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## Campus Clinic to Serve Staff, Students

BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher and Pocahontas Medical Clinic CEO Rodney Haynes have signed a Memorandum Of Understanding for the clinic to provide reduced cost access to an on-campus medical clinic for minor medical needs of BRTC students and staff, beginning September 26.



*Rodney Haynes (left), CEO of Pocahontas Medical Clinic, and Dr. Wayne Hatcher, BRTC President sign an MOU for the new on-campus health clinic.*

The clinic, which will be available Mondays and Thursdays from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m., is located in the Law Enforcement Training Academy in the west wing.

The medical professionals will be able to repair and treat minor lacerations, bumps, bruises, strains, sprains,

cough, cold, fever, chills intestinal illness, headache, and other appropriate acute care needs, according to Haynes. The service is available only to BRTC students and staff.

"We are very pleased with this pilot project," Dr. Hatcher said at the signing. "Being able to provide this service, especially to our students who

face so many obstacles in completing their studies, is an important step, and we appreciate the collaborative effort on the part of the clinic in this endeavor."

Students and staff members accessing the clinic must present appropriate BRTC identification.

## REACH Craftsmen to Return for Celebration will Demonstrate Early Skills

The celebration marking the Grand Opening of REACH Historic Preservation sites near Dalton in northern Randolph County is "shaping up," according to event organizers in BRTC's Office of Development. The three-day event slated for October 27-29 will be a reunion of sorts for many of those who worked on the research and restoration of the Territorial-era log structures donated to BRTC by owners and family descendants of the structures' builders, Reuben Rice and William Looney.

The restoration of the Rice-Upshaw House and the William Looney Tavern, constructed in 1828 and 1833,



*Stone Mason Ben Hurd*

grants from Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council. The structures were donated to BRTC for use as educational

settings and to allow for preservation of the area's cultural, material and built heritage



*Dr. James Parker*

"We are very pleased that many of the craftsmen who worked on this project will be returning to demonstrate and explain their work and their tools, as well as to join in the festivities," said Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development at BRTC. Among those who have confirmed to date are Eric Sammons, log craftsman from Mountain Home, who will demonstrate log hewing and puncheon floor construction; Ben Hurd, stonemason from

*(Continued on pg. 3)*

### Important Dates

- September 30**  
**IBERIABANK / BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament**
- October 10**  
**Respiratory Care Meet and Greet**
- October 11**  
**Advisory Dinner**
- October 13**  
**PTK Induction**
- October 27-29**  
**REACH Grand Opening/ Public Event**
- November 14-16**  
**Holocaust Survivor Presentations**
- November 18**  
**LETA Graduation**

# MSSPS Awarded to Eleven for Fall 2011 Semester

The Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship (MSSPS) has been awarded to eleven students for the Fall 2011 Semester. They are Shelby Borst, Amanda Brevard, Dallas Carlile, Abbi Edington, Anna Laky, Stephanie Searcy, April Sheffield, and Lawana Watson of Pocahontas; Samantha Reed of Ravenden Springs; Haley Reed of Reyno; and Carline Graham of Maynard.

Brevard, Carlile, Edinton, Sheffield and Watson have each been designated among the recipients as Entergy Scholars through a donation by Entergy to the MSSPS Fund in the amount of \$2,460.

Borst is a 2010 graduate of Mena High School and is pursuing an Associate of Arts in Gen Ed degree at BRTC. Her future plans are to continue her education and become a physician's assistant. Brevard received her GED in 2001 and plans to graduate in December from BRTC's Respiratory Care program. Carlile graduated from Oak Ridge

Central in 1999. She is pursuing her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and plans to graduate in Spring 2012.

Edington graduated from Biggers-Reyno High School in 1999 and plans to graduate in December of 2012 from BRTC's Respiratory Care program. Laky graduated from Oak Ridge Central in 2007 and is in her final semester of the Practical Nursing Program at BRTC. Searcy received her GED in 2001 and her goal is to become a RN.

April Sheffield graduated from Van Buren High school and lives in Pocahontas. She is pursuing a nursing degree and plans to graduate in December of 2011. Watson graduated from Pocahontas High School in 1991. She is pursuing her BA at Williams Baptist College in Mid-Level Education. She plans to graduate in Spring 2012. Haley Reed graduated from Cornerstone Christian High School in 2010. She plans to graduate from the Respirato-

ry Program at BRTC in 2014.

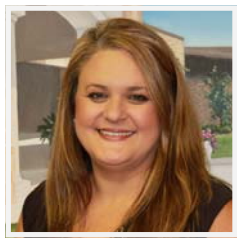
Samantha Reed lives in Ravenden Springs and graduated from Oak Ridge Central 2001. She is pursuing an AAS in Radiology. Graham graduated from Maynard High School and plans to complete the nursing program at BRTC with a goal of becoming an RN.

The \$5,380 awarded this semester brings to date a total of \$138,223 awarded through MSSPS since its inception in 1992.

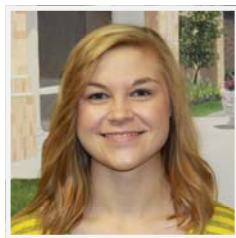
To qualify for the single parent scholarship, according to Financial Aid Officer Natasha Rush, individuals must be single parents with custody of minor children, be enrolled in a program of higher education, meet certain income guidelines and be residents of Randolph County. Scholarships are given each term in varying amounts depending on enrollment status. For more information, contact Natasha Rush at 870-248-4000, ext. 4019.



Caroline Graham



Lawana Watson



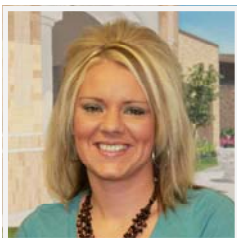
Shelby Borst



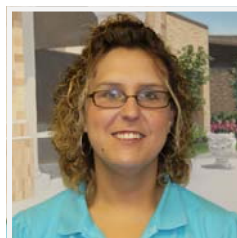
Amanda Brevard



Anna Laky



Stephanie Searcy



Abbi Edington



Dallas Carlile



Samantha Reed



April Sheffield

## REACH Craftsmen Cont'd from Pg. 1

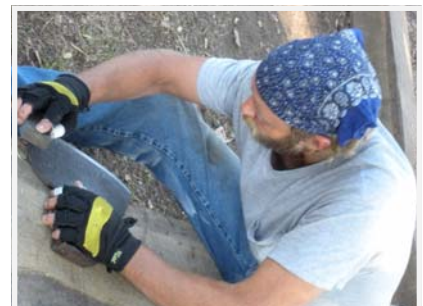
Sparta, Missouri, who will demonstrate stone masonry using early tools; Dr. James Barker of Jonesboro, who will demonstrate chinking and daubing; members of the Arkansas Archeological Survey team of the U of A, Fayetteville, who will allow visitors to take part in sifting dirt actually excavated from the site, possibly finding artifacts

A highlight of the celebration will be Historic Interpreters Gerry and Maria Barker of Edmonton, Kentucky, who will bring their team of oxen and demonstrate working with the oxen and other frontier lifestyle practices. The Barkers, according to Ziegler, are frequent living history interpreters at

Mansker's Station in Goodlettsville, Tennessee.

"We want the celebration to be festive and fun, and at the same time educational," Ziegler said. "So we are pleased, too, that many of our students who have participated in REACH-related activities will be there for the celebration." Members of the Kimbrough Singers will perform pieces of original music written by Ozella Miller Upshaw, a descendant of William Looney. Also, art students of Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz and Chemistry students of Dr. Linda Moss will be on hand to explain displays of work they have done in conjunction with the project.

In addition to the opportunity to tour the two structures, the celebration will include music, dance, and dramatic depictions of Reuben Rice, William Looney, and Hiram Looney. A complete schedule will be forthcoming, Ziegler said.



Log Craftsman Eric Sammons

## David Mason says Welding is a “Gateway” Craft

“Welders are an independent lot,” claims David Mason. They sort of have to be, according to the coordinator and instructor of the intensive 18-week Structural Steel and Pipe Welding Program on the BRTC-Paragould campus. His program gives students the skill set they need to make the big bucks, but there is a trade-off: if his graduates want to double that \$14-15 per hour “going rate” for skilled welders, those who complete his 540-hour program and then demonstrate an x-ray quality weld will have to go to where the work is. “They don’t usually build a power plant in your back yard,” Mason says. To earn the \$30 or more per hour plus per diem, his program graduates may have to travel 400 miles away from home for a six-month project.

Mason is a former student and instructor at the highly respected Tulsa School of Welding. He knows all about going “where the work is.” His most recent stint was in Bolivia where he spent four months as a pipe welder inspector on a natural gas project. Mason’s responsibilities included “hot tapping,” a method to make a connection to an existing pipe without interrupting or emptying that section of pipe or vessel. The technique was one of the skills used during efforts to deal with the 2010 BP oil spill.

Living and working in different cultures is in his blood, so to speak; Mason’s parents actually met in Saudi Arabia where his father worked for Aramco, and his mother was working as a Registered Nurse. The couple raised their family on the cattle farm in northeast Arkansas, where a young David Mason spent plenty of time “driving fence posts, stringing wire and pulling calves.” After years of pipe welding and welding inspection work in such places as Houston and Salt Lake City, Mason is now back at home in northeast Arkansas, helping out on the family farm where his mother continues to live. His current endeavor is development of the new grant-funded advanced pipe welding program sponsored by BRTC-Paragould and the Greene County Industrial Training Council. Mason developed the program, including the setting up of a world-class lab and development of the curriculum. The first class will soon finish, and a second one, which can take up to 10 students, is scheduled to begin in November.

He brings to the advanced pipe welding program the same passion and commitment he has given his

craft since he began pipe welding in 1986.

“This is such a great training opportunity you can use to catapult yourself,” Mason says. The pathways for those who complete the program and pass the welding tests are many: as structural steel welders, tube welders, and pipe welders, graduates can easily find jobs, many of them locally on large construction projects in Jonesboro, for example, where qualified welders can make \$23 hourly, plus a 401K benefit. In fact, he notes, there is a current nationwide job gap of 200,000 entry-level welders, a gap that is projected to grow, he adds, citing data from the American Welding Society. Even though tuition for the intensive program is expensive, primarily because of the high cost of consumable sup-



*Instructor David Mason going over a weld with a student.*

plies, the return on investment or payback comes typically within a few months, Mason points out.

Students in the program complete six progressive three-week phases. Passing each phase is a requirement for moving to the next. Welding processes the program encompasses include shielded metal arc welding, gas metal arc welding, gas tungsten arc welding and flux core arc welding. Class is in session six hours daily, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. or from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. A typical class will include one hour of lecture followed by five hours of hands-on lab training.

From entry level work, Mason points out, welders can go on to become welding engineers, inspectors, supervisors, or mechanical engineers. They can open their own labs. Their high level welding skills are needed in paper mills, refineries, in nuclear, hydro, or coal fired power plants, even in the

pharmaceutical or chemistry industry or other areas where welding skills must withstand high pressure.

“This really is a gateway craft that lets you live like you want. It opens a lot of doors.”

Living life on his terms means everything to Mason. In addition to being a master at his craft, he also describes himself as an environmentalist, a passion he brings to the field of welding through an emphasis on “green” welding practices. This includes the use of new inverter-based welding machines which greatly reduce energy consumption, as well as a new extraction system to minimize the release of hazardous vapors and fumes. While gearing up the welding program, Mason has developed a presentation on Green welding programs and says

his vision is to bring in classes of local agri students and teach them green welding procedures. He has also developed relationships with area firms to be able to recycle some of their scrap materials, representing a savings for his program and for the businessmen who do not have to pay the disposal cost.

It was actually his growing awareness and belief in a sustainable lifestyle that brought Mason back home in the first place. “I wanted to see what would it take to meet my needs—how could I sustain myself and use as few resources as possible. I’m really interested in voluntary simplicity, that idea of just what does it take for a person on this earth—if I could grow my own food, lower my consumption—how much does it take

to live?” He is in good company, actually, as the concept has long been advocated by such men as Rousseau, Henry David Thoreau, Mohandas Gandhi. “I’m still working on it,” he admits.

Mason’s eco-consciousness comes through to his students in ways that help not just the environment but produce good outcomes in other ways as well: “We need welders with high standards and a good work ethic,” he says. “It takes up to five times more resources to repair something than it takes to do it right in the first place.”

Prospective students interested in learning to “do it right” and position themselves for a good-paying job in the field of advanced pipe welding should contact Mason or Audra Howerton, BRTC Workforce Program Development Coordinator at 870-239-0969.



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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



*Dr. Wayne Hatcher  
President*

I know we ask a great deal of our staff and our students. So when an opportunity presents itself that allows us to provide something new and beneficial, I believe it is good that we take steps to make this happen. This is the case with the reduced-cost medical clinic for minor medical care needs which opened on in the LETA Building on the Pocahontas campus this week. This service is possible because of a collaborative effort between the college and the Pocahontas Medical Clinic, whose profes-

sional staff will be seeing the patients.

Clinic hours are limited: Mondays and Thursdays from 7:30 to 10:30 for the time being. We will be monitoring usage to determine whether the hours can be expanded. The service is open only to students and staff, and proper BRTC identification is required for treatment. Obviously the campus clinic cannot serve critical medical needs, but it can provide care for such common things as coughs and colds, intestinal illnesses, bruises and minor lacerations, and such problems.

This matters, it seems to me, because if we can offer a service like this where the convenience and/or the low cost may make the difference in our students being able to continue with their classes, then we have taken a positive step to increase student success and retention.

BRTC will continue to explore opportunities on this campus and on the Paragould campus that make life—and being a student at BRTC—easier. I encourage our faculty, staff, and students to utilize this service when the need arises.



*Dr. Charlotte Power led students, faculty and staff in the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution in observance of Constitution Day.*

## New BAT Instructor

Ben Runnels of Bono has been hired as the new Blood Alcohol Training (BAT) Mobile instructor. Runnels previously worked with the Jonesboro Police Department for five and a half years, he also served six years in the United States Marine Corps where he did one tour in Iraq. He holds an AS degree and a Bachelors in Psychology from Arkansas State University.



*Ben Runnels*