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Three Finalists Named for VPA Position

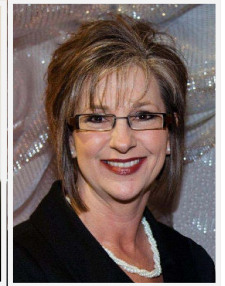
A selection committee of faculty, staff, administrators, and students has selected three individuals to be interviewed early next month for the position of Vice President for Administration at BRTC. The three, according to Human Resources Director Julie Edington, are Brenda Gillogly of Helena, S. Don Ray of Jonesboro, and Rhonda Stone of Pocahontas.



Brenda Gillogly



S. Don Ray



Rhonda Stone

Gillogly is currently the Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration at Phillips Community College in Helena. Ray's current position is Extension Faculty-Family Financial Education at the University of Missouri-Columbia in Columbia, Missouri (Kennett Branch). Stone's current position is Business Instructor at Black River Technical College in Pocahontas and Paragould.

They were selected from a pool of 39 applicants from across the state and nation, with a few international applicants. Interviews have been set for Ray on June 5; for Stone on June 6, and for Gillogly on June 7.

The position will be open with the June 30 retirement

of longtime VP for Finance Loretta Williams.

The VPA is responsible for finance, human resources, safety management, informational technology, facilities and physical plant, auxiliary services, and travel. Loretta Williams has held the position, formerly called the VP for Finance, since the institution became a college in 1992. Prior to that time, she served as Assistant Director of then -Black River Vo-Tech School. Her career with the institution began in 1973, shortly after its opening, serving as Business instructor.

Important Dates

May 24

Serendipity Banquet

May 28

**Memorial Day
Campus Closed**

May 29

**Summer I Classes
Begin**

May 31

Foundation Board Mtg.

July 2

**Summer II Classes
Begin**

June 11-14

Kids' College

Senator Thompson To Graduates: 'Expect the Unexpected'



Senator Robert Thompson

State Senator Robert Thompson of Paragould told BRTC's graduating class they should anticipate those occasional "random, unexpected, and often unwelcome" times—times he termed the "black swan event"—during graduation ceremonies May 10

in the Randolph County Development Center. The approximately 186 graduates have, he observed, already taken a step in the right direction by completing their degrees and credentials.

Reading an excerpt from a book, Thompson noted the foolhardiness of those who, like "turkeys," assume that times will always be as good as they are at present.

"You," he said to the collective class, "are well prepared. You have invested in a solid education."

He noted economists estimate that college graduates are projected to earn around \$570,000 more than high school graduates, and he praised the students and their families for the challenges they have overcome in the effort to earn their degrees.

Student spokesperson for the class Hannah Trammel spoke about the importance of taking advantage of the opportunities



Dr. Wayne Hatcher presents a diploma to Hannah Trammel, Class Spokesperson

(Continued on pg. 3)

Academic Distinction Scholarship is Accepted by Nine

According to Natasha Rush, Financial Aid Specialist, nine area high school seniors have accepted the Academic Distinction Scholarship to attend BRTC in the fall. The scholarship covers full cost of tuition and is renewable up to four semesters provided the student meets certain GPA criteria. The award is based on an ACT composite score of at least 24 or being in the top 10% of the graduating class with a at least a 3.00 GPA.

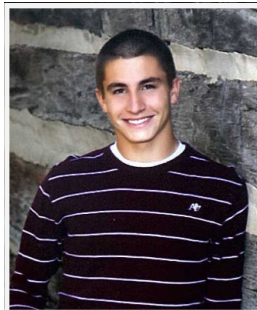
Accepting the awards are Alexa Allen of Pocahontas, Krystal Cowen of Maynard, Betty Hodge of Jonesboro, Clay Hufstедler of Walnut Ridge, Matthew Mann of Lake City, Brooke Pinkus of Imboden, Hope Richey of Marmaduke, Samantha Riggins of Maynard and Lukas Rushing of Paragould.

Allen, daughter of Andy and Dee Allen of Pocahontas, graduated from Pocahontas High School. She plans to earn a degree in education and become a math teacher. Cowen is the daughter of Eldon and Lois Redus of Pocahontas and is a Maynard High School graduate planning to major in elementary education. Hodge is also a graduate of Pocahontas High School. She has taken classes concurrently at BRTC in pursuit of an Associate's degree.

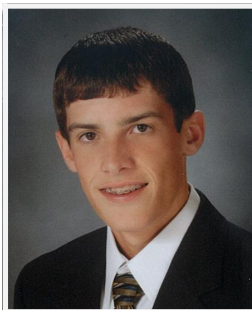
Hufstедler, a graduate of Walnut Ridge High School, is the son of Dina Hufstедler of Walnut Ridge and Cliff Hufstедler of Warm Springs. He plans to complete his

basic courses at BRTC and then transfer to Arkansas State University in Jonesboro to pursue a business degree. Mann is a Riverside High School graduate and the son of Mark and Kelly Mann of Lake City. He is currently undecided about his major. Pinkus, a graduate of Sloan-Hendrix High School, plans to study business and become a certified public accountant.

Richey, daughter of Steve and Ginger Richey of Marmaduke, plans to complete basic courses at BRTC then transfer to Arkansas State University to pursue a degree in Social Work. She graduated



Clay Hufstедler



Matthew Mann



Samantha Riggins

from Marmaduke High School. Riggins is a graduate of Maynard High School and the daughter of Brian Riggins. She is a graduate of Maynard High School and plans to earn an Associate of Arts in Gen Ed degree at BRTC then transfer to ASU to earn a teaching degree. Rushing is the son of Bill and Michelle Rushing of Paragould and a graduate of Greene County Tech High School. He plans to enter the Fire Science/EMT-Paramedic program at BRTC.

For more information on scholarships, contact Rush at 870-248-4000, ext. 4019.

Cook Awarded Eddie Mae Herron Scholarship

Lisa Cook of Paragould has been awarded the Eddie Mae Herron Scholarship for the 2012-2013 academic year. The award is in the amount of \$250 per semester for two semesters (Fall and Spring) provided the recipient maintains a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and is pursuing a certificate or degree from BRTC.

Cook is a 1990 graduate of Ridgecrest High School and is currently attending BRTC working towards an AAS in Business Technology degree with the Health Information option. She is the wife of Robert Lee Cook, mother of Toni Renea Barnes, and daughter of Oliver Wendall Barnes and Lucy Barnes of Paragould.



Lisa Cook

In-STEAD Scholarship is Awarded to Fraction

Tracy Fraction of Jonesboro has been awarded the In-STEAD Scholarship (Scholarship To Encourage the Advancement of Diversity) for the Fall 2012 semester. The scholarship in the amount of \$500 is awarded to a minority student.

Fraction is the daughter of JoElla Brewer of Jonesboro and the mother of Curley and Khilah. She is a graduate of Central High School in West Helena and wants to become a nurse.

Milestone Awards Presented at End-of-Semester Potluck

The end-of-semester potluck for BRTC faculty and staff was held May 9, at which time Milestone presentations were made and the 2012 Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges (AATYC) Award winners were announced.

Milestone awards are presented to BRTC faculty and staff for every five full years of employment with the college. Those receiving a key chain for five years were Dana Bradford, Nanette Carter, Beverly Edington, Bridget Guess, Chris Hankins, Krystal Hendon, Audra Howerton, Lisa Jackson, Angela Loveless, Debbie Nolte, Anne Simpson, Allen Stillwell, Jessie Tunstall, Sonya Walker, Betty White and Mylea White.

Receiving a lapel pin for ten years were Dana Clay, Renee Davis, Phillip Dickson, Debbie Sorg, Priscilla Stillwell, and Sharon Watson. John Utnage received a Cutter and Buck pen for 15 years. Sue Bentley, Angie Caldwell, Carl Hawkins and Peggy Weir each received a coin paperweight for 20 years. And Roy Clark received a clock for 35 years.

The 2012 AATYC Award winners are Sandra Williams, Outstanding Faculty; Jessie Tunstall, Outstanding Staff; Susan Johnson, Outstanding Alumnus; and Trent Morledge, Academic All-Star.



Roy Clark (left) is presented a clock by BRTC Board Chair John Jackson.

BRTC Inks Educational Partnership with Rector

BRTC President Wayne Hatcher and Mayor David Freeman of Rector have signed an agreement that will bring new educational opportunities to the Clay County community, beginning July 1. Described as a pilot project, the initiative provides for BRTC to provide educational and training opportunities that consist of Corporate and Community classes, as well as college transfer classes, through the Northeast Arkansas Innovative Training Center's facility on Main Street in downtown Rector. Some classes are also scheduled to be held at Rector High School, due to the need for a science lab.

"We are very excited and hopeful about this venture," said Dr. Hatcher. "Rector is a progressive community in our service area with a good understanding of the importance of educational opportunities for people of all ages. We think this partnership is a step toward making that happen."

Already on schedule are eight college classes, including developmental classes in math, reading, and English, as well as credit classes in Biological Science and Lab, Freshman English I, Fine Arts Musical, World Civilization to 1660, and Introduction to Psychology. As with all BRTC classes, enrollment must be sufficient to justify the class.

"Our ability to continue this beyond the Fall and Spring semesters will depend on the participation of the people of Rector and surrounding communities," Dr. Hatcher added. "We are hoping this new partnership will reach three groups of prospective students: those people who for whatever reason have not been able to begin their studies in higher education, those in the area who may find this location more convenient and thus increase the likelihood they will enroll, and area high school students who can get a jump start on college credits."



Dr. Wayne Hatcher and Mayor David Freeman

Director of Corporate and Community Education Patti Blaxton is also working to develop a schedule of non-credit classes of interest through this partnership. All those with questions or suggestions regarding credit classes or with interest in teaching Corporate and Community classes should contact Blaxton at 870-248-4000, EXT 4181.

FBF Event Enjoyed on Both Campuses

BRTC's Annual "Fun Before Finals" event was held May 1 on both the Pocahontas and Paragould campuses. "The event began in 2004 as a way for students, faculty and staff to relax and have fun the day before final exams begin," explained Regina Moore, event coordinator for Pocahontas. "Participation in the event continues to grow each year, and this year was no exception. I believe this year's attendance was the largest we've ever had."

There was also a good turnout on the Paragould campus, according to Kathryn Lewis, event coordinator. "I feel it was a huge success considering this was the first Fun Before Finals event on the Paragould campus in several years," she said. "The local businesses helped tremendously and it would not have been possible without them." Moore adds, "The hard work of sponsors, students, faculty, and staff make this event possible each year, and the Fun Before Finals committee is grateful for all the help and support."

Some activities held at Paragould were putt putt, candy guess, Plinko, pedal cars and ring toss. Activities and competitions held on the Pocahontas campus included 3-on-3 basketball, horseshoes, volleyball, golf, baggo, peddle karts, bingo, Wii Just Dance, and Ladder golf.

Food, t-shirts, and door prizes, including a grand prize flat screen TV, were given away at each site. Winners of the TV's were Samantha Lepard in Pocahontas and Vickie Gilbert in Paragould.

"In addition to the generous donors and sponsors, I want to express my appreciation to committee members who helped with the planning and organization of the event, and to the many volunteers who assisted and donated equipment," said Moore. "Thanks to the support of so many individuals, Fun Before Finals continues to be an event enjoyed each year by more and more students, and gives everyone a chance to interact in a fun environment outside the classroom setting."



Graduation Cont'd. from pg. 1

provided by BRTC. Among those, she pointed out, is the opportunity for those still in high school to complete concurrent credit, hastening the time it takes to complete a degree.

The daughter of Scott and Joniece Trammel, Hannah, who is only 18, spoke of the value of attaining her Associate of Arts degree and discussed her future plans. "Thanks to the wonderful concurrent program BRTC offers, I achieved 29 hours during my Pocahontas High School career. It was such a good experience to be able to do this. It helped to really transition me to college as well, and be able to recognize how college classes were going to be. I was surrounded by everyone I knew which gave me the comfort zone to learn the material I would learn in an actual college class. When I stepped into my first class on the BRTC campus I felt a sense of peace because it seemed I had already been in the college atmosphere before. Every concurrent class I took could transfer anywhere I was considering going."

BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher, assisted by Vice President for General Education Dr. Roger Johnson and Vice President for Technical Education Angie Caldwell presented diplomas to the graduates.



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BRTC Mission Statement

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

From the President's Desk



Dr. Wayne Hatcher

The future is always a moving target. We can never know definitively what lies ahead that will impact the needs and opportunities for Black River Technical College, but we can and are preparing for the future through a new cycle of Master Planning here at BRTC. We have held the first of what will be many sessions involving our architect and various staff members. This session entailed input from administrative staff members and Board of Trustee members regarding future trends and needs of this institution. The next sessions will involve aligning the college's Strategic Plan developed with college and community input over the past year with

the facility needs, and viewing these in the context of our budget and financial resources.

Immediate facility needs we have already been able to address with our new architect include completion of a Student Success Lab on the Pocahontas campus, as well as modifications on the Paragould campus to provide much needed office space for Student Services personnel. Bids for both projects are under review, and both projects are projected for completion by the start of the Fall semester.

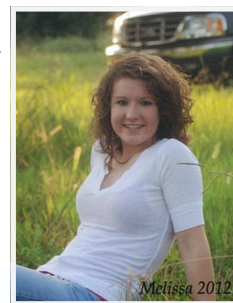
The Success Lab represents an ongoing initiative here to provide students the maximum amount of academic support possible with the goal of helping them to complete their degrees. This lab will become our new tutoring center, with free tutoring available in an extended time frame. The lab will also house computers where students may work with special modules to enhance their skills, and will serve as a testing center.

Just as our previous Master Plan did, our new Master Plan will guide us for many years to come, and it is important that we get it right, realizing it is a plan and thus will be modified as the future unfolds. The process involves many steps, and it is exciting that we have taken the initial one.

Weaver Awarded IBERIABANK Scholarship

Melissa Weaver of Rector has been awarded the IBERIABANK Scholarship for the 2012-2013 academic year at BRTC. The award is in the amount of \$250 for each semester, Fall and Spring, provided the recipient maintains a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, and is enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours. The recipient must be a resident of Arkansas and graduating from an accredited Arkansas High School.

Weaver is the daughter of Barbara and Loran Weaver of Greenville, MO, and just graduated from Rector High School. She plans to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education.



Melissa Weaver