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Important Dates

July 1
Summer II Begins
July 9
Foundation Board Meeting
July 11
REACH Sites Open
July 30
Summer II Final Exams
August 17-21
Inservice
August 24
Fall Semester Begins
September 7
Labor Day—Campuses Closed

BRTC Group Visits London, Stonehenge, and Bath

During the week of June 1, a group of BRTC staff, retired employees, students, and community members traveled for 7 days to London, Stonehenge, and Bath. The trip is part of the BRTC’s annual International Tour series designed to provide the opportunity for international travel to BRTC employees, students, and community members.

The trip was led by Karen Liebhaber, BRTC VP of Institutional Advancement, and included retired BRTC employees Erma Ulmer and Debbie Prichard; bookstore manager Janice Harvey and her husband Jimmy; Liebhaber’s mother Jeri Powers; and BRTC students, Michaela Townsend, and Jacob Lockard.

Among the highlights of the trip were visits to the Tower of London, Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace, and the British Museum. The group spent a day visiting the ancient Roman bathhouse in the city of Bath and toured Stonehenge. They also attended a Hitchcock play "The 39 Steps" at a playhouse in the center of Piccadilly Circus.

For all but Prichard and Liebhaber, this was the group’s first trip to Europe. For the students, this was their first flight. “It was amazing,” said

Rotary 5K Held on Paragould Campus

On Saturday, June 13, BRTC partnered with the Paragould Rotary Club to hold the first Rotary 5K walk/run at BRTC on the BRTC Paragould campus. Ninety-seven men, women, and children participated.

The race began at 8 a.m. and the first runner completed the race at 8:19:10 a.m. The race was an officially timed event, facilitated by Stearns Race Timing. Full results can be found on their website.


In the Top 5 categories, Top 5 Males: First, Chris Cone of Paragould; second, Shannon McDowell of Paragould; third, Zak Bateman of Paragould; fourth, Frankie Salinas of Paragould; fifth, Steve Cobb of Paragould. Top 5 Walkers: First, Alan Young of Jonesboro; second, Doug Dowler of Paragould; third, Marsha Petty of Paragould; fourth, Jennifer Lee of Bay; fifth, Terry Wallace of Walnut Ridge.

In the female age division, Age Division 1-9: First, Kyleigh Boone of Paragould. Age Division 10-14: First, Gabby Finch of Paragould; second, Hannah Gray of Paragould; third, Christin Barker of Walnut Ridge.

(Continued on pg. 3)
Green Hired

Sandra Green of Pocahontas has accepted the position of Nursing Simulation Lab Facilitator at the Pocahontas Campus.

Sandra graduated from St. Paul High School, then went on to receive her Associate of Applied Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and her Master of Science in Nursing in 2010, all from Arkansas State University.

She has most recently worked at First Choice Health Care, but has also worked at Randolph County Medical Center for twenty years, as a flight nurse with Air Evac Life Team for five years, and as a pharmaceutical sales specialist for eight years.

Academic Distinction Scholarships Awarded

The Academic Distinction Scholarship is awarded to first time entering freshmen at Black River Technical College who are also in the top 10% of their graduating class with a 3.00 GPA. Students are awarded full tuition for 2 years.

Kara Bailey is a Hoxie High School graduate. She is the daughter of John and Tracy Bailey. In high school she was involved in Beta Club.

Heather Stickel is the daughter of Lisa Simington of Maynard and Duwayne Stickel of Pocahontas. She is a Pocahontas High School graduate. She was involved in choir while in high school.

Laynie Brigance is a graduate of Pocahontas High School. She is seeking a degree in Business Administration.

Billy Hart is the son of Ron Hart and Stacy Thompson of Corning. He is a Corning High School graduate. He plans to pursue a degree in Business Administration. He was a member of the National Honor Society and the Computer and Technology Services (CATS) Club in high school.

Madeline Jennings is a graduate of Marmaduke High School. She is the daughter of Tommy and Regina Jennings of Marmaduke. She is seeking a degree in Art. In high school she was a member of the Art Club as well as the club’s president and won awards for her art.

Christopher Wadly is a graduate of Walnut Ridge High School. He is the son of Craig and Karla Wadley of Walnut Ridge. He plans to pursue a degree in Networking.

Rebecca Sloan is a graduate of Hoxie High School. She is the daughter of Andrew and Kimberly Sloan of Cloverbend. She plans to seek a degree in the healthcare field. She was a member of Beta Club, Color Guard, and Choir.

Emma Slusser is the daughter of Bobby and Kristy Slusser of Walnut Ridge. She is a graduate of Hoxie High School. She plans to seek a degree in nursing. In high school she was a member of the Beta Club and Library Club.

Courtney Rigdon is a graduate of Corning High School. She is the daughter of Jimmy and Audra Rigdon of Corning. She plans to pursue a degree in nursing. She was a member of Future Farmers of America and National Honor Society in high school.

Madison Nelson is a graduate of Marmaduke High School. She is the daughter of Warren Nelson of Marmaduke. She plans to pursue a degree in Social Work. In high school she was a member of Beta, Rotary Interact, Archery Club, Choir, and Student Council.

Kannon Eakin is a graduate of Marmaduke High School. He is the son of Joseph Eakins and Amanda Hamon, both of Paragould. He was a member of Archery Club and Rotary Interact in high school.

Jesse DeJournett is a graduate of Pocahontas High School. He is the son of Jim and Lori DeJournett. He plans to pursue a degree in agriculture.

David Roberts is a graduate of Walnut Ridge High School. He is the son of David and Jennifer Roberts of Black Rock. He would like to pursue a degree in renewable energy. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, and completed the Ralph Joseph Leadership Program in high school.

Kylie Turner is a graduate of Maynard High School. She is the daughter of Greg Turner and Cora Turner of Maynard. She plans to obtain a degree in Biomedical Engineering. She was a member of National Society of High School Scholars and National Junior Olympic Pistol Squad in high school.

Lockard about the trip.

Liebhaber, who served as the group leader for the trip, was delighted with the travelers: “We had the best time and got along so well. I was really proud of how every person in our group looked out for each other.”

Liebhaber’s next trip will be to Switzerland in June 2017. Any community member is welcome to join the group as well as all current and past BRTC students, faculty, and staff. For more information, visit www.blackrivertech.edu/travel.
Kids’ College Has Another Great Year

The sounds of happy children filled the Black River Technical College’s Pocahontas campus during the week of June 8-11 as 122 students enjoyed Kids’ College for its 15th year.

The Office of Corporate and Community Education sponsors the event each year. Students entering the 1st grade through the 6th grade participate in a variety of educational and creative programs. Patti Blaxton, Director of Corporate and Community Education explained most of the classes are presented by area volunteers and businesses.

The classes offered included: Pedal Cars, presented by Army National Guard; Crime Scene Investigation, presented by Pocahontas Police Department; Fun to Save, presented by First National Bank; Fire Safety, presented by Pocahontas Fire Department; Arkansas Wildlife, presented by Arkansas Game and Fish; Blooming Creations, presented by Five Rivers Master Gardeners; Acting Up, presented by Studio for the Arts; 4-H Yoga, presented by Randolph County Cooperative Extension; Furry and Feathered Friends, presented by Randolph County Humane Society; Owls: Mysterious Creatures of the Night, presented by Old Davidsonville State Park; Want to be a Millionaire?, presented by iBERIABANK; From Fiber to Fashion, presented by Powhatan Historic State Park; We’re All Downstream, presented by Lake Charles State Park.

Other classes sponsored by BRTC were: Creative Crafts, Wonders of Magic, Fun-N-Games, Hands-Only CPR and Origami.

Another important element of Kids’ College is the help of all the volunteers who serve as class leaders and helpers. Volunteers included: McKenzie Hankins, Adrian Rutter, Pat Lambert, Jennifer Gann, Melodie Palmer, Gena Farrin, Christina Cornwall, Serena Sisco, Serena Finley, Kaleigh Hendrix, Jan Ziegler, and Emma Turner.

Employees of BRTC also made up many of the volunteers throughout the week.

“I was overwhelmed by the amount of support and volunteers from local individuals and organizations,” stated Blaxton. “Without them, this event would not have been possible.”

Photos from Kids’ College can be viewed on the BRTC website at: http://www.blackrivertech.org/community/cce/kids-college

Rotary 5K at BRTC


Age Division 30-34: First, Malissa Howard of Hoxie; second, Catrina Holt of Paragould; third, Diana Ford of Brookland. Age Division 35-39: First, Yvonne Doyle of Walnut Ridge; second, Amanda Whetsell of Paragould; third, Candis Barker of Walnut Ridge.

Age Division 40-44: First, Malissa Lewis of Paragould; second, Danielle Pittman of Jonesboro; Age Division 45-49: First, Carla Mitchell of Paragould; second, Sherry Dowless of Jonesboro; third, Sabrina Burns of Jonesboro.

Age Division 50-54: First, Mary Rupard of Jonesboro; second, Barbara Tarbutton of Jonesboro; third, Kenny Eliason of Brookland.

Age Division 60-64: First, Diamm Walker of Paragould.

In the male age division, Age Division 1-9: First, Brian Hill, Jr., of Paragould. Age Division 10-14: First, Rylee Whetsell of Paragould. Age Division 15-19: First, Jacob Scurlock of Jonesboro.

Age Division 20-24: First, Jeremy Clark of Paragould; second, Ryan Thomason of Paragould; third, Ben Holder of Marmaduke. Age Division 25-29: First, Ty Shaffer of Paragould; second, Cason Nelson of Paragould; third, Dereck Ray of Paragould.

Age Division 35-39: First, Joshua Dye Jonesboro; second, John Whetsell of Paragould; third, Brian Hill of Paragould.

(Cont’d. from Pg. 1)

Age Division 40-44: First, Chris Bass of Paragould. Age Division 45-49: First, Terry McNatt of Brookland; second, Andrew Small of Paragould; third, Steve Lovell of Paragould.

Age Division 50-54: First, Michael Stallings of Jonesboro; second, John Gruman of Jonesboro; third, James Norman of Paragould. Age Division 55-59: First, Dan Ring of Brookland; second, Raymond Joe Campbell of Paragould; third, Doyne Gonser of Paragould.

Age Division 60-64: First, Diamm Walker of Paragould.

In the male age division, Age Division 1-9: First, Brian Hill, Jr., of Paragould. Age Division 10-14: First, Rylee Whetsell of Paragould. Age Division 15-19: First, Jacob Scurlock of Jonesboro.

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Age Division 35-39: First, Joshua Dye Jonesboro; second, John Whetsell of Paragould; third, Brian Hill of Paragould.

RiverBank Scholarships

The RiverBank Scholarship has been awarded to two students of Black River Technical College. Students awarded this scholarship receive $500.

Kodi Clemons is a 2015 graduate of Hillcrest High School. She is the daughter of Joey and Sandy Howard of Strawberry. She plans to pursue a degree in Respiratory Care.

Cody Vowell is a 2011 graduate of Corning High School. He is the son of Phillip and Maresha Flurry and Randy and Sandy Vowell, all of Corning. He plans to pursue a degree in nursing.
EMH Scholarship

Emma Slusser of Walnut Ridge has been awarded the Eddie Mae Herron Scholarship at Black River Technical College. To be awarded the Eddie Mae Herron Scholarship a student must be pursuing a certificate or degree at BRTC. Students must also write a 100 to 200 word self-descriptive essay. The winner of the scholarship is given $250.

Slusser is a 2015 graduate of Hoxie High School. She is the daughter of Bobby and Kristy Slusser of Walnut Ridge. She plans to become a Nurse Practitioner. She was a member of Gifted and Talented, Beta Club, Library Club, and an Arkansas Girls State Delegate in high school.

Capitol Refund Check from Clay County Electric

Black River Technical College President Dr. Eric Turner was presented a capital refund check in the amount of $4,351.23 by Vice President of the Board for Clay County Electric Charles Raglin.

Clay County Electric Cooperative Corporation is a not-for-profit organization owned by its members. “It truly is our members that we work for and we are here to provide affordable reliable electricity,” stated Tonya Tucker Communication and Media Representative for Clay County Electric.

In-STEAD Scholarship

Alexandria Lopez of Lynn has been awarded the In-STEAD Scholarship for the Fall 2015/Spring 2016 academic year at Black River Technical College. The scholarship in the amount of $500 is awarded each semester to a minority student.

Preference for the Scholarship is given to a non-native speaker of English, and students are chosen based on their application and a 100-200 word self-descriptive essay. The scholarship is funded from donations by BRTC faculty and staff and awarded through the BRTC Foundation.

Lopez is the daughter of Francisco and Melody Lopez and plans to pursue a Practical Nursing degree. She currently works at Walmart in Walnut Ridge.