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## Dietetics Program Holds MSSPS Fundraiser

Students in BRTC's Dietetics program recently held a fundraising event for the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship (MSSPS) program. The event was held March 26 in the Randolph County Development Center and featured the sale of MSSPS Cookbooks. According to Dietetics instructor Kathy Murdock, over \$600 in net proceeds was raised.



*Eric Sullinger (left) and Steve Williams, BRTC Computer Technology personnel, purchase MSSPS Cookbooks from Dietetics students during the recent fundraising event.*

MSSPS is Randolph County's single parent scholarship program named in honor and memory of Mary Sallee, longtime Home Economics teacher at Pocahontas High School. In 2010, MSSPS Chair Janna Guthrey came up with the idea of developing a cookbook to include some of "Miss Mary's"

recipes along with a compilation of favorite recipes of BRTC faculty and staff as a way to raise money for the MSSPS program.

"The cookbook sale was a huge success," Murdock explained, "so we decided to offer it for sale again as a project for the Dietetics Department."

Guests of the fundraising event were treated to a sampling of recipes from the book created by the Dietetics students that included punch, dip, sausage balls and an assortment of cakes. The students also created several beautiful edible centerpieces, many of them Easter-themed, that were given away via a raffle, another way in which

recipes along with a compilation of favorite recipes of BRTC faculty and staff as a way to raise money for the MSSPS program.

*(Continued on pg. 3)*

## Important Dates

**April 12**  
**LETA Graduation**

**April 13**  
**REACH Sites Open (9am-12pm)**

**April 16**  
**Scholarship Luncheon**

**April 23**  
**Student Awards Ceremony**

**April 25**  
**Business Expo/Job Fair**

**April 30**  
**Fun Before Finals**

**May 6**  
**Phlebotomy Graduate Banquet**

## Community Members Play Important Role in BRTC's Kimbrough Choir

BRTC's Kimbrough Choir is clearly an intergenerational group of people. Many of the members are community members who also happen to be students, bass, tenor, alto and soprano singers who add greatly to the choir's musicality.

But they are much, much more than mere voices, according to Choir Director Joniece Trammel. In ways that make all the difference to their younger counterparts, these community members who have many years of experience in vocal and instrumental music, provide support, mentoring, and serve as role models to those young



*Community Choir Members are (front row, l to r) Terry Miller Howard Dunn, Patty Riffle, Joyce Rose and Madonna Foster; (back row, l to r) Kay McFall, Karen Parish, Vicky Wilson and choir director Joniece Trammel.*

enough to be their children and grandchildren.

It's a winning blend, Trammel believes.

"They come in early to help and stay late after rehearsals." They sometimes purposefully sit next to certain students "to help them get their pitches and

rhythms," Trammel explains. These individuals show up to support the Kimbrough Singers, a small group of mostly younger students, whenever that group has a performance.

*(Continued on pg. 2)*

## Annual Health Fair Benefits Students and Community

BRTC's Health Fair, which has been held annually for over twelve years, drew a crowd of over 220 people on April 2, including BRTC faculty, staff, and students, as well as members of the community.

BRTC's Allied Health Department hosted the event in the RCDC building, with vendors attending from all over Randolph County. Organizations with booths included the American Cancer Society, MidSouth Health Systems, Caring Hands Hospice, Legacy Hospice, AirEvac, and ProMed Ambulance Service.

Also, Back in Motion Chiropractic, the Randolph County Extension Office, the Randolph County Health Department, Families Inc., Pochontas Health and Rehab, CustomEyes Vision Care, Five Rivers Medical Center, and East Arkansas Area on Aging.

Each of BRTC's health-related programs was represented with a booth



*Joe Chappell, Fire Science instructor (far left), watches as BRTC student Brandy Thomas performs CPR, with students Andrea Lee and Lee Smith looking on.*

where students and instructors offered educational materials, hands-on demonstrations, or examinations to visitors. Joe Chappell, MT/Paramedic instructor, conducted hands-on CPR activities. The Fire Science department and instructor Alan Haskins displayed information for disaster preparedness. Phlebotomy students offered blood glucose screens, and the Practical Nursing students took blood pressure readings. Dietetics students performed BMI checks and presented guides for healthy eating, and Respiratory Care students gave visitors lung function tests. In addition to viewing demonstrations and receiving tests, guests could also sign up for door prizes.

"The Health Fair is a beneficial gathering for vendors, students, and visitors alike," said Dana Clay, Health Science Administrative Specialist.

"We would like to thank everyone for coming out and a special thanks to all the vendors who participated."

## Community Choir Cont'd. from pg. 1

The community members love music, as evidenced by their participation with various musical programs: First Methodist and Great Harvest Churches, Northeast Arkansas Chorale, and Homeward Bound Quartet. They also enjoy that camaraderie with the younger students. "It's fun to be around young people," said Patty Riffel.

The thought is echoed by Madonna Foster, who points out that "they keep us active and young."

Former teachers and lifelong musicians Joyce Rose and Kay McFall note that they feel a responsibility to encourage students. McFall also pointed out what pleasure she gains from watching the younger students shed their shyness and develop into performers. She also notes "We're someone for the students to talk to besides Mom and Dad, and we're there to help them, whether it's a pat on the back or a kick in the butt!"

Many of the community members have ties to BRTC. For example, Karen Parish is the daughter of the late Joe Martin, BRTC's first Board President and a major college benefactor. Others have children or grandchildren who attend or work at BRTC. One of the community members who still sings with the choir, Dexter Kimbrough, actually provided the initial funding for the choral music program which still bears his name.

"They add so much," Trammel noted. "We are always happy for new students to join the Kimbrough Choir, and that definitely includes students of all ages."

## Academic Distinction Scholarships Awarded to Three HS Seniors

Joshua Richey of Paragould, Brandon Scott of Jesup, and Klair Slusser of Walnut Ridge have each been awarded the Academic Distinction Scholarship for the Fall 2013 semester at Black River Technical College.

The Academic Distinction Scholarship provides full tuition renewable up to four semesters provided the recipient successfully completes a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester and maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.00 for the first two semesters and 3.25 for the remaining two semesters.

Richey is a senior at Marmaduke High School and the son of Tim Richey and Harriet Steimer of Paragould. He expects to graduate in May and plans to become a Certified Public Accountant. He is active in the BETA Club and Paragould Youth Leadership.

Scott is the son of Shannon and Rhonda Scott of Jesup. He is a senior at Hillcrest High School where he is Vice President of FFA and previously served as FFA Secretary. He is also the Student Council Representative for the senior class and a member of the Hillcrest Shooting Sports Team, and has participated in basketball at both HHS and through AAU. After graduation, he plans to complete the Automotive Master Technician program and pursue a career in auto repair and service.

Slusser plans to graduate in May from Hoxie High School where she is involved in Beta Club and serves as FCLLA President. She is the daughter of Bobby and Kristy Slusser of Walnut Ridge.

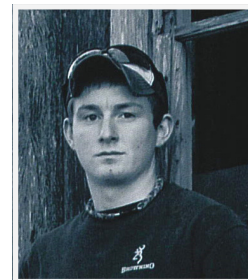
To qualify for the Academic Distinction Scholarship, applicants must be a graduate of an accredited Arkansas high school, must be first-time entering freshman and have an ACT composite score of at least 24 or be in the top 10% of their graduating class with a 3.00 GPA.



*Joshua Richey*



*Klair Slusser*



*Brandon Scott*



## BRTC Art Showcase Raises Over \$1500 for the Art Club

The BRTC Art Club sold over 180 items and raised a total of \$1,511 during an Art Showcase held Sunday, April 7, in the Randolph County Development Center. According to Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz, BRTC Fine Arts instructor, over 120 people attended the event that featured artwork and other items for sale by BRTC art students and a musical performance by BRTC's Kimbrough choir.

All drawings, paintings, and pastels came from current or former students of BRTC art classes. Some also brought used books and unique home-made jewelry and accessories to sell. Baltz painted flower pots in a variety of patterns and provided Art Club T-shirts for the sale as well. She explained that 60% of the proceeds from art sales went to the students responsible for creating the artwork, while the remaining 40% went to the Art Club to help fund its activities, including a trip this weekend to the St. Louis Art Museum.

During the showcase, visitors were able to enjoy free popcorn and sodas provided by the Student Government Association. Homemade cookies and

muffins from the Art Club were also for sale. Door prizes were furnished by the BRTC Art Club, Don's Steakhouse, Premiere Video, BancorpSouth, Integrity 1st Bank, and IBERIABANK.

Art Club member and Fine Arts Theater student Brittany Grooms performed as a mime to entertain the crowd, wandering around the showcase floor and looking at paintings along with the visitors. The Kimbrough Choir held a performance in the auditorium singing songs including "Imagine," "Let's Get Loud," and "Bless the Broken Road." Some of the choir members surprised Music Director Joniece Trammel with a practical joke during the last song by placing fake mustaches on their faces while her back was turned.

On Monday after the showcase, members of the Art Club and BRTC staff volunteered to run a stand in the student lounge of the administration building to sell items remaining from Sunday's sale. "This



*Guests browse the artwork available for sale at the Art Showcase.*

gave students, staff and faculty members who could not attend on Sunday an opportunity to see the Art Showcase's offerings," said Baltz.

"I was so thrilled and appreciative of the turnout from the community," Baltz added. "It was wonderful for so many students to receive payment for their artwork. Besides helping monetarily, it gives them confidence."

## Students/Instructors Attend Health Fair Organized by BRTC Dietetics Graduate

Tina Harris, Department Head of Business/Dietetics, and Kathy Murdock, Dietetics instructor, accompanied second year Dietetic students to the Black Gold Farms Health Fair in Arbyrd, MO, on March 26. The Health Fair was organized by Melody Hill, an employee of Black Gold Farms and a graduate of BRTC's Dietetics program.



*Those attending the health fair were (from left) Christina Derbes, Kathy Murdock, Melody Hill (employee at Black Gold Farms and BRTC dietetics graduate), Tina Harris, Annaliza Anis, Belinda Johnson, Rayah Fortson and Jason Cartwright.*

Hill earned her Dietary Manager certificate in 2004 and her Associate of Applied Science in Dietetics degree in 2010, both from BRTC. She then earned a Bachelor of Applied Science in Food Technology degree in 2012 from Arkansas State University.

After earning her AAS, Hill accepted a position at Black Gold Farms as Production/Operations Assistant where she is responsible for packaging inventory, compliance, food safety and government regulations.

Black Gold Farms is a global potato production, sales and service operation that began in 1928 as a certified seed potato operation in North Dakota, and now has more than 20,000 acres in production among ten different farms across the United States.

Hill is originally from Paragould and lives with her significant other of 10 years, Tim Flebbe, who graduated from BRTC's RN program in 2012. They have an eight-year-old son. She is currently pursuing a Masters in Food Safety degree from the University of Arkansas.

According to Murdock, the BRTC Dietetic students presented information on nutrition and calculated BMI and body fat percentage using the new digital body fat analysis scales acquired for the department through the PACE grant.

## Dietetics Cont'd. from pg. 1

the event raised funds for the single-parent scholarship.

"The fundraiser was a great way for people to show support for both the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship and BRTC's Dietetics Department," noted Murdock. "We appreciate everyone who attended the event and made purchases."

MSSPS Cookbooks are still available and the cost of each is \$12. To purchase a cookbook, contact Murdock or Guthrie at 870-248-4000.

### REACH Sites Open This Saturday

The Rice Upshaw House & The William Looney Tavern will be open to the public this Saturday, April 14, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Entrance Fee: \$3/person



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## BRTC Mission Statement

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

## Campus Commentary...



*Priscilla Stillwell  
Academic Site Coordinator  
BRTC Paragould Campus*

Bridging Resources, Technology, and Challenges one graduate at a time. This is a motto taken seriously by the faculty and staff of BRTC. We are definitely about building bridges for all of our students.

We have worked diligently in recent years to embrace programs that decrease the amount of time

spent by students from enrollment to graduation. One such example is a new program known as "Weekend College."

Through this program students can enroll full-time on Saturdays. The coursework will include all of the classes needed to graduate with an Associate of Arts degree. The first classes for Weekend College will begin this coming August. Students who are able to follow the schedule in its entirety can expect to graduate in May of 2015.

Past generations often considered school a full-time job. Present generations have multiple jobs, families, financial responsibilities...and still desire to go to school. The Weekend College option will focus on presenting classes through a hybrid delivery system. Students will spend half of their education time in a classroom setting and will spend the other half online. Instructors will be available on Saturdays to provide support in addition to instruction.

The idea for Weekend College came from listening! We listened to our students. Through surveys we discovered that there are several reasons that people cannot work on their educational goals.

Program Coordinator Amanda Dobbs has provided research that identifies work schedules, family responsibilities, financial concerns, and health issues as being barriers to students who wish to complete educational goals. When we saw that students had a problem reaching their educational goals, we made a few goals of our own. We worked on providing all services on the weekends that our students during the week tend to take for granted.

In addition, we are building a teacher training program that is focused on student encouragement and support. Weekend College participants can not only remove some of these barriers but also reduce the amount of time spent in the classroom, reduce the amount of time and expense required to travel to and from school, and get the support they need from teachers who are familiar with traditional and online formats.

Students will also have access to such support services as academic advisement, financial aid, Moodle training, and computer labs.

If you wish to enroll in the Weekend College for the fall, contact Amanda Dobbs at 870-239-0969 for more information.