

# The Heart of Black River

Spring 2016

## You made the Gala a Success!



Thanks to you, the 10th annual Foundation Gala held at the Rolling Hills Country Club raised over \$20,000!

This year, we hired professional charity auctioneer Allen Higginbotham and he kept the audience entertained! The live auction raised almost \$3,000 more than it has in the past.

Thank you so much for coming to the Gala in support of BRTC students and the college. Your purchases help provide scholarships to students as well as fund educational activities on and off campus.

*The Gala was a success only because of you!*

## You Help Machine Tool Technology Connect the Past to the Present

After a visit to the Project REACH sites where students learned that pieces made by blacksmiths over a century ago helped historians determine the time period of the historic structures, Gary Meier's Machine Tool Technology students visited the Historic Arkansas Museum in Little Rock.

After demonstrations by Lin Rhea, the museum's blacksmith, BRTC student Hunter Drope said, "I was amazed by the way [Lin] changed the molecular structure of the metal he was working with."

"The heat treating of metal that I teach in the Machine Tool Technology," said Gary Meier, "was reinforced by Mr. Rhea's demonstration."

*Your donations to Project REACH made this trip possible!*



## Thanks for Helping Bring Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author to BRTC!



Thanks in part to your donations, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Sonia Nazario presented, "Enrique's Journey and America's Immigration Dilemma" to community members, high school and BRTC students.

Nazario is the author of *Enrique's Journey*, the story of a Honduran boy's harrowing journey travelling from central America to the U.S. on the tops of trains with hundreds of other children in the quest to find his mother. Area high school and college students engaged in *Enrique's Journey* reading projects then attended her programs.

Funding was provided by Integrity First Bank, Riverbank, an Arkansas Humanities Council grant, and your generous donations.

Thank you for helping Northeast Arkansas in Opening Hearts and Minds!



Karen Liebhaber  
Vice President of  
Institutional Advancement

*"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."*

*~Mother Teresa*

## Your Gifts Make an Impact

Like Hunter Dail said, helping others can be a chain reaction. Your giving helps BRTC students succeed, which helps them have better lives, which provides better lives for their families.

Look at the opportunity your SEAS gifts have provided for future scientists, health workers, and nurses. Imagine how many community members' minds were broadened after Rodney's presentation in February.

The thank you note to the right was from St. Paul's 5th and 6th graders who attended last fall's Holocaust speaker, also funded by your generous SEAS gifts.

Your gifts make a impact in ways you'll never believe.  
**THANK YOU** for caring enough to give!

To the BRTC Foundation SEAS Program:

We want to thank you for your part in bringing the Holocaust Survivor Series to BRTC. We truly appreciate the chance to hear the Survivors' Stories first-hand. We hope to be able to attend again next year. Thank you again for bringing this program to our community

Madigan Thibodien  
Brantley

Tucker Bonner  
Sue Taylor

Matt McCallister

Mason Baltz

Haylee Dickson

Brinley Rose

Jessica Barty

Mrs. Christa Yemma

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grades  
St. Paul Catholic School

Karson James  
Nelsey Morris

Seth Matthew

Throesch

Mrs. Rebecca Stimpf

Das

Liebard

## YOUR Special Event and Activity Funds (SEAS) Benefit Students

Your support of SEAS helps BRTC provide access to additional educational opportunities and field trips!

### You Enable 175 Students to Visit Bodies Revealed

You helped students and faculty in nursing, respiratory, dietetics, EMT/Paramedic, and science attend Bodies Revealed at Discovery Park of America in Union City, TN.

The exhibit showcased preserved human bodies, organs, and anatomical specimens provided by individuals who donated their bodies to medical science. Many of the specimens demonstrated disease deterioration such as lungs damaged by tuberculosis or smoking.

*Without your help, many of these future scientists and health workers would not have been able to attend!*



### You Helped Bring Speaker Rodney Harris for Black History Month!

Your support of SEAS, in partnership with the Eddie Mae Herron Center, brought Pocahontas native Rodney Harris, Ph. D. candidate from UA, to speak at BRTC for the annual Black History month series held every February. He presented a fascinating group of African-Americans who helped shape Arkansas politics in the late 1800s: "Spokesmen for Their Race: African-American Political Involvement in Arkansas, 1868-1893."

BRTC students, faculty, staff, local high school students, and community members were able to benefit from your generosity!

*Thank you for helping educate and provide diversity to our communities!*



## Meet a Student You've Helped



Hunter Dail of Pocahontas has goals and is willing to do whatever is needed to accomplish them. For example he works at Don's Steakhouse to pay for tuition and books and wants to be a lifeguard at the Pocahontas Aquatic Center.

After getting his basics at BRTC he is going to transfer to ASU to study civil engineering.

As a guest speaker at BRTC's Scholars and Donor's Reception Hunter gave this analogy: "Let's say someone pays for another person's food at a drive-thru. That simple act of kindness might just help that person through their day.

*"Your donations help me to achieve my goal to pursue a career."*

In return, the person whose meal was paid for might return the favor and pay for the meal of the person behind them.

"Just like that chain reaction your donations may be the thing that keeps us in college. In return, we will be able to help others at a later time."

Helping others—isn't that what life is all about?



## Meet Your Foundation Board

Mike Dunn has been a Foundation board member for more than 10 years. He was first an *ex-officio* member while chair of the BRTC Board of Trustees. After his terms as Trustee, he remained on the Foundation.



What interested Mike initially was seeing how the Foundation helped students. "At that time, the Foundation was rather small and more scholarship-oriented," Mike says. But as the Foundation has matured, it has increased its support of the college.

The Gala, which raises money for both students and the college, was Mike's idea. SEAS funds also support the college. The Holocaust Survivor Series

*"Your donor dollars will go a long way to not only help individual students but the college, our community, and our state."*

funded by SEAS, is supported by Mike and his wife Barbara. After all this time, Mike says, "I still believe in the Foundation's purpose."

## Donors Like You

When you look at Above and Beyond's scholarship application, it may not strike you as an application from a healthcare agency. It sounds more like scholarship from a community-based organization.

But that's how Gary Johnson, owner of Above and Beyond Healthcare, wants it.

"I was told we don't know where our future community volunteers will come from," Gary said, "so I want to see the youth get more involved in community."

Gary has a long history of community involvement. In the military, he volunteered as a coach. Due to his fluent German, he volunteered to escort the State College of Arkansas, now UCA, singers on their 6-month European performance trip. Back in Arkansas, he was co-chair of the NEA March of Dimes.



*"I want to help students give back to the community."*

The Above and Beyond Scholarship is a way for him to blend his love of community and education. "Above and Beyond has been so blessed because the community has helped in so many ways. This is a way I can give back."

**Cost:** \$25 per person  
**Packet pick-up:** 6:30 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.  
**Race time:** 8:00 a.m.  
**Race location:** Black River Technical College  
1 Black River Drive, Paragould



**For More Information Contact:**  
**Priscilla Stillwell:**  
(870) 239-0969 Ext 5101  
or  
priscillas@blackrivertech.edu

## Foundation Board Members

Kelly Rose, Chair  
Mike Miller, Vice Chair  
Milton Smith, Secretary  
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J. Michael Dunn  
Ruth Ann Ellis  
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Carol Belford-Lewallen  
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Melissa Davis Wright

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## Institutional Advancement

(870) 248-4000 ext. 4026

Karen Liebhaber  
Ann Savage  
Jessica Bailey  
Shawna Lepard

## Celebrating Juneteenth Vestiges of the Past



For more information contact  
Jessica Bailey at (870) 248-4189

June 17

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

William Looney Tavern

- Old-Time Singing
- Dinner on the Grounds

June 18

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Eddie Mae Herron Center

- Games
- BBQ Lunch
- Juneteenth Pageant (0 - 18)

All events are free. Bring your favorite lawn chair and reminisce.



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[http://www.blackrivertech.edu/  
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