fills the position left by BRTC

Foundation Board member Kevin Rose who recently resigned from his three-year term to take a job in Batesville.

Savage has worked with the Chamber in various capacities over the past several years including serving on the Chamber's Education Committee and working with the Chamber Ambassadors, a program involving local high school students. She will continue in her role on the Education Committee.



Ann Savage

Single Parent Scholarships Awarded for Spring 2011

A total of \$2,000 in scholarships has been awarded to students through the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship (MSSPS) fund for the Spring 2011 semester. Seth Hardage, April Sheffield, Nicholas Varas and Lawana Watson, all of Pocahontas, have each received \$500. This brings to date a total of \$131,968 awarded through the MSSPS fund since its inception in 1992.

Hardage is a 2008 graduate of Pocahontas High School and plans to graduate in December from the Aviation Maintenance Technology program. He then plans to go into an aerospace engineering program and becoming an aviation mechanic.

Sheffield is a 1993 graduate of Van Buren High School and is pursuing a Mid-level Math/Science degree from Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge. She plans to graduate in 2010 and begin teaching.

Varas received his GED from BRTC in 2003 is currently working towards an Automotive Technology degree at BRTC and plans to graduate in May 2010.

Watson is also pursuing a Mid-level teaching degree from Williams Baptist College and plans to graduate in 2012. She is a 1991 graduate of Pocahontas High School and earned an Associate of Arts degree from BRTC in 2009.

The scholarships are awarded each semester in varying amounts depending on whether the student is attending classes full-time or part-time, according to Financial Aid Officer Natasha Rush. Full-time students receive \$500 per semester while part-time students receive \$250.

To qualify for MSSPS, individuals must be single parents with custody of minor children, be enrolled in a program of higher education, meet certain income guidelines, and be residents of Randolph County. For more information, contact Rush at 870-248-4000, ext. 4019 or email natasha.rush@blackrivertech.org.



Seth Hardage



April Sheffield



Nicholas Varas



Lawana Watson

FRMC Donates Equipment to Nursing Department at BRTC

The nursing department at Black River Technical College received much needed equipment through a donation made by Five Rivers Medical Center (FRMC) in Pocahontas.

"FRMC received a grant to purchase new hospital beds and stretchers," explained Ramonda Housh, Director of Nursing at BRTC. "John Tucker, CEO, and Mandy Dollins, CNO, of FRMC contacted us and offered to donate the beds and stretchers that were being replaced at the hospital and of course we gratefully accepted their offer."

The donation to the nursing department included three hospital beds, four stretchers, a defibrillator and an assortment of other supplies. "This is a welcomed addition to our growing nursing program," said Housh. "It allows more students to participate in the skills lab at a given time and enhances their education."

"On behalf of BRTC and the nursing instructors, I want to thank FRMC for their generous donation," Housh added. "The equipment is a



Ramonda Housh (from left), Director of Nursing at BRTC, John Tucker, CEO of FRMC, and BRTC Nursing Instructors Tonya Hankins and Robin Banks, show a stretcher donated by FRMC.

great asset to the nursing program and is greatly appreciated."

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"Paragould High School is fortunate to have such dedicated teachers and the ability to make available to students such a large number of concurrent credit classes," Trammel added.

"The students are getting a head start on their college careers," said Johnson. "We encouraged them to consider BRTC upon graduating from high school, but definitely to continue their education wherever they have an opportunity."

During their remarks, both Trammel and Johnson expressed appreciation not only to the students but also to the administration and faculty for their work with the concurrent program. "The faculty does not receive additional pay for offering concurrent classes," Johnson noted.

Johnson commented on the respectfulness and attentiveness of the group of approximately 70 students in attendance. "I was very impressed with the students and their behavior during the program," he stated. "This was a great group of kids."

For more information on the concurrent credit program through BRTC, interested schools can contact Trammel at 870-248-4000, ext. 4188.



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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.

Campus Commentary



*Joniece Trammel
Kimbrough Choir Director*

The BRTC Kimbrough Choir, established in the spring of 2004 and funded by local businessman, Dexter Kimbrough III, has involved many students over the past seven years. These students include full- and part-time students, faculty, staff and community members—people that love to sing!

The choir has performed for area high schools, community organiza-

tions, BRTC fund raisers, special events, and participated twice in the University of Arkansas Choral Festival. The choir has also hosted a BRTC Choral Festival and performed at the Randolph County Music Theater.

BRTC is also fortunate to have another group called the BRTC Kimbrough Singers. This group is selected by audition only. This semester the group is a trio of three young men that are performing pop songs, Broadway tunes, folk music, and spirituals. They are planning their first road trip to area high schools and will be performing for high school choirs later this spring. The purpose of the trip will be to recruit BRTC choir students for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year.

However fun these trips and performances are, they are not the sole source of enjoyment. Rehearsals themselves are *never* dull. As new music is learned, the two hours per week of rehearsals goes at a very fast pace. Excitement builds as each week

Spring Enrollment

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students is Greene (about 28%); followed by Randolph (26%); Lawrence (almost 16%); Craighead (about 14%); and Clay (about 10%). The balance (6%) are from other counties in and out-of-state.

This group includes 224 students enrolled in concurrent classes (credit given for both high school and college). The bulk of the students (1437) are classified as "second year" students. Just over half of the total cohort (51.6%) are in the "non-traditional" category of age 25 and older.

passes with expectations of an upcoming performance.

Regardless of all that is involved in the making of a good choir, there is something to always remember. Dr. Karl Paulnack, Director of the Music Division at the Boston Conservatory, addressed the foremost responsibility of choirs:

"Musicians are not here to entertain or sell themselves. The truth is they don't have anything to sell; being a musician isn't about dispensing a product, like selling used Chevy's. They are here to

become a sort of therapist for the human soul, a spiritual version of a chiropractor, physical therapist, someone who works with our insides to see if they get things to line up, to see if we can come into harmony with ourselves and be healthy and happy and well."

Dr. Paulnack's statements sum up the mission and purpose of the BRTC Kimbrough Choir. Through the means of music, we take seriously our responsibility of giving our listeners a sense of peace and well-being and hope that we have made their day a little brighter.