



THE RIVER'S EDGE

Inside this issue:

<i>BRTC Representatives Attend Scholarship Event Honoring Governor Beebe</i>	2
<i>Juneteenth Celebration to Educate, Celebrate, Entertain</i>	2
<i>REACH Offers In-Services on Arkansas History</i>	3
<i>BRTC Group Tours Bavarian Alps</i>	3
<i>Campus Commentary - Richard Gaines</i>	4

BRTC to Host Retirement Reception



For President Richard Gaines

Important Dates

- June 17-18**
Juneteenth Celebration
- June 22**
PTK Blood Drive
- June 23**
Foundation Board Mtg.
- June 28**
Retirement Reception for Richard Gaines
- July 5**
Summer II Classes Begin
- August 22**
Fall Semester Classes Begin
- September 30**
Golf Tournament

Rice Pavilion Dedicated at REACH Site

Wanda Lee Vaughn was honored Monday at the dedication of the Rice Pavilion at the site of the historic restored Rice-Upshaw House in Dalton. The pavilion was funded in part through the generosity of Jim and Wanda Lee Vaughn of Jonesboro. Mr. Vaughn was not able to be present.

A plaque designating the name of the pavilion honored Mrs. Vaughn's parents, "Lee and Samantha Rice for their lifelong dedication to education."

Participating in the dedication and unveiling of the plaque were BRTC President Richard Gaines and VP for Development Dr. Jan Ziegler. Present at the occasion were a large group of Pocahontas educators who were there for an in-service session on Arkansas History (see story on pg. 3).

Also participating were BRTC staff members Ronnie Walker, Construction Manager; Dina Hufstедler, Project Specialist, Office of Development; and Patti Blaxton, Coordinator, and Rhonda Swink, Administrative Specialist, Office of Continuing

Education and Business Outreach.

Mrs. Vaughn is a direct descendant of Reuben Rice, pioneering builder of the Rice-Upshaw House in 1828. The Vaughns directed a significant donation toward Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage) which, with combined funds from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council, allowed for the construction of the pavilion. The structure will be used primarily for educational events such as the faculty in-service on Monday.



Wanda Lee Vaughn

The Rice-Upshaw House, along with the William Looney Tavern, two of the state's oldest documented log structures, were donated to BRTC by Jean Upshaw and Jack and Christina French and families, making possible their restoration and use as educational settings.

The college plans a major opening event this fall, along with the launching of online interpretive materials, and will announce plans for public and educational visitation at that time.

BRTC Representatives Attend Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Event Honoring Governor Mike Beebe

Representatives of BRTC recently attended a dinner event honoring Governor Mike Beebe and benefiting the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund (ASPSF).

The "Be Like Mike" event, held May 19 at the Embassy Suites in Little Rock, paid tribute not only to Governor Beebe for his leadership in higher education, but also to his mother, the late Louise Beebe. Single parents who have received scholarships and many supporters of the ASPSF were also recognized.

Representing BRTC at the event were President Richard Gaines and wife Patti; Board of Trustees



Representing BRTC at the scholarship event were, left to right, Mike Dunn, Dina Hufstедler, Barbara Dunn, Martha Hatcher, Vickie French, Dr. Wayne Hatcher, Patti Gaines, Richard Gaines, Mary Helen Jackson and John Jackson.

Chair Mike Dunn and wife Barbara; Board of Trustees Vice-Chair John Jackson and wife Mary Helen; Project Specialist Dina Hufstедler, Office of Development;

Administrative Specialist Vickie French, Office of the President; and Gaines' successor, Dr. Wayne Hatcher, and wife Martha.

"Governor Beebe was raised by a single mother who worked hard to make a better life for her son," explained event chairs Mary Ann Greenwood and Vicki Saviers. "He understands the value of his education and the importance of helping single parents who want to further their own education."

BRTC began participating in the single parent scholarship program in 1992 and to date has awarded a total of \$131,968 in scholarships.

Juneteenth Celebration to Educate, Celebrate, Entertain

The second annual "Juneteenth" Celebration is scheduled for June 17-18, with activities beginning at 6 p.m. in the Banquet Room at Randolph County Development Center on the BRTC campus. This event, which commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States, is sponsored by the Eddie Mae Herron Center/Museum and Black River Technical College Foundation, and is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and National Endowment for the Humanities.



Cindy Robinett

Though President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, declaring it effective January 1, 1863, the act only minimally affected slaves in most Confederate states. Some historical accounts suggest that Union General Gordon Granger announced the emancipation to slaves in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865. It was this event that gave rise to the celebra-

tion and festivities today known as "Juneteenth."

Event organizer Pat Johnson said this year's event will build on last year's celebration, and includes fun and activities for everyone. The following program of events has been planned for Friday, June 17, beginning at 6 p.m. at Randolph County Development Center: Meet and Greet (Refreshments); Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation and 13th Amendment by Jon Crabbe; "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"



Dr. Derrick D. McKisick

by West Central Metro Singers; Introduction of local officials by Fayth Hill Washington; Negro Spirituals by Upward Bound Singers; "Slavery in Randolph County" by Cindy Robinett; "Didn't It Rain, Chillun?" Music and Skit by West Central Metro Singers; and "The African American Experience in Arkansas During the Civil War and Reconstruction" by Dr. Derrick McKisick.

Ongoing events and activities on Saturday, June 18, beginning at 10 a.m., at the Eddie Mae Herron Center/Museum on Archer Street will include: Antique Car Show; Antique Tractor Show; "Wash Day" story by Anna Lou Cook; Fitness Demonstration; Freedom Bracelets and Booth by Randolph County 4-H; Live Music, Tom Chester and Band; Games; Cake Walk; Door Prizes; Harriet Tubman Skit, Randolph County 4-H; and Heritage Dancers. Lunch will be provided by the Eddie Mae Herron Center/Museum. Guests are asked to bring lawn chairs.



REACH Offers In-Services on Arkansas History

A large number of Pocahontas teachers braved the heat to attend an in-service session on Arkansas history Monday, June 6, at the Rice Pavilion on site at the Rice-Upshaw House near Dalton. BRTC staff members Ronnie Walker and Dr. Jan Ziegler presented the program. Also participating were Dina Hufstедler, who coordinated the event, and Patti Blaxton and Rhonda Swink of the office of Continuing Education/ Business Outreach.



Area G/T Coordinators at May 20 In-Service

This was the second such event in as many weeks, as BRTC also presented an in-service for twelve Gifted-Talented Coordinators from around the region on May 20. This event was organized through the Northeast Arkansas Education Cooperative. Presenting at the G/T in-service was REACH historical consultant Joan Gould of Preservation Matters in Fayetteville, with Hufstедler, Project Specialist at BRTC, facilitating the event. In addition to the in-service information, Gould gleaned ideas and suggestions from the teachers on optimal activities for sharing the site with their students.

On Monday, Dr. Rosemary Weaver, Curriculum

Supervisor for Pocahontas Public Schools, expressed appreciation to the college for their willingness to work with the school district in this endeavor.

Approximately 75 elementary and intermediate level teachers and administrators participated

restoration processes, including the elements of “discovery” the project entailed. Following the presentations, the educators had opportunity to tour both the Rice-Upshaw House and the Looney Tavern.

The teachers learned that research indicates that neither of the two structures originally served as a dwelling site, but that understanding their earliest believed functions provides a valuable window revealing much about the lives and culture of the pioneering settlers and about early state and local history. In the case of the 1828-constructed Rice-Upshaw structure, that function is believed to be as a rural trade center and possibly loom house; in the case of the 1833-constructed Looney Tavern, the function is be-

lieved to have been as a utilitarian structure for Looney’s various agricultural pursuits, including possibly distilling, and as an inn and tavern. Archeological, architectural, and historical research shows that the structures’ use as domestic dwelling sites, in each instance, occurred some years after their actual construction.



Pocahontas Educators at June 6 In-Service

The program also included an overview of the

(Continued on pg. 4)

BRTC Group Tours Bavarian Alps

BRTC representatives have recently returned from a nine-day tour to Germany, Switzerland, and Austria as a part of an EF College Study tour.

Eleven individuals participated in the tour which included visits to Munich, Rothenburg, the Black Forest and Heidelberg in Germany, and brief visits to Salzburg, Austria, and Lucerne, Switzerland, as well as a brief stop in Liechtenstein.

Highlights included excursions into a salt mine, a thrilling cog wheel train and cable car ride to Mt. Pilatus, a strenuous walk up to Scholss Neuschwanstein, better known as the “Cinderella Castle” built by Bavarian King Ludwig, and a visit to Dachau Concentration Camp near Munich.

The travelers were astounded to note that gas prices, historically much higher than in this country, averaged \$9 to \$10 per gallon in Germany. The

tour included a great deal of historical and cultural information on topics ranging from Germany’s education system to military service requirements to Switzerland’s historic neutrality and the European Union.

Participants included (as shown in the photo), seated, from left, Barbara Sisco, Debbie Sorg, Sonya Miller, Dr. Jan Ziegler (group leader) and Karen Parish. Standing, from

left, Tour Director Michaela Kraft of Heidelberg, Herb Early, Roy Denton, Joyce Radcliff, Katelyn Pfeffer, Patricia Middlecoff, and Ken Ziegler.





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BRTC Mission Statement

*Blending tradition, technology and innovation
to educate today's diverse students
for tomorrow's changing world.*

Campus Commentary



*Richard Gaines
BRTC President*

As my retirement date quickly approaches, I would like to express my appreciation to all of the citizens of Randolph and surrounding counties for being so supportive of BRTC for the past 38 years.

When I came to Pocahontas in 1973,

Black River Vocational Technical School was just opening its doors. We began with two buildings and a maintenance shop. There were approximately 17 faculty and staff members with 40 or so students.

With a lot of hard work and vision, the Pocahontas, Paragould, and Walnut Ridge sites have grown to 314,578 square feet with 24 buildings and approximately 156 faculty and staff members serving over 3,300 credit hour students last year.

I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished together, providing quality technical and collegiate educational opportunities for our citizens.

In closing, I would like to give a special thanks to all the faculty and staff that I have worked with over the many years.

Everyone knows it takes a TEAM effort to make things happen. You are my team...you will always be my TEAM.

Thanks for the memories!

REACH Offers... Cont'd. from Pg. 3

Attendees each received a folder with a project summary prepared by Gould. The REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage) project encompasses the restoration of two of the state's oldest log structures, and has been funded by grants from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council.



Pocahontas teachers visit with Wanda Lee Vaughn after pavilion dedication.

The Rice-Upshaw House was donated to BRTC by Jean Upshaw and family, and the Looney Tavern was donated to the college by Jack and Christina French for restoration and for use as educational settings.

The college will hold a major celebration opening event in October and plans online and digital interpretation of the structures, as well as scheduled times for public and educational group visitation. The sites have served as and are expected to continue to function as lab sites where BRTC students and others can apply classroom theory to authentic learning opportunities.