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Retirement Reception Held to Honor Five



Dr. Michael Sullens

Vernon Cates

Peggy Weir

David Bowlin

Linda Stacy

Five individuals, each retiring from BRTC in June, were honored last Thursday with a reception in the Randolph County Development Center. Vernon Cates, Dr. Michael Sullens, Peggy Weir, David Bowlin and Linda Stacy will be retiring after a combined total of 115 years of service to BRTC.

Dr. Sullens, Vice President of Student Services, will be retiring after 25 years of service to BRTC. He began in 1988 as Vocational instructor. He then moved into the position of Registrar and later became Director of Student Services/Registrar before being named Vice President.

Cates has served as Welding instructor for the past 33 years. He is a Certified Welding Inspector and currently has the highest seniority at BRTC in terms of years of service.

Weir has been with BRTC since 1991. Prior to being named Director of Adult Education, she served as GEDLT Education Coordinator and GED Coordinator.

Bowlin has served as instructor of Industrial Electricity/Electronics at BRTC for the past 14 years. He first worked part time for five years teaching basic electricity/electronics courses.

Stacey, Business Technology instructor in the Networking Program, has served the college for 13 years in a full time capacity. She began teaching Adult Education part time in 1997 before she became a full time instructor in the business department in 2000.

A large number of faculty, staff and members of the community were on hand to honor the retirees, who were each presented a plaque.

Important Dates

May 11

REACH Sites Open
(9:00 a.m. - noon)

May 13

Intersession classes
Begin

May 16-18

REACH Events (see pg. 2 for details)

May 20

Business After Hours,
BRTC, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

May 28

Summer I Classes
Begin

June 10-13

Kids' College

Awards Presented to Student, Faculty, Staff at 2nd Annual Recognition Ceremony

The 2nd Annual Student Recognition Ceremony was held April 26 in the Randolph County Development Center. The purpose of the event, according to BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher, is to recognize BRTC students, faculty and staff who have achieved beyond that which is normally expected—with students being the focus. “The primary purpose is for the BRTC family to gather and celebrate the achievements of the students,” Hatcher explained, “because of the part you [faculty/staff] played in their lives”

Thomas Fielder, Fine Arts Instructor on the Paragould Campus, served as Master of Ceremonies, giving the opening remarks and introducing the presenters.



Kelly Grooms (right), Fine Arts instructor, is presented the President's Award of Excellence by Dr. Roger Johnson, VP for Gen Ed.

(Continued on pg. 2)

PTK Received Top Honors at Two Recent Conventions

BRTC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa recently earned multiple honors from two different conventions. Faculty, staff and students attended the PTK Arkansas/Oklahoma Regional Convention March 8-9 in Fayetteville, where BRTC's club received the award for Best Website in the Region, the Top Five Honors in Action Hallmark Award, the 2013 Hallmark Awards Program, and a ranking of Five Star Level—BRTC being one of only three colleges in the state to receive such a mark.

Individual honors included PTK President Shaunya Fraysher receiving the Top Five Distinguished Chapter Award, and Applications Programmer Shana Akers receiving the Horizon Award for new advisors. These honors were announced April 4-7, when adjunct instructor Ashley Hall and officers Jeff Martin and Secret England attended the international convention in San Jose, California, where BRTC's PTK was



PTK representatives at Regional Convention are (front row, left to right) Quentin Hurst and Advisor Ashley Hall; (back row, left to right) Lisa Cook, Secret England, PTK CEO Dr. Rod Risley, Shaunya Fraysher, Crystal Brown, Advisor Shana Akers.

recognized as a Top 100 chapter from a global list of thousands.

According to Akers, the regional convention was memorable with a very good turnout, but also had high goal standards to reach. "To be a five-star

chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, students are required to do two specific projects to qualify," Akers explained. "The first of those is the College Project, a collaboration between the chapter and the administration which focuses on doing something to improve student life at the college."

"The second project, Honors in Action, requires students to research a topic, in this case the culture of competition, and discover a way to incorporate all four of the Phi Theta Kappa Hallmarks—scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship. Upon completion of these projects, the students must collaborate to answer essay questions and assess the outcome of their work."

Akers, along with the other PTK Advisors, expressed their pride in BRTC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa for the amazing goals the group has been able to accomplish.

Awards Cont'd. from pg. 1

Awards presented to students were Technical and Gen Ed Department Awards, Top 15 Student Awards, Online Student Award, Career Pathways Award, Student Organization Awards, and Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Kelly Grooms was chosen by Dr. Hatcher to receive the President's Award of Excellence for Excellence in Leadership. The award read as follows: "Excellence is the result of caring more than others think is wise, risking more than others think is safe, dreaming more than others think is practical, and expecting more than others think is possible."

For the PLC Students' Choice Awards, students selected one faculty and one staff from each of the campuses. Receiving the award from the Pocahontas campus were Sissy Gray, instructor, and Dana Clay, staff member. From the Paragould campus was Daniel Lee, instructor, and Cyndi Rudi, staff member. These individuals were selected because students felt "they helped them in a special way towards the accomplishment of their academic and professional goals."

Teresa Shepherd and Lee Smith each received the President's Award of Distinction, while Lisa Inman, Elizabeth Collins, and Laddie Hunter received awards for Enhancing Student Engagement/ Outstanding Student Activity. All of these recipients were selected by Dr. Hatcher.

Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges (AATYC) awards were also announced. Staff Award – Trent Ingram; Faculty Award – Laddie Hunter; and Academic All-Star – Jamie Weeks of Walnut Ridge. The Academic All-Star Award provides Weeks with free tuition to any Arkansas four-year college where she chooses to complete her Bachelor's degree.



Jamie Weeks (right) is presented the AATYC Academic All-Star Award by Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development.

Showcasing Treasures: The Rice-Upshaw House & The William Looney Tavern

May 16, 7:00 p.m.

Presentation on "Subscription Schools"
By Gerry Barker and Joan Gould
Randolph County Heritage Museum
Pocahontas, AR

May 17, 7:00 p.m.

Presentation on "Frontier Slavery"
By Gerry Barker
Eddie Mae Herron Center
Pocahontas, AR

May 17 & 18, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

- ◆ Gerry Barker - Oxen
- ◆ Eric Sammons - Log Craftsman
- ◆ Tours of the Rice-Upshaw House & the William Looney Tavern
Dalton, AR

For more information, contact Jessica McFadden @ 870-248-4000, ext. 4189

Scholarships Awarded to Four



Samantha Poe



Jordan Whitted



Crystal Huyser



Kailey Martin

Samantha Poe of Pocahontas and Jordan Whitted of Maynard have each been awarded an Academic Distinction Scholarship to attend Black River Technical College Fall 2013. In addition, Crystal Huyser of Paragould has been awarded the IBERIABANK Scholarship and Kailey Martin of Biggers has been awarded a General Education Scholarship, each through the BRTC Foundation.

Poe is the daughter of Billy and Cathy Poe of Pocahontas and will graduate in May from Pocahontas High School. She plans to major in Early Childhood Education.

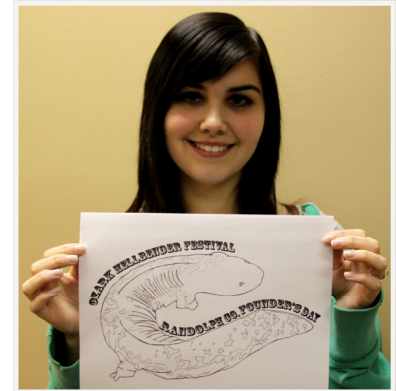
Whitted will graduate in May from Maynard High School where she has been involved in basketball, FCCLA, Champs and Students Council,

and has received various academic awards. She plans to pursue a degree in nursing and eventually become a labor delivery nurse.

Huyser is the daughter of Mike Bushee of Fenville, Michigan, and Billie Peterson of Paragould. She is a 1995 graduate of Southland High School and mother of two. She plans to complete both PN and RN programs at BRTC.

Martin will graduate in May from Corning High School where she has served as FCCLA President, Secretary of the National Honor Society, and member of the Student Council. She is the daughter of Pam and Bryan Martin of Biggers, and she plans to become a Dental Hygienist.

Art Student Designs Logo for Festival



Betty Hodge, a student in BRTC's Drawing II and Graphic Design I classes at BRTC, shows the Ozark Hellbender logo she designed for the Founder's Day and Ozark Hellbender Festival held this past weekend in Pocahontas. The logo was used on t-shirts, signs, coloring books and various items.

The Ozark Hellbender is a large, nocturnal salamander recently declared an endangered species. The Hellbender has limited habitat, including rivers and streams in Randolph County. Attempts to recover the Hellbender population are underway.

Staff Positions Announced

Tony Saylor of Pocahontas has been promoted to the position of Public Safety Officer Supervisor at BRTC, and Patricia (Tricia) Sanderson of Paragould has been hired as Computer Support Technician for the Paragould campus, announced Brenda Gillogly, VP for Administration.



Tony Saylor

Saylor first joined the BRTC staff in September 2007 as Public Safety Officer for the evening shift on the Pocahontas campus. For the past two years he has been splitting time between both shifts. Prior to BRTC, he worked for three years with the Pocahontas Police Department, the last year and half of which he worked as K-9 Officer. He earned his GED from BRTC and graduated from BRTC's Law Enforcement Training Academy in 2004.



Tricia Sanderson

Sanderson has 25 years of experience working for L'Oreal in North Little Rock, the last 17 of them in their computer department. She graduated from Watkins Overton High School in Memphis, and earned an AAS in Computer Operations and an AAS in Microcomputer Applications, both from State Technical Institute in Memphis. She also earned a BS in Organizational Management Advance Program from John Brown University in Memphis.

Caldwell Awarded \$10,000 Scholarship

Angela Caldwell, VP for Technical Education at BRTC, was recently awarded the Marjorie Jeanne Allen Scholarship from Delta Kappa Gamma Society International in the amount of \$10,000.



Angela Caldwell

The honor society promotes excellence in education and personal and professional growth of women educators, leading in the field of graduate scholarships given to members and emphasizing leadership development for its more than 90,000 members in 18 countries. A member of the Society's Kappa Chapter in Arkansas, Caldwell is attending Arkansas State University, where she will graduate this Saturday with a Specialist in Community College Teaching (SCCT), and will begin working on her Doctorate in Educational Leadership in August.

Dr. Joye Sterrett of Arizona, International Scholarship Committee Chairman, announced the recipients following the committee's recent meeting at Society Headquarters in Austin, Texas. "We granted 24 Scholarships of \$10,000 each for the 2013-2014 academic year," Sterrett said.

Recipients must have earned a Bachelor's Degree, be enrolled in a recognized graduate program and have been a Society member for at least three years to qualify for scholarship consideration. Since its scholarship program began in 1940, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International has given 1043 women educators \$4 million in scholarships.



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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*

Recently BRTC celebrated "excellence" via the achievements of many of our students, faculty and staff. Students were recognized for academic excellence, serving their communities, winning regional and national awards. It was a great evening as student after student was recognized for their excellence, as it presented itself in its various forms.

What was even more satisfying to me was the recognition by many of these students as to what/who played a major role in them "becoming" someone worthy of such recognition. As an ex officio member of the BRTC Awards Committee, I have access to reading the essays that students submit that are nominated for Who's Who in American Community Colleges and the "BRTC Top 15." Reading them oftentimes created lumps in my throat and some tears.

These students love our faculty and staff. They love BRTC. So many of them directly attribute their success to the faculty and staff. The students repeatedly state how caring they are—and how they go the extra mile; that time after time they do whatever is needed to help the students. They constantly noted how positive and encouraging the faculty and staff always are. The students indicate that they felt like they really mattered to our faculty and students, and were always treated with respect.

Almost without exception these students emphasized that they would not have accomplished—nor have the courage to continue their dream—if it were not for the faculty and staff of BRTC.

And our sincere interest in our students continues, as exhibited in recent days. Former students have been texting, calling, emailing and dropping by to bring us up to date on their progress at their universities or their jobs. Because they know we care. They know they matter to us...and we love knowing that we matter to them.

I like to think that at BRTC we are known for the type of "excellence" that is defined as "...the result of :

- Caring more than others think is wise,
- Risking more than others think is safe (for our students & each other),
- Dreaming more than others think is practical, and
- Expecting more than others think is possible (about the difference BRTC can make)."

Come...experience the same caring, risking, dreaming and expecting of BRTC excellence that these students shared with us.