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## Holocaust Survivor Speaks to Over 2,000



*Al Münzer speaking to the audience about his family including two sisters he lost.*

Al Münzer shared his family's story of sacrifice and survival with audiences totaling more than 2,000 on the campus of BRTC during the college's Holocaust Survivor Series. With a backdrop of family photos, the Washington, D.C., physician chronicled the events of his family's life from the time Hitler came to power in 1933 through the next twelve years.

The presentation marked the 8th such presentation by a Holocaust Survivor. The event is made possible through BRTC's partnership with the United States Holocaust

Memorial Museum in Washington, D. C., and through the financial support of several sponsors. These include Mike and Barbara Dunn, sponsors from the beginning, according to Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development. Also sponsoring with financial support are First National Bank of Pocahontas, Walnut Ridge, Hoxie and Bono; IBERIABank, and Integrity First Bank. Ziegler pointed out that the event has grown and been sustained through the efforts of event coordinator Dina Hufstедler, Project Specialist of the Office of Development. "Dina deserves the appreciation of all of us," she said. "She is the individual who pulls together all the details—from corresponding with the USHMM folks to the sponsors to the school districts from all around—she does a fantastic job!"

BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher expressed his appreciation also to the event sponsors and to the college staff who worked to make possible the various presentations by both Münzer and Sarah Campbell, Program Officer of the USHMM. She presented a session on the role of law enforcement officers during the Holocaust and lessons learned from the experience to the students in BRTC's Law Enforcement Training Academy. Dr. Münzer also spoke to this group.

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### Important Dates

- October 31– November 2**  
*Constructing a Shaving Horse / Furniture Workshop*
- November 7-8**  
*PTK Blood Drive*
- November 8**  
*BRTC English Club Talent Show*
- November 13**  
*Business Etiquette Luncheon*
- November 16**  
*Law Enforcement Graduation*

## “SOAR” Partnership to Provide ACT Tutoring

A partnership between Corning Savings and Loan, Pocahontas High School, and Black River Technical College will provide a session of special tutoring in a program dubbed “Project SOAR (Sail Over Academic Remediation).” The program will serve PHS juniors and seniors who are working to raise their ACT scores to a level at which they are not required to take remedial coursework when they enroll in the college of their choice. The tutoring sessions will be held during students' study hall beginning the week of November 5 and end December 7, in preparation for the December ACT testing date.



*Kyle Baltz, CEO/President of Corning Savings and Loan, signs the Project SOAR agreement. Present at the signing were, from left, Joyce Radcliff, CS&L Chief Operating Officer, BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher, PHS Principal Iry Pfeiffer, and PHS Guidance Counselor, Lynne Hogan.*

This is the third such session, and is made possible through the generous funding support of Corning Savings and Loan, with support also from the college and the high school, according to BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher. Both of the previous SOAR sessions resulted in impressive student gains on ACT scores, saving the students and their parents hundreds of dollars each and adding to the likelihood of college success.

Prospective tutors and prospective student participants should contact the office of the PHS Counselor Lynne Hogan at 892-4573, EXT 4004.

# Survivor

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In his presentation to students from BRTC and throughout the region, as well as to members of the community, Dr. Münzer detailed the special events of his family's life as they coincided with events on the world stage: his parents' marriage in late 1932 came at a time when Hitler was poised to become Chancellor; the birth of their first daughter, Eva, came during the infamous 1936 Berlin Olympics, when Adolf Hitler's propaganda portrayed to the world a Berlin that did not exist; the birth of their second daughter, Leah, occurred precisely during Kristallnacht in 1938, when the furor and brutality Jews could henceforth expect was reflected in the rampant destruction of Jewish temples and synagogues and businesses. And Münzer's circumcision at eight days coincided almost exactly with the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the United States' entry into the war.

Dr. Münzer's native Holland had fallen to the Nazi regime in May, 1940, after less than a week of battle. The impact on Holland's Jews, approximately 140,000 individuals, occurred gradually. But by the time his parents knew they were expecting their third child, the seriousness of the situation for Jews in occupied Holland was undeniable. Dr. Münzer's parents decided to go into hiding, and chose to place their daughters with one family and their infant son with another. He explained that the decision the family of Anne Frank made to go into hiding as a family unit was rare. More typical, due to practical reasons in part, was the separating of family members. The compelling reason for this decision, he noted, was because they realized that in the event the hiding attempt did not succeed, at least some of the family might survive.

The nine-month-old Al Münzer eventually wound up with Tole, an Indonesian man, and an Indonesian "nanny," Mime Saina, where he found love and nurturing in the protection of this family.



*Students get autographs from Dr. Munzer before their group picture is taken.*

Both his natural parents experienced deportation from the Netherlands and harrowing experiences in many concentration and death camps, including Auschwitz, where their status of slave laborers meant they were not to be executed. The fate of their two daughters, however, differed tragically.

The two older Münzer children were discovered to be in hiding when their foster father, a Dutch man, became angry and "outed" his wife, a German woman, and the girls, to local authorities. Eva and Leah were transported eventually to Auschwitz and were immediately sent to the gas chambers in February, 1944. They were eight and six years old, respectively.

Al Münzer would eventually be reunited with his mother, though his father, weakened from the extremely harsh conditions he had to endure at various camps, had died just shortly after liberation. By now a child of just under five, he had no memory of his mother, and considered Mima Saina in that role.

Mother and son would in time re-connect. The loss of the two children would have probably been more than she could bear, he noted, except that she still had a son who needed her to live. Münzer credits his mother's inspiration and commitment as major factors in his own decision to become a physician and to devote his life to helping people.

The survivor concluded his presentation by telling his audience that on balance, he remains convinced the good in the world outweighs the bad, and he encouraged people to have the courage to speak out in the face of injustice of any kind.

## Staff Additions, Changes Announced



*Angie French*

Angie French of Poca-hontas has been named Purchasing Technician in the Department of Finance. She has been working in the Department of Student Services as Administrative Specialist for the past two years. She previously worked

as Senior Sales Director/Corporate Trainer for BC Spa & Skincare where she was employed for six years. She is a junior accounting major at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.



*Debbie Martin*

Debbie Martin of Poca-hontas has been hired as Administrative Specialist in the Department of Student Services. Prior to joining BRTC, she worked at Baltz Chevy and Equipment for

five years as the Finance and Insurance Manager. Before that she worked for 16 years at Waterloo Industries in the Department of Human Resources. She has lived in Poca-hontas all of her life where her family owns and operates a farm.



*Mylea White*

Mylea White has been named Resource Assistance for Program Completion in the Department of Technical Education. She has been working at BRTC since 2006 as Administration Specialist in the Department of Student Services. She is a graduate of Corning High School and resides in Biggers. She holds an AAS in Business Technology degree and an AA in General Education degree, both from BRTC, and is working towards a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from University of Arkansas - Little Rock. Prior to joining BRTC, she worked at First Community Bank in Poca-hontas for eight years.

## Chamber Banquet



*Ann Savage, Director of Marketing and PR at BRTC, assumed duties as the new Chair of the Randolph County Chamber of Commerce Board at the Chamber annual meeting held last week. She is pictured here with Luther Lewis, Administrator of Five Rivers Medical Center. FRMC was named the Randolph County Chamber Member of the Year.*

## PBL, SGA Donate to Arkansas Diaper Depot

The BRTC chapter of PBL (Phi Beta Lambda) recently participated in a diaper drive for the Arkansas Diaper Depot as part of the statewide leadership conference, according to PBL Co-Adviser Darend Kersey. They presented their collection of over 2000 baby wipes and diapers during PBL's Fall State Leadership Conference held October 19 at Pulaski Tech in Little Rock. "SGA donated the majority of items collected," noted Kersey.

BRTC's Student Government Association (SGA) purchased \$250 worth of baby diapers and baby wipes to contribute to the diaper drive, according to SGA Adviser Phillip Dickson. "This effort is part of SGA's commitment to philanthropic work."

In 2010, a study done by the "Huggies® Every



*Students pictured from left: Michael Isham, Michael Secrest, Kaleb Hunt, Jeff Martin, Darend Kersey, Olen Hunt, Kim Keough, Heather Dunlap, Abbie Tolbert, Lisa Cook, Edward Kelson, Secrest England*

Last year, Arkansas Diaper Depot distributed over 420,000 diapers in 53 counties across Arkansas through a network of partner organizations and disaster relief efforts. However, resources are limited because very few people are aware of the diaper need in Arkansas and Diaper Depot continues working towards meeting the need.

Kersey, along with business instructor Kellee Hardage, accompanied 11 students from both Pocahontas and Paragould campuses to the conference.

Little Bottom" initiative found that 1 in 3 families struggle with providing diapers for their children. These families may be forced to choose between buying diapers and providing necessities, according to the survey.

The keynote speaker at the conference was Rodney Parks, Director of Development at Philander Smith College. Parks has held many different leadership positions throughout his career and he noted his involvement in PBL during college as the motivating factor in his success. Students attended various workshops, which included topics of Financial Planning, Ice Breakers, the Oz Principle, and the True Colors personality test.

"The conference was a great experience for the PBL students, and we appreciate being given the opportunity to attend," said Kersey. "I also want to thank SGA for their generous contribution to the diaper drive."



*From Left: Darend Kersey, Michael Isham, Trent Moreledge, Michael Secrest, Adam Byrd and Shannon Ogden stand in front of diapers to be donated.*

## BRTC's Pathways Program Honored

BRTC's Pathways program was honored during a luncheon ceremony at the recent AATYC meeting in Hot Springs. Harold Criswell, Deputy Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, presented a plaque to BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher and BRTC's CPI (Pathways) Director Tom Baker in acknowledgement of the college's attainment of program goals.

"CPI programs in each institution are assigned a variety of program goals each year," Baker explained. "Upon attainment of those goals, those programs are awarded financial rewards referred to as Performance Based Student Sup-



*From Left: Harold Criswell, acting Deputy Director of ADHE, BRTC President, Dr. Wayne Hatcher and Tom Baker, Director of Career Pathways*

port. This money is to be spent on student support at that institution. Thanks to the dedicated work of the Career Pathways team at BRTC, we have met and/or surpassed all of those goals and have been awarded \$24,085.24."

Dr. Hatcher expressed his appreciation to the Pathways staff for their efforts, and congratulated them on the award. "This program is one of the most important and one of the most successful in terms of its impact on our students. By providing assistance in the form of gasoline vouchers and child care, as well as other assistance

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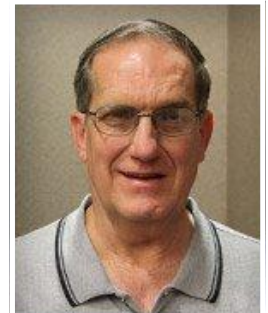
## Noel Reappointed

Ray Noel of Paragould has been reappointed to the Black River Technical College Board of Trustees. The reappointment was made recently by Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe.

This will be Noel's third term on the Board. He was first appointed in 1998 and has completed two seven-year terms. His current term will expire June 30, 2019.

"We are very pleased to have Ray's expertise and guidance on our Board of Trustees for another term," said BRTC President Wayne Hatcher. "Working with Ray is always a pleasure, and I really appreciate him. He brings important representation from the Greene County Community along with a proven knowledge of and commitment to this institution."

Noel is the Human Resources Manager of Garlock Rubber Technologies in Paragould.



*Ray Noel*



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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*

Although I'm no longer the "new" president, oftentimes the question still comes up as to how do I like my job and living in northeast Arkansas. My response comes from the heart, "This will more than do until I get to heaven!" In other words, I'm more than happy and satisfied with my situation—and realize that many others would love to be in this situation. From a regional perspective this heavily agricultural area is very similar to where my wife and I grew up in central Texas, so feel at home here.

As for being president of Black River Technical College—there is no better community college for

which I can imagine anyone would want to serve and be a part. The reasons for that are many, but there isn't room in this corner to give you a full explanation, so I'll attempt to give you the concept of why that is the reality. The challenges facing higher education are not only daunting; many institutions are in danger of failing. This situation exists partially because in the past higher education—as a whole—should have been more concerned about being more efficient and effective in the use of its resources. Unfortunately, too many continue to wear total blinders, unable to see where the victory line is for their students.

BRTC wears blinders...but ours are different. BRTC's blinders are sort of like those that horses used to wear more often years ago. Our blinders keep us focused on our objectives, of which our primary one is student success. We recognize that our students are in a race. It's called life. BRTC is continuing to respond to their needs to win that race. As noted in previous editions of this newsletter, our faculty are changing instructional delivery methods, some drastically. We are also tracking what changes are working and which ones need tweaking-or eliminating. Measuring our efficiency and effectiveness and evaluating OUR performance by how

successfully our students perform now and in the job market is our objective. BRTC does not "use" your taxpayer dollars...we "invest" them in our product—our students (of whom 98% stay in Arkansas). For that you get an annual economic impact of \$180 million dollars, according to a recent study. You see, at BRTC our blinders show us the victory line...it's the line where our graduates go to their employers to pick up their checks. Other institutions will just have to catch up...perhaps they would like to borrow our blinders.

## Pathways

### Cont'd from pg. 3

when appropriate, Pathways has been responsible for helping many students attain or continue on their quest to attain college degrees and certificates."

Baker noted that due to budget cuts to the state program, the award this year is approximately half of BRTC's award last year. Both he and Dr. Hatcher expressed dismay that such a successful program with its proven effectiveness is experiencing declining financial support at a time when increasing the number of Arkansans with college degrees holds such high priority for the state.