REACH Sites Open Saturday

(See details on page 2)
Country Feast Focuses on Nigeria

Students of Dr. Sandy D. Baltz, Joniece Trammel and Kathy Murdock combined their efforts for the annual Country Feast held Tuesday at BRTC. The event featured the African nation, Nigeria, and special guest speaker Reverent Athanasius Okeyi, a native of Nigeria.

Those in Dr. Baltz’s Art classes displayed works relating to Nigeria produced in Drawing II, Graphic Design I, and Painting classes, while her World Civilization students gave presentations on such areas as the resources, architecture, geography, and foods of Nigeria.

Guests enjoyed several musical selections performed by the Kimbrough Choir, directed by Mrs. Trammel, and accompanied by Glenda Blasini. They also enjoyed many ethnic Nigerian foods prepared by Dietetics students of Mrs. Murdock.

Following Father Athanasius’ presentation, members of the audience had opportunity to ask several questions about his perceptions and experiences. He explained the origin of the name “Nigeria,” and also explained that the West African nation, formerly a colony of Britain, is actually a constructed nation consisting of about 250 ethnic tribes, many of whom continue to feel allegiance not to Nigeria but to their respective ethnic groups. Among those groups is the Igbo people, who have produced such great writers as Chinua Achebe and Chimamanda Adichie.

He noted that there is actually not a “Nigerian culture,” but rather many African cultures that exist within the country.

Advisory Council Member Speaks to Electricity/Electronics Students

Dennis White, advisory member for the BRTC Industrial Electricity/Electronics program, and electrician/salesman for ARI of Jonesboro, visited with students in the Electricity/Electronics program at BRTC last week. He talked to the students about the current job market and how to successfully conduct themselves during job interviews.

White graduated from BRTC’s Electricity/Electronics program 30 years ago and has since been a long-term supporter of BRTC, where he currently serves on the Advisory Council. He emphasized the importance of good work ethic and the need to conduct oneself in a professional manner.

Retired Nursing faculty member, Judy Forrester, returned to assist with the judging of the Job Interview category. She was recognized and awarded the “Georgia Lee Tucker” award. This award is given for outstanding and dedicated service to ALPNA. “We are so proud of Judy’s involvement in ALPNA and her receipt of this award,” Housh stated.

REACH Begins Open Dates April 28

This weekend will mark the first Saturday in which the William Looney Tavern and the Rice-Upshaw House will be open to the public. BRTC selected this initial date as well as the October date to coincide with the Dalton Rural Fire Department’s annual Fish Fry fundraiser.

Both sites will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with volunteers on hand to give tours and answer questions. There will be an entrance fee of three dollars per person. This fee will support the upkeep of the sites along with going towards future special events.

During the months of April through October the William Looney Tavern and the Rice-Upshaw House will be open the Second Saturday of each month. From May through September the Second Saturdays are May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11 and September 8. The sites will also be open on October 20.

For more information regarding the REACH sites please contact Black River Technical College’s Development Office at 870-248-4000, Ext 4189.
PBL Students Compete, Win Awards

Members of BRTC’s chapter of PBL (Phi Beta Lambda) attended the State Leadership Conference April 12-14 in Little Rock and received several awards during competitions, according to Darenta Kersey, PBL co-advisor.

The Leadership Conference is an annual event held for state chapters of PBL. Participants attend business-related and leadership development workshops and participate in competitive events.

Students placing in competitions were: Laurie Wilkerson, 1st place – Machine Transcription; Vickie Broadwater, 3rd place – Computerized Accounting; Jason Moseley, 4th place – Business Communications; and Shelby Borst and Michelle Duran, 5th place – Desktop Publishing.

BRTC’s chapter received 1st place in Largest Local Chapter Membership and 5th place in Largest Local Chapter Membership Associate (2-year colleges).

“We are very proud of our PBL chapter members who competed in the State Leadership Conference and competitions,” said Kersey. “This was their first competition and the students did an excellent job of representing BRTC.”

PBL is an association of Future Business Leaders of America at the postsecondary level. Co-advisors along with Kersey are Shannon Ogden, business instructor, and Debbie Prichard, Business Department Head.

Anyone interested in learning more about BRTC’s chapter can contact one of the advisors at 870-248-4000.

cancer patient, naming him an honorary police officer. Clay is the son of Mitchell Clay and Melanie Clay, both of Pocahontas, and the grandson of Larry and Melissa Kirk of Pocahontas, Jackie Mann of Jonesboro, and Linda and Robert Jones of Imboden. This past October, Clay was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and continues treatment through St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

“Gage wants to be a police officer when he grows up,” explained LETA Director Steve Shults, “so his grandfather, Larry Kirk, former State Trooper and Randolph County Sheriff, brought him to the academy to show him around. The students fell in love with him and wanted to do something special.” During the graduation ceremony, Clay received a certificate, cap, t-shirt and a real badge, all made possible by contributions from the LETA students.
Excellence has many faces. It comes in many shapes and sizes, many flavors and colors, all of which are important and worthy and deserve our acknowledgement. From the time I arrived here at BRTC, one of the goals I hoped we could realize was to find more ways to shine the light on the excellence of our students through a campus-wide event that would acknowledge and celebrate their achievements. This week’s Student Recognition Ceremony is our first attempt in what I hope will become a new annual tradition as we work to achieve that goal.

This event is to some extent a traditional one, but it goes beyond the usual in many ways. Our ceremony is designed to acknowledge not only the traditional outstanding departmental awards and the highest achieving students in each area, but also the many examples of students’ achievements and outstanding contributions they make outside the classroom.

This college understands that educating the whole student entails providing opportunities for him or her to connect classroom learning in practical ways, through the sorts of involvement student organizations make possible. We encourage student engagement in our growing number of college clubs and organizations, and we understand their achievements and outstanding services through these organizations also deserve recognition. These achievements may come through awards at conferences and competitions; they may be achievements through volunteer activities that benefit the college or community.

So we have designed an event that recognizes students that have achieved awards and honors through their involvement in BRTC organizations, as well as the many high achievers in the class-