



The River's Edge

Inside this issue:

<i>Five BRTC Students Awarded MSSPS</i>	2
<i>Project REACH (Cont'd from Page 1)</i>	2
<i>BRTC Student One of "Lost Boys from Sudan"</i>	2
<i>New Staff Appointments Announced</i>	3
<i>Kids' College - Paragould</i>	3
<i>From the President's Desk</i>	4
<i>Course Transfer Planned</i>	4

Important Dates

July 26

ASSET Test - 8:00 a.m.

August 9

BRTC Board of Trustees Meeting

August 20

Classes Begin

August 29

PTK Blood Drive

Project REACH Work Underway

Members of the Arkansas Archeological Survey team are conducting two weeks of "remote sensing" at the Rice House and Looney Tavern in northern Randolph County. The two structures date to 1828 and 1833, respectively, and are a part of BRTC's Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Culture and Heritage.)

The work's purpose, according to Randy Guendling, Senior Project Archeologist, is to learn where outbuildings or other structures were located, and to identify areas where artifacts may be present underground.



Members of the Arkansas Archeological Survey Team prepare for remote sensing with a ground-penetrating radar system and other special equipment at the Looney Tavern. Their work is to determine the probable location of outbuildings or other structures, as well as to identify areas where artifacts may be present underground. Work was done at the Looney site last week, with scheduled work at the Rice House this week.

involves the use of ground-penetrating radar equipment as well as resistivity testing and other procedures to develop what Guendling describes as a sort of "topo map of what's under the surface."

In addition to Guendling, AAS team members Mike Evens, Jared Pebworth and Aden Jenkins, along with Jami Lockhart, painstakingly develop a grid to define the components of the farmsteads nearest the standing structures. Guendling compared the grid as a sort of bullseye, beginning near the structures and radiating outward from there.

"That's so, once the restoration work begins, you won't muck it up," Guendling quipped. The survey

Members of the community are welcome to visit the

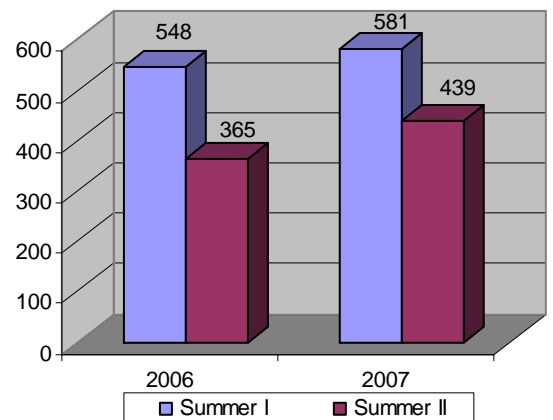
(Continued on page 2)

Summer Enrollment Growth Shown

The number of students enrolled in classes this summer at BRTC represents an overall increase of approximately 12 percent over those enrolled in last year's summer classes. The increase reflects the numbers in the combined Summer I and Summer II semesters, according to data from the Office of Student Services. Taken individually, Summer I enrollment for 2007 stood at 581, for an increase of 6% over Summer I of 2006. Summer II enrollment for this year is 439 students, a hike of 20% over Summer II 2006 enrollment numbers.

Further breakdown of the 2007 data shows that during Summer I and Summer II of 2007, approximately 24% of those enrolled attended classes at the Paragould campus, while in Summer I and II of 2006, approximately 14% of those enrolled attended at Paragould.

Summer Enrollment 2006-2007



★ See article inside

Five BRTC Students Awarded MSSPS



Mark Godwin



Brandy Jones



Julie Perkins



Lawana Watson

Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarships, in the amount of \$500 each, have been awarded to five students for the 2007 summer terms. Three of the awardees are former employees of Waterloo Industries. The recipients of the scholarships are Mark Godwin, Brandy Jones, Bonita Martin, Julie Perkins, and Lawana Watson.

Godwin, of Pocahontas, is attending BRTC in pursuit of a Business and Accounting degree. He is a graduate of Biggers High School and had worked over 21 years at Waterloo Industries in Pocahontas.

Jones is seeking a degree in Business Administration from BRTC. She is a Pocahontas High School graduate and was previously employed by Waterloo

Industries.

After 31 years as an office clerk for Waterloo, Martin is a full-time student at BRTC working towards a Practical Nursing degree. She is a graduate of Manila High School and resides in Pocahontas.

A former BRTC student and Pocahontas resident, Perkins is working towards a degree in Psychology at Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge.

Watson, of Pocahontas, is attending BRTC in pursuit of an AA in Teaching degree. A graduate of Pocahontas High School, she has been working as a substitute teacher and plans to continue working with youth upon earning her degree.

To qualify for the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship, applicants must be a resident of Randolph County, have custody of minor children, be enrolled in a program of study in higher education, and meet certain financial guidelines.

For more information, contact Vickie French or Brandi Chester at 870-248-4000.

Project REACH (Continued from Page 1)

sites and observe the work in progress, Guending added. The survey team was at the Looney Tavern site last week, and will move to the Rice House site this week.

Project REACH is funded through a grant from Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council. The survey work marks the conclusion of the first grant year's activities. A subsequent grant awarded in May 2007 is to fund the actual restoration of the Rice House. The college plans to seek continued funding for restoration of the Looney Tavern in the next grant year.

BRTC Student One of "Lost Boys from Sudan"



David Magok

Twenty years ago, like many children his age, David Magok was playing near his home with friends under the watchful eyes of older family members. But home for Magok was in Sudan, and in 1987, his country was in the throes of civil war. He is among the tens of thousands of young boys who became known as the "Lost Boys"— children who fled when their villages came under attack. Now a college student at BRTC, Magok is no longer "lost" and no longer a boy, but he still remembers

the day he heard the planes and, along with other children his age, ran into the bush to escape the "fire from the sky." It would be the last time the then-seven-year-old would see or even know the whereabouts of his parents and siblings for many, many years.

Magok, like the other young boys caught up in the war, would undergo a grueling trek across punishing terrain, heading to the east to stay ahead of the massacres. For thirty days the mass of children and a few older tribesmen endured the daytime heat and the nighttime cold, with little food and water, until arriving finally at a refugee camp in Ethiopia.

He would spend the next four years there, before the civil war forced another move, landing him eventually in another camp. He arrived in Kenya in 1992 after spending approximately six months on the border between Sudan and Ethiopia. It would be in Kenya where the now fourteen-year-old Magok, whose native language is Dinka, would learn English and spend the next nine years. "When I was in Kenya," he explains, "we were under UN (United Nations) supervision. We were given clothes and books."

In time the American government brought many of the "Lost Boys" to this country. David Magok

was one of them, arriving in Memphis in 2001 at age 23. Employment opportunities looked better in Jonesboro, and Magok and three others moved there in 2002. He worked for a time at a factory there, and completed his GED. With a desire to enroll in college, Magok then moved to Paragould and found employment there with a schedule that allowed him to attend Crowley's Ridge College.

In the meantime, Magok has been able to reunite with his parents and visited them last year. "I knew in my heart they were alive," he says.

Currently enrolled in Gen Ed classes and employed part time at BRTC, Magok plans to seek admission to the Nursing program. "When I finish my school and pay my loans, I can go back (to Sudan) and help them," Magok says, adding that the medical situation there is currently in a poor state. "I know them (the people of Sudan) and they know me."

The young man says he has experienced no problems of non-acceptance nor discrimination since coming to the United States, which he now considers home. But Magok says one thing puzzled him greatly upon arriving in this country. "People didn't even know where Sudan is. I wondered why... people did not even know what was happening."

New Staff Appointments Announced

The Personnel Office at Black River Technical College has released the names of several new staff members. According to Personnel Assistant Julie Edington, some have been appointed to fill vacated positions, while others have been hired for new positions created to meet the demands of an increasing enrollment.

Betty White, CPA, of Pocahontas has been hired as Controller in the Office of Finance. She is a graduate of Doniphan High School in Missouri and earned a BS in Accounting degree from Arkansas State University. She has worked more than fourteen years for the accounting firm of Thomas, Speight and Noble in Pocahontas.

Anne Simpson has joined the BRTC staff as the new Library Director. She earned a BSE in English degree from Arkansas State University, an MA in Journalism degree from University of Arkansas Little Rock, and an MS in Library and Information Sciences degree from University of North Texas. A native of Pocahontas and PHS graduate, Simpson recently moved back from Dallas, Texas, where she has been teaching English and Journalism for the past 11 years.

Dawn Clark of Rector is the new Secretary for the Paragould Campus. A graduate of Clay County Central High School, she has worked for the past 17 years as a financial administrator in the dental field and is also a registered dental assistant.

Pocahontas High School graduate Rachel Koons of Stokes recently joined the BRTC staff as Academic Advisor. She holds an AA in Gen Ed from BRTC, and a BS in Psychology from Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge. She has worked the past two plus years for Families, Incorporated, where she worked

with an average caseload of 40 families.

Mary Anderson has also filled an Academic Advisor position. She has been with BRTC for eight years, first working as operator, then secretary, then Financial Aid Officer. She is a graduate of St. Paul's High School in Pocahontas and holds a Computerized Accounting certificate and AA degree from BRTC, and a BS in Business Administration degree from Arkansas State University. Prior to joining the BRTC staff she worked for the Pocahontas Star Herald.

Dina Hufstедler of Walnut Ridge has accepted a new position of Project/Program Specialist in the Office of Development. She has worked as secretary in that office for the past four years. Prior to that, she worked for Walnut Ridge Public Schools. She is a graduate of Walnut Ridge High School and holds a BS in Marketing degree from Arkansas State University.

Walnut Ridge High School graduate Kimberly Bigger has filled the position of Registrar. She has held several titles at BRTC during the past five years, including Carl Perkins Recruiter, Coordinator of Recruitment, and Coordinator of Retention and Placement. She holds a BS in Agricultural Business and MS in Vocational Technical Administrations, both from Arkansas State University. Prior to joining the BRTC staff, she owned a bridal registry business.

Steve Shults of Pocahontas has been named Director of the Law Enforcement Training Academy, where he has been serving as an instructor for the past two years. He is a graduate of Pocahontas High School and holds a BS in Education degree and an MA in Criminology degree, both from Arkansas State University. Shults previously worked as a trooper with the Arkansas State Police, served as Randolph County Sheriff and worked with the Pocahontas Police Department.



Mary Anderson



Kim Bigger



Dawn Clark



Dina Hufstедler



Rachel Koons



Steve Shults



Anne Simpson



Betty White



Fourth and fifth grade students look on as Dennis Smith with Pro Tech Termite and Pest Control of Jonesboro shows live Madagascar Roaches – the largest roaches in the world.

Kids' College - Paragould

Approximately 75 students in kindergarten through sixth grade attended the 8th Annual Kids' College held recently on the Paragould campus of BRTC, according to Jacinda Welch, program coordinator. Kids' College is a week-long event where students attend classes each day on a variety of topics such as chemistry magic, electrical and fire safety, science and history, recycling, pet safety and the solar system. They also participate in unique classes like art, construction projects, martial arts, carnival games, balloon fun, face painting and

insect informants.

Students watched demonstrations from local emergency management teams, including Air Evac, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center ambulance service, Paragould Police and Fire Departments, and the Greene County Rescue Squad. They also enjoyed seeing the Arkansas Game and Fish mobile aquarium and the PPD Nascar simulator.

According to Welch, the program is made possible by support from business and industry sponsors throughout Northeast Arkansas.

Black River Technical College

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

P.O. Box 1565
2402 North 12th Avenue
Paragould, AR 72450

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

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

Website: www.blackrivertech.org

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

janz@blackrivertech.org
annf@blackrivertech.org
dina.hufstедler@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.

On-line Application address:

<http://connect.blackrivertech.org/nappadm.html>

From the President's Desk



Richard Gaines

BRTC, like other institutions of higher learning, is held accountable for the number of students who complete our program of study. While that's not a bad thing, those numbers tell only a part of our story. As a community college we serve the needs of those in our community in ways that go beyond the number of degrees and certificates we award. For example, we have just completed our Kids' College program at both the Pocahontas and Paragould campuses. Approximately 160 students in K - 6th grade were challenged,

entertained, informed and hopefully inspired by a wide array of programs and activities ranging from science to marshal arts. It is our hope that this sort of program plants the seed for a lifetime of learning.

Another example of the way we impact lives can be seen in our adult education program through which 123 adults have just completed their GED or high school equivalency. We are very proud of the step these individuals have taken to lead them to productive employment and/or further study.

Our regular credit classes also serve a wide range of individuals, including high-schoolers completing concurrent credits, "traditional" college students ages 18-26, and mature adults who may be learning to use the computer or discovering they have a talent for art or photography.

Obviously we care about those numbers of students completing degrees and certificates, but our mission extends far beyond those numbers.

Course Transfer Planned



Gary Meier, from left, Michael Barnett, Angie Caldwell, and Carmack Sanders discuss plans for course transfer.

Vo-Tech, visited with BRTC Machine Shop instructor Gary Meier and Angie Caldwell, Division Chair of Business and Technology programs at BRTC.

The group discussed ideas for developing an agreement between

Representatives from Jonesboro Area Vo-Tech were on campus recently to discuss possible plans for articulation of credit for students transferring between Machine Shop programs.

Director Carmack Sanders, and Machine Shop instructor Michael Barrett, both with Jonesboro Area

the two schools that would allow students who have completed the Machine Shop Program at JAVT to transfer credits when enrolling in BRTC's Machine Shop program.

"We are very excited about the ability of future students to benefit from this plan for articulated courses," said Caldwell

**Fall 2007
Registration Now in Progress**