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## Respiratory Care Graduation Honors 19

A total of 19 students received the Associate of Applied Science degree in Respiratory Care in a pinning and graduation ceremony, December 3, in the Randolph County Development Center. The evening was the culmination of an intensive program of study to prepare students to be Respiratory Care practitioners and to make application to the National Board for Respiratory Care to sit for the registry exam. Upon passing the exam, graduates are awarded the Certified Respiratory Therapist credential.

Class president Stevie Howard, who also received the overall academic award, told fellow classmates, "We have what we need to become good therapists; to become great therapists, that's on us."

The program includes a total of 800 clinical hours, under the supervision of clinical preceptors. The student-

selected Outstanding Clinical Preceptor Award was presented to Billie Owens of Poplar Bluff Medical Center. The overall clinical award was presented to Michelle Davis.



Guest speaker Brett Vinson, Director of Respiratory Care at St. Bernard's Medical Center, spoke of his personal experience as a patient with

*Brett Vinson*

*(Continued on pg. 4)*

### Important Dates

- December 12**  
**BRTC Graduation**
- December 13**  
**Semester End Potluck and MSSPS Auction**
- December 14**  
**ACT Test**
- December 23-January 1**  
**Campus Closed for the Holidays**
- January 11**  
**Spring Classes Begin**

## Hankins Acknowledges Nursing Students

The graduation and pinning ceremony for BRTC's Practical Nursing and Registered Nursing students was highlighted by a special address from former Nursing Director Tonya Hankins, speaking to a large audience of family and friends of the 58 nursing graduates on December 5. Hankins headed the program until illness forced her to take a leave of absence.

Speaking very emotionally, she spoke of the students as "my angels, the class that carried us through 2013." She referenced the outpouring of support in the forms of prayers, many fundraising activities, and other personal acts of kindness. These students had completed a large part of their nursing studies with Hankins at the helm. She also acknowledged the invaluable and capable assistance of Interim Nursing Director Ramonda Housh, who stepped into her place at the beginning of the Fall 2013 semester. Hankins also assisted in the pinning ceremony.

The event also included the traditional candle lighting ceremony, culminating with a vocal rendition of "Go Light Your World," performed by Heather Fletcher.

A total of 18 students received a technical certificate in Practical Nursing; 38 received their Associate of Applied Science degrees in Registered Nursing. Guest speaker at the ceremony was Crystal Gillihan, Director of the Arkansas Rural Nursing Education Consortium. Class representatives for the RN students were Matthew Phillips and Samantha Brown, and for the PN students, Debbie

Cline, class president.

BRTC Board of Trustees Chair Sue Gibson conferred degrees, with awards and pins announced and presented by Housh and Nursing faculty members Bridgette Kasinger, Kelley Whitmire, Jennifer Hibbard, Tina Stroud, Nancy Felts, Kelsie Cagle, Tahnee Green, and Kara Malin. Also assisting in the ceremony in the presenting of diplomas was VP for Technical Education Angie Caldwell.



*Tonya Hankins*

PN awards included: Nursing I Theory Award, Laura Kueter-Woods; Nursing I Pharmacology Award, Laura Kueter-Woods; Nursing I IV Therapy Award, Hannah Trammel; Best Geriatric Nurse, Amanda Lane; Nursing II Theory Award, Hannah Trammel; Best Medical-Surgical Nurse, Shea Samons; Nursing III Theory Award, Shea Samons; and Perfect Attendance, Megan Walls, Raven Davis, Hannah Trammel and Laura Kueter-Woods.

*(Continued on pg. 2)*

## Dietetics Attends FNCE

Dietetics students along with Angie Caldwell, VP for Technical Education, and instructors Kathy Murdock and Christina Derbes, recently attended the Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo (FNCE) held at Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center. The event is sponsored by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and is the world's largest annual meeting of food and nutrition professionals.



*Attending the FNCE conference were, left to right, Kathy Murdock, Christina Derbes, Sarah Looney, Samantha Saala, Annaliza Anis, Tracy Yandell and Angie Caldwell.*

"Many of the FNCE sessions were informative, educational and encouraging, and the students were able to see all the areas where DTRs and RDs work in the field of Dietetics," said Derbes. "There were also many breakout sessions on a range of topics including culinary demo, the Affordable Health Care Act, and new food trends. The students were able to pick which sessions they wanted to attend based on the field of nutrition they are most interested in learning about."

Ellie Krieger, a Registered Dietitian who is the host of a show, "Healthy Appetite" on the Food Network was one of the guest speakers at the conference. She's also an author and has written several books on healthy eating. Another guest speaker was Erik Wahl, who spoke about unlocking your potential all the while painting a masterpiece.

## BRTC's Got Talent

The second annual BRTC's Got Talent, co-sponsored by the Student Government Association and the English Club, was held November 21 in the Randolph County Development Center. "The talent show gives students the opportunity to display their talents while competing for cash prizes," said Lisa Inman, English Club advisor.

Winners of the competition were (pictured left to right) Brianna Hazelwood and Caleb Hammon, Audience Choice Award; Cierra Wrench, fifth place; Nathan Mathis, fourth place; Hayden Boles, third place; and Sarah Henson, second place. Angela Grooms, took home the \$500 grand prize, with her original song "Save Me," which she sang and played on the guitar.

Kelly Grooms served as host of the event while Carolyn Collins, Kathryn Lewis, and Rex Flag, all BRTC employees, served as judges. Proceeds made from the night's ticket sales will help pay for future English Club activities.



## Dr. Toney Funds Reading Corner For Adult Education Program



The Adult Education Department of Black River Technical College has a new classroom addition, thanks to the generous donation of Dr. Josh Toney's Sandhill Dental Office. "The 'reading corner' (pictured) is a cozy place for our students to read—not typical of most classrooms," said Tammie Lemmons, Adult Education Director. "We're so appreciative of Dr. Toney's support of our program."

The reading corner is located in the classroom of instructor Cindy Robinett, older sister of Dr. Toney. "My siblings and I grew up knowing how necessary the ability to read is in order to be successful," Robinett said. "I'm very proud and grateful for Josh's desire to help others."

The BRTC Adult Education Program offers free classes to adults who need to earn their GED, study basic skills before taking the COMPASS Test or enroll in college classes, become employable by learning computer skills, resume writing, and much more. The program is located on the campus of BRTC in Pocahontas and has satellite classrooms in Walnut Ridge, Strawberry, Corning, Piggott and Rector. For more information, call (870) 248-4130, or visit the BRTC Adult Education Program Facebook page or the BRTC website at [www.blackrivertech.org](http://www.blackrivertech.org).

## Hankins Cont'd. from Pg. 1

Additional PN awards included: Award of Recognition, Megan Walls, Laura Kueter-Woods, Shea Samons and Raven Davis; Outstanding Community Service, Kelley Hardin; and Florence Nightingale Award, Hannah Trammel, Shea Samons and Debbie Cline.

The following Registered Nursing Awards were presented: Nursing Process I Award, Janaea Phillips; Best Medical-Surgical Nurse, Elisabeth Woodard and Samantha Brown; Nursing Process II Award, Rebecca Collins; Best Obstetrics Nurse, Janaea Phillips, Deanna Koons and Brandy Cooper; Nursing III Process Award, Tiffany Kirby.

Additional RN awards included: Best Critical Care Nurse, Samantha Davis and Jasmine Ray; Most Professional Clinical Nurse, Lesley Nailling and Paula Cate; Leadership Award, Janaea Phillips and Aaron Franklin; Perfect Attendance, Rebecca Collins and Tracy Hayes; and Florence Nightingale Award, Samantha Brown, Sarah Weatherford and Janaea Phillips.

A reception following the ceremony was underwritten by several facilities where BRTC nursing students complete their clinicals: Harris Hospital, Greene Acres Nursing Home, Pocahontas Health and Rehab Center, Randolph Home and St. Bernard's Medical Center, and by Pinnacle Frames of Pocahontas.

## Germany Featured at Country Feast

Dr. Jan Ziegler, BRTC's Vice President of Development and instructor of German and The Holocaust, was guest speaker at the Country Feast held last week in the Randolph County Development Center. Germany was the featured country at the biannual event, which was established several years ago by Dr. Sandy Baltz for her world civilization and art classes.

"The event is a way to provide an educational experience by focusing on different cultures," Baltz explained. Art students produced related pieces of art while history students gave reports related to the featured country on topics such as geography, education, sports, military, trade resources, ceremonies, architecture and government.

Dietetics students, led by instructor Kathy Murock, prepared authentic foods, and the Kimbrough Choir, directed by Joniece Trammel and accompanied by Glenda Blasini, provided entertainment through songs, which featured the singing of "Silent Night" in German. "They could not have performed it any better," said Ziegler, who had assisted

the choir with pronunciation. "It was perfect!"

In addition to teaching German, Ziegler has traveled extensively throughout Germany and German-speaking countries and while working on her MA in German Studies, which was a total immersion program with all instruction in the German language, she completed a three-week summer study in Heidelberg. She also holds a BA in French, an MA in English and an Ed.D in Educational Leadership, all from ASU.

Ziegler began at BRTC in 1993 as instructor of English and became Division Chair of General Education in 1995 while continuing to teach English and German. She has served as VP of Development since 2003.



*Dr. Jan Ziegler*

## Jackson Elected ArkADE President

Lisa Jackson, faculty member at BRTC, has been named ArkADE (Arkansas Association for Developmental Education) President for 2013-14 during the Annual Conference held on September. Last year she served as President-Elect and was responsible for organizing this year's conference held at Mountain Harbor Resort and Spa on Lake Ouachita in Hot Springs.



*Lisa Jackson*

As President, Jackson will preside over all meetings and conferences, appoint all committee members, and act as an ex-officio member on all committees. She will also assist the new President-Elect in organizing the 2014 conference to be held at Harding University in Searcy next September.

ArkADE is comprised of faculty who teach developmental math and English courses at two and four year colleges in Arkansas.

Jackson has been a faculty member at Black River Technical College since 2002 where she teaches developmental math courses, Business Statistics, Introduction to Education and K-12 Educational Technology.



## Art Students Add Mural to Choir Room

The choir room, TM 109, at BRTC has a new look, thanks to students in Dr. Sandy Baltz' art classes. Kimbrough Choir Director Joniece Trammel wanted a mural painted on one of the walls in the music room.

"I felt a mural would add depth and feeling to the room," said Trammel. "To truly hear musical messages, one must listen with the heart and not just the ear, and visual representations aid in that process."

Trammel approached Baltz with the idea and Baltz had all of her Design students submit their ideas and then the choir chose two final pieces, created by Cally Shore and Brandon Moore. Those two pieces were combined into one design that was then transferred onto the wall by students in Baltz' Drawing and Painting classes.

"The telephone poles and lines are symbolic of the humming sound and modes of communication," Baltz explained. "The musical notes on the lines and in the birds represent the birds singing, just as the choir does. The fallen notes are green to hint of grass and the growth of a new idea or 'song'."

Students who participated in painting the mural were Mike Reagan, Dawn Jansen, Betty Hodge, Dakota Lemmons, Kevin Ellis, Brandon Moore, Arthur Crow, Cally Shore, Felicia Graves, MacKenzie Hibbs, MacKenzie Bland, Ashley Fultner, Brandi Bookout, Zach Carson, Leah Miller and Debbie Haferkamp.



## Hendrix Joins BRTC Staff

Robert Hendrix of Marmaduke has been hired as Physical Plant Director for Black River Technical College. He has worked for the past three and a half years for Nordex in Jonesboro as Production Supervisor and prior to that for 15 years at Nucor Steel in Blytheville as Maintenance Electrician.



*Robert Hendrix*

Hendrix is a 1988 graduate of Marmaduke High School and earned AAS degree from Arkansas Northeastern College in Blytheville in 2007.



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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  
President of BRTC*

It's that time of year when many of us reflect on the past, especially in remembering the good times. There are certainly many great things that have happened here at BRTC over the years. There has been tremendous growth, an increase in career opportunities for students, major contributions to economic development and so much more.

Most importantly, in my opinion, are the relationships that have developed among the faculty and staff, and the faculty and staff consistently going that "extra mile" to help students be success-

ful. In fact, because of their constant commitment to our students, I must admit that I sometimes wonder how many miles some of them have left before they collapse.

Having noted in the past that I have served at both the university and community college levels, I can emphatically state that none of their faculty and staff care as much for each other and the students as those here at BRTC. I'm not even sure it's possible for there to be another place to compare. Each BRTC employee contributes to this overall atmosphere that makes such a difference for so many.

Jan Ziegler, who is retiring at the end of this semester, is an example of someone selflessly giving such a tremendous amount of time, energy and other resources to help BRTC make a difference in so many lives. I doubt any of us truly realize the positive impact she has made.

However, as I said, Dr. Ziegler is just one example. We have many faculty who both research and publish, we have faculty and staff who are the "doers" on committees, and we have so many who step up for that student who needs an advocate due to their special situation. And let's not forget those who come here every day, do their job, do it well, and do it quietly.

## Respiratory Cont'd from Pg. 1

severe injuries and his experiences with a respiratory therapist who influenced his own decision to enter the field of respiratory care. He is an alumni of BRTC's Respiratory Care program, and recipient of the 2013 Arkansas Society for Respiratory Care Practitioner of the Year Award. He challenged the graduates to remain current and to be flexible as they move forward in their careers.

BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher conferred degrees, with assistance from Angie Caldwell, VP for Technical Education, Kimberly Bigger, BRTC Registrar, Respiratory Care Director Suezette Hicks, and instructors Jessica Alphin and Jason Linam.

The ceremony also recognized several students for completion of their AAS General Technology in Health Professions Respiratory emphasis and/or the Health Professions Respiratory Technical Certificate.

Yes, it's that time of year to spend a few moments to reflect on the past...on the good times AND the good people. I am thankful that we have a lot of both here at BRTC.