IBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament Nets Over $40,000

The 20th Annual IBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament, held September 27 at Rolling Hills Country Club in Pocahontas, raised over $40,000 to help fund BRTC student scholarships, according to Dina Hufstedler, Tournament Chair. This is the largest fundraiser of the BRTC Foundation and the primary source of funding for Foundation scholarships.

Each year, the tournament is co-sponsored and underwritten by IBERIABANK with a donation of $10,000 to help cover the costs of the tournament. “This year’s total of $42,129.06 is nearly $10,000 more raised than last year’s record-breaking $32,325.32,” noted Kelly Rose, IBERIABANK VP/Commercial Relationship Manager and BRTC Foundation Board Chair.

“The support that the BRTC Foundation receives from our partners in the region is remarkable,” Rose continued. “After 20 years, the golf event continues to grow in number of sponsors and funds raised. The BRTC Foundation is grateful to all who worked so hard to make this a record setting success, but special thanks to all of the event sponsors, many of whom have supported the event from the very beginning.”

New to the tournament this year was an added sponsorship level for $1,000, which comes with a scholarship naming opportunity. The idea to add this new four-star level was presented by Rose and approved by the committee. “I felt this was a way to generate additional revenue for the tournament while offering something extra to sponsors – the opportunity to name a scholarship,” Rose said.

Four-star sponsors this year were: Dr. Josh Toney, Dr. Karla Baltz, Pinnacle Frames and Accents, Pocahontas Aluminum, Clay Country Electric Coop Corp., Northeast Arkansas Turf Care and Nursery, Allison and Ruby Architects, Ramson’s Construction, VALIC, Monsanto and BRTC’s Student Government Association.

All tournament sponsors, of all levels, along with scholarship recipients will be recognized at the Annual Scholarship Luncheon scheduled for April 24.

“I am humbled by the support of our community,” said Hufstedler. “Even when individuals and businesses are experiencing difficult times of their own, they never fail to rally in support of this fundraiser and the college. That shows the value and pride our community places on education and their willingness to help students achieve their goals. Without their support these achievements would not be possible.”

A total of 61 teams played in this year’s tournament, for both morning and afternoon rounds.

Winners of the morning “Championship Flight” were: 1st place – Jeff May and Greg Thompson; 2nd place – Kelly Scohey and Greg Ward; 3rd place – Billy Allen and Mike Vincent. “A Flight” winners were: 1st place – Billy Keedy and Kirk Brinkley; 2nd place – Jeff Williams and Matt Hibbs; 3rd place – Jim Dunlap and Sam Dunlap. “B
Muslim Journeys Program to Feature Islams in America

Muslim Journeys: American Stories, the second in a series of seminars under the Bridging Cultures Bookshelf Collection, will be presented at the Eddie Mae Herron Center Tuesday, October 22, at 6 p.m. “This program will focus on the presence of Muslims in the United States from Colonial days to present times. American Muslims’ stories draw attention to ways people of varying religious, cultural, ethnic, and racial backgrounds interact to shape our communities and our collective past,” stated Anne Simpson, librarian at BRTC.

“During the 18th and 19th centuries, tens of thousands of Muslims were captured in Africa and brought to America to be sold as slaves,” Simpson explains. “Through their religion, these Muslims fought both to survive slavery and to make sense of their circumstances.”

The presentation will include a film, Prince Among Slaves, which is a historical documentary based on Terry Alford’s biography of Abd al-Rahman Ibrahima who was a prince of a West African Muslim nation. Ibrahima was brought to Mississippi in 1788 and sold as a slave. He was from an African kingdom larger and more developed than the newly formed United States where he received his education and studied farming and agriculture.

In 1807, Ibrahima was recognized by an Irish ship’s surgeon as the son of an African king who had saved his life many years earlier. Prince, as he had become known to local Natchez, Mississippi, residents, endured the humiliation of slavery without ever losing his dignity or his hope for freedom. Against the backdrop of American slavery, Ibrahima hoped to free his wife and children and return to his African country. He was finally freed by President John Quincy Adams in 1828 after 40 years in captivity.

The Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys is a project of the National Endowment for the Humanities conducted in cooperation with the American Library Association, the Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies at George Mason University, the Oxford University Press, Twin Cities Public Television, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.

“The collection of materials was chosen to familiarize the public with Islam and the cultural heritage of Islamic civilizations around the world,” Simpson explained. “These materials are intended to address the need of the American public for trustworthy and accessible resources about Muslim beliefs and practices and the cultural heritage associated with Islamic peoples. The programs are presented with the idea of bringing cultures together and promoting intercultural understandings.”

The event is free and open to the public. For more information on the collection, contact Simpson at the BRTC library, 870-248-4061, or email anne.simpson@blackrivertech.edu. The books and films in the collection are available to students, faculty, staff, and community members.

New Employees/Position Changes Announced at BRTC

The Department of Human Resources at BRTC has announced additional new employees and position changes for the fall semester.

Amanda Dobbs of Evening Shade is serving as Interim Coordinator of Student Affairs on the Paragould Campus. She is a 1995 graduate of River Valley High School and received a BSE in English from Williams Baptist College in 2008, an ME in Gifted Education from Arkansas State University in 2009, and a SCCA from ASU in 2012. She has been working as Weekend College Coordinator for BRTC since January. She previously worked one year as Director of Admissions for Ozarka College, two years as adjunct instructor for ACT Academy, three years as ACT instructor for Northcentral Educational Cooperative, and three years as English instructor at Highland High School.

Rebecca Brown (not pictured) of Maynard has been hired as Institutional Services Assistant on the Pocahontas campus. She previously worked for two years with Americare as a Home Health Aide and then two years as a Home Health Aide for an individual employer.

Benjamin Dobbs of Hoxie has been hired as Institutional Services Assistant on the Paragould campus. He has worked for the past 13 years at Wal-Mart in Walnut Ridge and earned his GED from BRTC.

Tahnee Green of Pocahontas has accepted the position of Nursing Instructor. She is a 2006 graduate of Pocahontas High School and earned a BSN from ASU in 2010. She previously worked for three years at St. Bernard’s Regional Medical Center in ICU and NICU.

Sherry Griggs of Maynard has been hired to fill the position of Accountant I in the Department of Finance, where she previously worked as Fiscal Support Specialist. She joined the BRTC staff in 2001 after working for V&B Manufacturing in Walnut Ridge. She earned an AAS from BRTC in 2009 and a BS in Accounting in 2011 from ASU.

Sarah Waltermire and Bridgette Kasinger of Jonesboro have been hired as Clinical Site Coordinator in the nursing department. She is a 2008 graduate of BRTC’s LPN program and received a BSN degree in 2011 from ASU. She was hired as Allied Health Nursing instructor at BRTC in February 2011, and then worked as an MDS Coordinator for an extended care facility from April to September of this year.
**Golf Tournament**

Flight” winners were: 1st place – Ben Runnels and Darren Plaster; 2nd place – Garry Palmer and Gene Bloodworth; 3rd place - Leo Baltz and Steve Shults. Closest to the pin winners were: Greg Ward, Alex Phillips, Tom McClain and Darrell Fears.


Winners and their prizes for highest scores were: 1st place – Jonathan Rorex of Walnut Ridge – ASU Red Wolves package, compliments of Fran Cavenaugh, Goin’ Postal, and ASU Red Wolves Foundation; and 2nd place – Ty Taylor of Pocahontas – two tickets to “Night of Stars Under the Stars” featuring The Broadway Tenors, compliments of Fran Cavenaugh.

“In addition to the numerous sponsors and donors who gave so generously, I want to thank all who volunteered their time,” said Hufstedler, “including BRTC Foundation Board members, BRTC faculty and staff, members of BRTC’s President’s Leadership Council and Student Government Association, staff and board members of Rolling Hills Country Club, and employees of IBE-RIABANK, Baltz Chevy-Olds, and Integrity 1st Bank.”

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**Dietetics Attends Fall ANFP Expo**

Kathy Murdock and Christina Derbes, Dietetics instructors at BRTC, and Sandra Parker, BRTC’s Food Preparation Coordinator, recently traveled to Hot Springs with Dietetics students to attend the fall meeting and expo of the ANFP (Association of Nutrition and Foodservice Professionals).

While there, students heard various speakers on subjects ranging from sanitation/safety, leadership, time management and modified diets. Some also attended CDM exam review. Murdock gave a presentation on “The Importance of Family Meals,” and the students entertained the audience with a skit on family mealtime and hosted a game show called “Family Food.”

Two state meetings are held each year and officers are elected during the fall meeting. This year, Parker was elected to serve as President of the Northcentral District of ANFP. She will be responsible for helping to coordinate four meetings held throughout the year in Piggott, Walnut Ridge, Jonesboro and Pocahontas, and will also oversee the awarding of professional credits to attendees.

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**Employees**

before returning to BRTC. Prior to that she worked for St. Bernard’s Regional Medical Center in Jonesboro in the areas of urology, pediatrics and ICU.

Sarah Waltermire of Walnut Ridge has been hired as Coordinator of Student Recruitment and Concurrent Enrollment. She holds a BSE in English, an MA in English and an MA in Heritage Studies, all from Arkansas State University. She has worked the past three years as a certified paralegal in Jonesboro. Before that she worked as a graduate assistant at ASU, a summer student fellowship in D.C., and one year as an adjunct instructor of English for BRTC. She worked for two years as Director of Student Programs and Activities at the University of Arkansas-Monticello, and two years as Instructor of Writing Tutorial for ASU, and eight years as Childcare Site Director for the YMCA in Jonesboro.

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**Cont’d from Pg. 1**

From the President’s Desk…

Loyalty to BRTC is alive and well, as almost all of our sponsors renewed their contribution, with many increasing the monetary amount of their sponsorship. It is very gratifying to know we live in a place where our citizens not only realize the difference they can make for others, but give of themselves and become a real part of that difference.

Kelly Rose, Mike Miller and Dina Hufstedler coordinated this fundraising event and deserve the credit for orchestrating the tournament. Members of the BRTC Foundation Board, along with several BRTC faculty and staff, and members of BRTC’s Student Government Association and President’s Leadership Council, all contributed to the success of the fundraiser.

It is expected that state and federal financial resources will continue to decline—at least for the foreseen future. The BRTC Foundation Board is rising up to meet that challenge, refusing to let our citizens not have the same opportunities as those that come from more affluent backgrounds. We appreciate our Foundation Board members for the sacrifices they make in time and finances.

Let them know you appreciate them. They need your help if they are to be successful.

Art Club Pumpkin Sale is Success

The BRTC Art Club recently raised over $700 by selling painted pumpkins, baked goods and other miscellaneous items, according to Fine Arts instructor and Art Club sponsor Dr. Sandy Davis Baltz. “I, along with many club members, worked for three weeks filling prepaid orders for decorated pumpkins and rocks, as well as preparing for the actual sale,” said Baltz. “The sale, held October 7-8 in the administration building, was a huge success.”

“We want to thank all who supported this fundraiser in such an amazing way,” Baltz stated. “This money provides students with great opportunities for educational (and fun) trips.” Last year the club traveled to Bentonville and Eureka Springs in the fall and by train to St. Louis in the spring. Club members traveling in May to Washington, D.C., will also receive monetary support through the Art Club. Next year a trip is tentatively planned for San Antonio, Texas.