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The River's Edge

Inside this issue:

Arkansas History Professional Development 2

BRTC Alert System 2

Fall 2009 Scholarships 3

New Faculty and Staff 3

Cafeteria Hours 3

Faculty Visit (cont'd) 3

From the President's Desk 4

16th Annual Golf Tournament Scheduled

The 16th Annual iBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Friday, October 2, at Rolling Hills Country Club in Pocahontas. "The tournament is a primary source of scholarship funding for the Foundation," said Dr. Roger Johnson, event coordinator and Division Chair of Academics at BRTC.



Pictured left to right are Dr. Roger Johnson, event coordinator; Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development; Kevin Rose, iBERIABANK representative; and Mike Miller, Foundation President.

individuals and businesses. Proceeds of the event are used by the BRTC Foundation to support scholarship programs and other needs of the college.

The tournament is a two-person scramble with an entry fee of \$80 per team. The morning flight begins at 8:00 and the afternoon flight at 1:00, with each being independent of the other. A free barbecue lunch will also be provided.

Johnson expressed his appreciation to iBERIABANK for their continued support of the tournament by sponsoring it each year with a donation of \$10,000. Additional sponsorships are purchased in varying amounts by

For more information, contact Johnson at 870-248-4000, ext. 4169, or Vickie French, ext. 4070.

Important Dates

August 26-27

PTK Blood Drive

September 15

Alumni Fish Fry

October 2

Annual iBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament

October 21-22

Holocaust Survivor Presentations

October 27

BRTC Advisory Dinner

November 8

Phi Theta Kappa Blood Drive

Faculty and Staff Visit Historical Sites



Several faculty visited the reconstruction site of the Looney Tavern during in-service.

Several BRTC faculty and staff members took part in a site visit to the Looney Tavern restoration project during the week of in-service activities held last week at the start of the 2009-2010 academic

year. The group also visited the Rice House during the trip. The work to restore the Looney structure is a part of Project REACH, a historic preservation project of BRTC.

The Rice House and Looney Tavern are two territorial-era structures located on opposite sides of the Eleven Point River. They were constructed in 1828 and 1833 by Reuben Rice and William Looney, respectively, two of the earliest Anglo settlers in the Eleven Point River Valley.

Representing a unique approach to restoration, the Looney Tavern has been disassembled, with roof sections maintained intact. Logs have been numbered and will be repaired and/or replaced, with the structure to be reassembled when the logs are prepared. One of the chimneys



Gary Meier (left) looks over an axe that wood specialist, Eric Sammons, was using.

remains intact, and the second one partially intact. Also visible in the foundation a finely crafted cellar believed to be used in the storing of apple brandy, produced in large quantities by William Looney.

(Continued on page 3)

BRTC Provides Arkansas History Professional Development

Approximately 70 teachers from Pocahontas Public Schools received a portion of their required professional development on Arkansas History last week by attending a presentation on Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural History) provided by BRTC's Department of Continuing Education/Business Outreach. The event, held in BRTC's Technology Building, focused on early settlement in the Eleven Point River Valley dating to the arrival of William Looney as early as 1803.

Following presentations by Ronnie Walker and Dr. Jan Ziegler, the educators had opportunity to consider ways in which they can incorporate elements of REACH into their own classroom teaching, in order to make the study of Arkansas History more relevant to their students. Walker is BRTC's Construction Manager and has extensive experience and educational background in the preservation trades. Ziegler, Vice President for Development, has served as BRTC's coordinator for REACH, a grant-funded historic preservation project to restore two territorial-era log structures near Dalton.

"The families who donated these structures to BRTC for preservation, Jean Upshaw (Rice House) and Jack and Christina French (Looney Tavern), had exactly this sort of educational purpose in mind when they acted to ensure

these structures would be saved," said Ziegler.



Teachers from the Pocahontas School District look over artifacts, from the Rice House and Looney Tavern, set out on display during the recent in-service.

The in-service, coordinated by Patti Blaxton, Coordinator of Continuing Education and Business Outreach at BRTC and Dr. Rosemary Weaver of Pocahontas Schools, included video and still images of the work on the Rice House and Looney Tavern, as well as background information on the Rice and Looney families and their history dating to the 1700s in Virginia and Tennessee, before they came to present-day Randolph County as "squatters." The educators also had opportunity to see several of the artifacts revealed by archeological work at the sites, and to learn of the ways in which the structures "speak" to students today.

The educators, who represented Alma Spikes Elementary, M.D. Williams Intermediate, and Pocahontas Junior High, developed a list of classroom activities for students at all age levels. Their ideas included not only the teaching of Arkansas History, but also a wide range of activities. Among them were: the role and the art of storytelling, dendrochronology, historical fiction writing, making predictions on cause and effect (e.g., Why were the rafters on the second floor of the Looney Tavern black?), and studying different forms of communications (oral histories, archival documents, and physical communication such as that conveyed by the artifacts or logs).

BRTC's Alert System Implemented and Activated

Black River Technical College has implemented a new alert system on both Pocahontas and Paragould campuses. The system, AlertXpress, was given a test run August 14 with positive results from those who signed up for the service.

AlertXpress is a phone messaging service that can be implemented in the event of an emergency. It has the capability of delivering any message considered an emergency, whether it be weather or security issues, by BRTC administration and campus police.

"We've been working toward this for months," Sergeant Scott Bland, BRTC Campus Police, said. "BRTC administration has been very proactive in getting the emergency alert system in place."

The primary system, which included speaker systems inside and outside of the campus' buildings, was installed by BRTC's Computer Services and Maintenance departments. After the installation of the speaker system, the phone alert system, AlertXpress,

was set up in coordination with the Arkansas Crime Information Center out of Little Rock.

"The focus of the speaker system is to alert people on campus. The AlertXpress system was implemented to notify people coming onto campus," said Director of Computer Services Mike Greene. "We're still in the process of accepting phone numbers from BRTC faculty, staff and students who wish to receive messages from AlertXpress," Bland said.

Registered students can sign up for AlertXpress through Campus Connect. Faculty and staff should contact Bland directly to enroll. Once enrolled, members can program the AlertXpress number into their phone so that a call from the system will be recognized.

In addition to the new alert system, BRTC is serving as the Randolph County headquarters for the Arkansas State Police. "The troopers have their own office on campus," Bland said. "It adds more resources we can



Sergeant Scott Bland, BRTC Campus Police, shows where Black River Technical College is listed on the Alert Express website.

call on in the event of an emergency."

"We're also very fortunate in having the Law Enforcement Training Academy located on campus as well," he added.

Fall 2009 Scholarships Announced



Tonya Garza



Kristian Carner



Westley Milburn



Alanna Mondy



Lauren Richey



Brent Smith

Several area students have accepted scholarships to BRTC for the Fall 2009 semester. Tonya Garza of Pocahontas has been awarded the Randolph Home Memorial Scholarship. Academic Distinction Scholarships have been awarded to Kristian Carner, son of James and Tammy Carner, of Paragould; Westley Milburn, son of Alan and Sharon Milburn, of Rector; Alanna Mondy, daughter

of Greta and Steve Mondy, of Black Rock; Lauren Richey, daughter of David and Rebecca Richey, of Paragould; Brent Smith, son of Greg and Pam Smith, of Walnut Ridge; and (not pictured) Cody West, son of April Pillows, of Hoxie.

The Randolph Home Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$1000 for two semesters, is awarded to a student who is pursuing a healthcare related certificate or degree at BRTC and who maintains a 2.5 GPA. An Academic Distinction Scholarship is awarded to students who score 24 or higher on the ACT, or who place in the top ten percent of their graduating class. The scholarship covers the full cost of tuition and is renewable up to four semesters provided the recipient successfully completes a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester and maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.00 for the first two semesters and 3.25 for the remaining two semesters.

Garza, a graduate of Pocahontas High School and mother of two, plans to complete the Practical Nursing Program at BRTC and then work towards an RN degree. Carner is a graduate of Paragould High School and plans to study physical therapy. A Rector High School graduate, Milburn plans to complete the Machine Shop Program.

Mondy is a graduate of Black Rock High School and plans to pursue an education in psychology. A graduate of Greene County Tech High School, Richey plans to major in Spanish. Smith, who is a graduate of Walnut Ridge High School, is currently undecided on a major. West is a graduate of Hoxie High School and plans to earn an Associate of Arts degree at BRTC.

For more information on these and other scholarships available through BRTC, contact Financial Aid Officer Natasha Rush at 870-248-4000, ext. 4019.

Three Positions Filled at BRTC



Lisa Hill



Sandra Parker



Susan Hancock

Sandra Parker and Lisa Hill, both of Pocahontas, and Susan Hancock of Knobel, were recently hired to fill positions at BRTC, according to Angie Caldwell, Division Chair of Technical Education.

Hill has joined the nursing department at BRTC as an instructor. She has an Associate of Applied Science in Registered Nursing degree from ASU-Jonesboro and served as an ICU nurse at NEA Baptist in Jonesboro before joining BRTC.

Parker has joined the BRTC staff as Food Preparation Specialist. She is a Certified Dietary Manager and a Certified Food Protection Professional. She will be overseeing the preparation of

breakfast and lunch in the school's cafeteria. She has an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Dietetics from BRTC.

Hancock has been named Food Preparation Coordinator. She has an Associate of Applied Science degree in Dietetics from BRTC and is a Certified Dietary Manager and Registered Dietetic Technician, and she is a current member of the American Dietary Association and the Dietary Managers Association. Prior to joining BRTC, Hancock was the retail manager for the Dietary Department at NEA Baptist Hospital.

New Cafeteria Hours

BRTC's cafeteria, located in the Randolph County Development Center on the Pocahontas campus, will have new and expanded hours when it opens for operation Monday.

The cafeteria will be open Monday through Friday, 7:00-9:00 a.m. for breakfast and 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for lunch. The cafeteria is also open to the public, in addition to BRTC students, faculty and staff.

Breakfast items will include biscuits, gravy and eggs along with pickup items such as muffins and Danishes. Lunch items will consist of plate lunches, prepared salads and pickup items such as sandwiches and chips.

Faculty (Continued from page 1)

BRTC's Construction Manager Ronnie Walker explained that this process of restoration was selected in part because doing so will allow for a better job on log repair and replacement, and also prevented a collapse of the structure with resulting damage to the chimneys.

The tavern restoration is projected for completion in the spring of 2010. Site work at the Rice House to prepare for public visitation is scheduled to begin soon, according to Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development.

REACH is funded through the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council.

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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.

The River's Edge is produced by the
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From the President's Desk



Richard Gaines

Two-year colleges across the country were encouraged recently by President Barack Obama's announcement of the "American Graduation Initiative" which proposes \$12 billion for community colleges over a ten-year period. The goal of the initiative is to provide assistance to the colleges' efforts to educate Americans, so that by 2020, an additional five million Americans have earned degrees and certificates.

Dr. Ed Franklin, Executive Direc-

tor of the Arkansas Two-Year College Association, commented on the significance of this investment in a recent special article in the *Democrat-Gazette*. His comments are accurate and relevant as we begin a new academic year here at BRTC, where we are anticipating a large fall enrollment.

Currently, Dr. Franklin points out, the state's 22 two-year colleges serve more than 54,000 credit students, with another 50,000 taking work skills-building non-credit courses. These 22 institutions accept any and all students throughout the state with their "open-door" policies. He also notes that nationwide, more than half the nation's undergraduate students are enrolled in two-year institutions. Nearly 60% of new nurses and almost 80% of firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical technicians gain their credentials at the nation's community colleges.

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IBERIABANK
BRTC FOUNDATION
16th Annual Golf Tournament
Friday, October 2, 2009
Rolling Hills Country Club



Three Star Sponsorship - \$500.00
4' x 4' Sign
Team Entry Fee
Golf Cart if Needed



Two Star Sponsorship - \$250.00
2' x 4' Sign



One Star Sponsorship - \$125.00
18" x 24" Sign

Also highly significant is the fact that approximately seventy percent of students who transfer from a two-year to a four-year college complete their baccalaureate degrees. This fact underscores the role of the two-year colleges in four critical areas: preparation for transfer to a four-year college; technical skills education; developmental or remedial educa-

tion, and workforce training for business and industry needs.

I concur with Dr. Franklin that this initiative is encouraging and that it has the potential to positively impact educational attainment in our state—a vital step when we consider that currently we rank next to last in the nation in the number of adults with higher education degrees.