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## BRTC Hosts Dietary Managers Meeting

The spring meeting of the Arkansas Dietary Managers Association was held March 17-18 at Black River Technical College. Dietary Managers throughout the state attended the two-day event, which provided not only continuing education in the field of Dietetics, but also the opportunity for learning about new programs and ideas that can be beneficial in the workplace.

The meeting is held each year in the spring and the fall, typically in Hot Springs and Little Rock, alternately, according to event organizer Tina Harris, past ADMA president and program chair, and dietetics instructor at BRTC.



*Seated, from left: Loretta Kilts, President; Sherri Williams, President-Elect; and Wanda Dickson, Central District President/Legislative Spokesperson. Back, from left: Danielle Franks, Secretary; Stanley Vault, Treasurer; Tina Harris, Past-President/Program Chair; Fred Miller, Advisor to the Board; and Brenda Haymes, NE Central District President/Ways and Means Chair.*

"I wanted to host the meeting on our campus so more people from the Northeast Central District could attend," Harris explained, "and also because we have the best pool of speakers that can be found in the state right here locally."

Harris was assisted in organizing the program by Sandra Parker, BRTC Cafeteria Manager and ADMA Newsletter Editor; Brenda Haymes, Northeast Central District

President of ADMA; and Danielle Franks, ADMA Secretary. Attending the meeting were 56 certified dietary managers, two administrators, five dietitians, and 16 students.

*(Continued on pg. 2)*

### Important Dates

**March 30-31**

**PTK Blood Drive**

**April 5**

**Country Feast**

**April 12**

**PN Meet & Greet**

**April 19**

**Scholarship Luncheon**

**April 21**

**Strategic Planning - Session 5**

**April 30**

**PTK Pageant**

**May 12**

**Graduation**

## PN Students Excel at ALPNA Competition



*BRTC Practical Nursing Students at ALPNA Competition*

BRTC students in Practical Nursing I, II, and III earned several trophies at the Spring Conference of ALPNA (Arkansas License Practical Nurses' Association) held March 17-18 at University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville. LPN schools from around the state attended the event.

All three classes participated in the Talent/Skit competition and earned 1st place. And, for the second year in a row, 1st place was earned for T-shirt Design.

"Recruitment of Future Nurses" was the theme of the design.

In CPR, Nursing III students Kandace Main and Ryann Rose placed 1st; Nursing I students Camie Godwin and Jessica Crocker placed 2nd; and Nursing II students Ester Shelly and Anna Laky, placed 3rd. CPR instructor Judy Forrester made the award presentations.

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## Health Fair Sees Large Turnout

Despite the rainy and cool day, over 200 individuals attended the Annual BRTC Health Fair held March 8 in the Randolph County Development Center, according to Ramonda Housh, Director of Nursing. Students in BRTC's Nursing, Dietetics, Phlebotomy, Fire Science, EMT/Paramedic, and Respiratory Care Programs provided free health screenings and valuable information to the public. There were a total of 28 booths set up at the fair.

Local businesses that participated were American Cancer Society, Medic One, East Arkansas Area on Aging, Dr. Karla Baltz, Raul Blasini with the Prostate Cancer Foundation, Pocahontas Medical Clinic, Health-Way Medical Supply, Elmcroft, Kids First of Pocahontas, Medical Solutions of Jonesboro, Pocahontas Eye Care Clinic, Pocahontas Family Medical Clinic, and Randolph County Health Department.

Representatives from FitnessWorx gave Zumba presentations throughout the day to demonstrate the new dance exercise program and also gave information about other programs such as Silver Sneakers offered at the fitness center.

Numerous door prizes were given away, including a \$100 drawing donated by Weitkamp Farms, smoke alarms, fire extinguisher, glucose



From left, Anna Williams and Stephanie Morrison, Respiratory Therapy students, perform a pulmonary function test on a student in science instructor Lynda Griffin's A and P class.

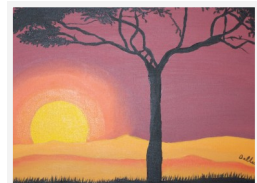
monitors, gift certificates from area businesses and much more.

"I would like to thank all of the businesses that participated and made donations," said Housh, "including City Pharmacy for their donation of \$300 towards the purchase of glucose strips, which enabled us to perform blood sugar tests to those in attendance."

Housh also expressed appreciation to Lynda Griffin, science instructor at BRTC, for bringing students from her Anatomy and Physiology classes to the health fair. "These future health program students were able to see some of what we do in our programs."

## Local Banks Display Students' Art

The work of art students in the Drawing II, Painting, and Graphic Design classes at BRTC is on display in all of the Pocahontas area banks through Saturday.



Shown here is a sample of work on display: The sunset, by Dalleen Teel, is from Painting; the frog and bird, by Holly Schoenfeld, is from Drawing II; and the Nicole Kidman movie poster, by Nickole Ashlock, is from Graphic Design.

## PN Cont'd from Pg. 1

Jean Ann Dugger, Nursing III, placed 1st place in Job Interview while Keith Britton, Nursing II, placed 2nd.

Nursing Skills awards went to Nursing I student Megan Owens, 1st place, and Nursing III student Sarah Waits, 3rd place.

Jackie Holland, Nursing III, placed 2nd in Nutrition. Athenea Dean, Nursing III, placed 3rd in Pharmacology.

The Nursing III team of Scott Floyed, Ginger Britton, Christina Smith and Tabatha McKay earned 1st place in Quiz Bowl, while the Nursing I team of Jolly Ruminer, Angela Ragsdell, Roxanne Burkheart, and Sarah Taylor, placed 3rd.

"This competition allows the students to show off the skills and knowledge they learn in our Nursing program here at BRTC," explained Dana Clay, Administrative Secretary for Nursing. "This is the largest number of trophies I've seen students bring home from this event since I've been here, which has been almost ten years."

Clay also noted that the trophies are on display in the Health and Science Building on the BRTC Pocahontas campus.

"On behalf of the nursing instructors, I want to say how proud we are of the students' performances," stated Ramonda Housh, Director of Nursing at BRTC. "I also want to congratulate instructor Judy Forrester for her CPR team victories, as this is her last ALPNA competition before retiring."

## DMA Meeting

Speakers for the event and their topics were: Kathy Murdock, DTR - New Dietary Guidelines; Wanda Dickson, DCM, CFPP - Exam Preparation & Brush Up; Jason Morrison, Ed.D - Sociometrics & New School Lunch Guidelines; Chef Michael LaBar, CEC, CCSP - Making Pasta Work; Vickie French and Sharon Watson - Special Events on a Budget; Regina Moore, BA - Using Computer Software to Benefit Dietary Services; Mike Broyles, Pharm.D. - Food-Drug Interactions; Angie Caldwell, MS, RD, LD - Activities that Motivate Employees; Dr. Martie Shull - Business Dining Etiquette; Kellie Young



Chef Michael LaBar with US Foodservice prepares a pasta lunch for the attendees as part of his presentation on "Making Pasta Work."

## Cont'd from Pg. 1

with AllergyFree Food Co.; and Linda Bridges, Sanitarian, Randolph County Health Department.

The organizers wish to thank the following businesses for donating prizes for the "Sanitation & Safety" Bingo game held Thursday evening: AgHeritage, Pocahontas Glass, Wal-Mart, Futrell Pharmacy, Baltz Chevrolet, Farm Service, Shear Creations, and Rhonda Blevins. Special thanks are also extended to Zack Pate of Group Purchasing Advantage for conducting the game, and to US Foodservice, Sysco, Farnsworth & Associates, and Vitality for providing the food and refreshments for the event.

## Phi Theta Kappans Have Active Semester

The Beta Delta Phi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at BRTC has been very busy this semester with many projects and events including regional conference, raising funds for humanitarian aid in Japan, and the spring induction ceremony.

PTK co-hosted the annual officer election and award conference for the Oklahoma/Arkansas region held February 25-27 in Conway. The group was awarded seven distinctive honors and two coveted trophies. The two trophies were “Most Distinguished Webpage” and “Honors in Action” for best project.

Individual awards were presented as follows: Horizon Award (New Advisor) - Ashley Hall; Website Award (Top Two) - Mike Marlett; Distinguished Chapter Officer Award (Top Five) - John Rainwater; and Distinguished Chapter Advisor - Dr. Linda Moss. The chapter received awards for Five-Star Chapter Development Plan (Five-Star Level), College Project (Top Five), and Host Award.

Members attending the conference were Dallas Gunn, Karen Matthews, Jamie Edson, John Rainwater, Mike Marlett, Ruby Marlett, Pamela Anis, and Jason Moseley, along with Dr. Linda Moss and Ashley Hall, advisors. The International Convention is scheduled for April 7-8 in Seattle.

PTK is asking for support in their efforts to raise \$2,000 in relief funds for humanitarian aid in Japan, following the recent tsunami and earthquake that have left thousands missing, with millions more homeless or in shelters due to the ongoing nuclear crisis.

All donations will be submitted to Direct Relief International, an accredited charity organization since 1948. Donation cards worth \$1 each will be available at local businesses March 28-April 24 for anyone wishing to contribute. Another fundraiser - a photo shoot with the Easter Bunny - is being planned for some time in April.

In addition to these activities, 29 new members were inducted in the spring induction ceremony held March 15 in the Randolph County Development Center.

If there are any questions about donating or about the photo shoot, please contact Jaime Edson, Vice President of Scholarship, at 1-870-450-6791, email [Jaimes.edson@blackrivertech.edu](mailto:Jaimes.edson@blackrivertech.edu), or visit the Beta Delta Phi website at <http://ptkbetadeltaphi.webstarts.com> for more information. “We greatly appreciate your help in our endeavors,” noted Dr. Moss.



*Showing awards received at the regional conference are (front row, from left) Ashley Hall, Paragould advisor, Pamela Anis, Jaime Edson, Michael Marlett, Dr. Linda E. Moss, Pocahontas advisor, (back row, from left) Jason Moseley, Karman Matthews, John Rainwater, Ruby Marlett, and Dallas Gunn.*



*PTK officers (front row) and Dr. Linda Moss, advisor (2nd row, far right), welcome new members at the spring induction ceremony.*

## Business Department Hosts Annual Etiquette Luncheon

The Business Department of Black River Technical College hosted their annual Business Etiquette Luncheon March 16 in the Randolph County Development Center. The purpose of the luncheon, according to Debbie Prichard, Business Department Head, is to provide students with proper etiquette skills while dining in a business setting. “This can sometimes be a determining factor of employment when individuals are being interviewed during a meal,” Prichard explained, regarding the etiquette skills. “These skills can also affect work-related projects or advancement for an employee.”

Prichard began the event with a welcome and an introduction of Dr. Martie Shull, adjunct instructor and advisory board member at BRTC, who presided over the event. Shull provided instruction on proper etiquette to use during the dining experience and discussed the history and evolution of utensils and place settings, and other interesting facts pertaining to dining.

Those in attendance enjoyed a full course meal prepared and served by students in BRTC’s Dietetics program. The menu consisted of salad, sherbet, bayou chicken with rice, green beans, roll and cheesecake.

Business instructor Kay Ellis gave the closing remarks and gave thanks to Dr. Shull, the business instructors, the students, the Dietetics Department, and the BRTC Foundation who provided funding for the event through their SEAS program.



*Dr. Martie Shull*



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*The River's Edge is produced by the  
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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



*Dr. Roger Johnson  
VP for General Education*

Remediation is a "hot topic" in today's colleges, universities, higher education, and state government. As more students realize the importance of a college education, the number of students enrolling in colleges has increased dramatically. This certainly holds true for Black River Technical College where we have consistently set record enrollments. Increased awareness of college programs, college accessibility, Pell grants and

scholarships, along with a poor economy, have all impacted the college enrollment rate.

The purpose of remedial classes is to bring students to a level of competency where they can succeed in college-level classes. During any given semester about 50% of students attending BRTC are non-traditional. These are typically students that have been out of the classroom setting for a period of time and need to sharpen their skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. Roughly 90% of non-traditional students must take at least one remedial class, while approximately 70% of all students need a remedial class.

Remedial classes have received considerable attention during the current legislative session in Little Rock. Several bills have been introduced that could affect anything from the way state funding is allocated to whether students with poor ACT scores (or their equivalent) are admitted. In addition, several shell bills have been filed

## 2011 Foundation Gala Photos



Visit the BRTC website to view all Gala Photos.



that could have an impact on students that need remediation and/or the way colleges deliver remedial classes. Last year ACT 971 was enacted, which requires students transitioning from remedial classes to college credit courses to take an end of semester exam.

At BRTC, we have been aware of the issues facing students that need remediation and have implemented

strategies to improve their success. Currently, we are working with other colleges and Arkansas Department of Higher Education to share ideas and discuss best practices.

All of us at Black River Technical College are committed to our students and strive to assist them with their career and educational goals. We believe that all students deserve an opportunity to succeed.