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## Committee Hopes for Record-Breaking Golf Tournament

The 19th Annual IBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Friday, October 5, at Rolling Hills Country Club. Tournament planners have challenged themselves to raising a record amount of funding this year, the 19th for the event, according to Dina Hufstедler, chair of the golf tournament.



*Pictured from left are Mike Miller, BRTC Foundation Board member and VP Integrity 1st; Ruth Ann Ellis, Foundation Board Chair; Dr. Jan Zigler, BRTC VP for Development; Dr. Wayne Hatcher, BRTC President; Kelly Rose VP IBERIABANK and BRTC Foundation Board member; and Dina Hufstедler, BRTC Project Specialist and Tournament Chair.*

The two-person scramble, underwritten and supported by IBERIABANK, is the largest fundraising event for

BRTC, providing funding for scholarships and other needs of the students.

“We hope to exceed last year’s record amount of \$31,025 in net proceeds,” Hufstедler said. Event planners have added something new to aid in meeting that goal, she explained, including the chance to win a stay at a beautiful beach house with private pool and great views in the Gulf

Shores area, courtesy of Brenda McDonald.

*(Continued on pg. 4)*

### Important Dates

- September 8 & 22**  
**REACH Sites Open**
- September 10 & 11**  
**Dave Rudolf Beach Party and Workshops**
- September 14**  
**Serendipity Begins New Year**
- October 5**  
**IBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament**
- October 18**  
**PTK Induction**
- October 23-24**  
**Holocaust Survivor Series**

## Singer/Songwriter to Promote Student Groups with Workshops and Beach Party



*Dave Rudolf*

Dave Rudolf, award-winning singer/songwriter and entertainer, will hold two workshops and a Beach Party next week at BRTC to promote student organizations and engagement, according to Phillip Dickson, Advisor to BRTC’s Student Government Association and sponsor of the event.

The workshops will be held Monday, 2:30-4:30 p.m., and Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m., both in the BT Conference Room on the Pocahontas campus. A Beach Party will be held Monday evening at 6:00 in the Randolph County

Development Center.

Pizza and refreshments will be served from 5-6 in the cafeteria for participants of Monday’s workshop staying for the Beach Party.

Students who are members of student organizations or are interested in joining an organization at BRTC are invited to attend one or both of the workshops. Advisors are also encouraged to attend. All BRTC students, faculty and staff are invited and encouraged to attend the Beach Party Monday evening.

In the workshops, Rudolf will present information for clubs on marketing, promotion, recruiting, event planning, fundraising, and will even help groups design and print their own logos.

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Fall 2012 Enrollment Article on Page 2

## Economy and New Regulations Affecting Fall Enrollment

New regulations may be negatively impacting fall enrollment at BRTC and other colleges, according to BRTC officials. The fall enrollment for BRTC is down slightly, about 4%, according to BRTC Registrar Kim Bigger, reporting the eleventh day "snapshot" figure the college reports to Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

The actual numbers, 1609 at the Pocahontas campus and 797 at the Paragould campus, represent a decrease of approximately one percent and nine percent, respectively, in comparison to the eleventh day report for 2011, for a total of 2,406 compared to 2,505 last fall.

College administrators at BRTC and other institutions who are also experiencing enrollment declines believe the dip may be related to new regulations that have impacted students and perhaps the weak economy.

"For one thing," explained BRTC Financial Aid Director Brandi Chester, "the Pell Lifetime Eligibility regulation that limits students' Pell eligibility to six years of full-time enrollment/12 full-time semesters kicked in this semester. And another thing is that nationwide academic progress policies have tightened, resulting in more suspensions of students who are outside the timeframe allowed for federal financial aid recipients. These new regulations have affected some of our students."

She went on to explain that students maintain the federal aid eligibility for 150% of the credit hours required for degree completion. For example, if a degree requires completion of 60 credit hours, students have financial aid eligibility for 150% of that, or up to 90 credit hours. If they exceed the 150% limit in the number of credit hours they complete but have not completed their degree, they are placed on

financial aid suspension. "Without that federal financial aid, many of those students cannot afford to enroll," she added.

"We will be examining the enrollment numbers as well as population trends in greater detail in the coming weeks," said BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher, "in order to determine whether there are steps we should be taking that would have a positive impact on enrollment. For example, it is interesting to note that even though the overall student numbers at Paragould have decreased, many students there opted for our weekend classes, with a record-breaking 13 of those classes making on that campus, even though this is an initiative we began only a short time ago. We want to do everything we can to work with students of all ages and to meet their needs so that they can be successful in the pursuit and completion of their degrees."

## Dave Rudolf

### Cont'd. from pg. 1

The Beach Party will include great music by Dave Rudolf, including some Jimmy Buffet tunes, Old Harry Belafonte tunes, and his own award-winning originals. The event will also include fun and games such as limbo, hula hoops, and beach balls. "The Beach Party is all about having fun," Dickson said. "The goal is to engage students and encourage participation across all levels."

Rudolf is from the Chicago area and has been an entertainer for over 20 years. He has released 10 children's albums and has written songs for Disney, including the "Winnie the Pooh" album. He's a Gold Record winner, Grammy Award nominee, and a 15-time nominee for College Entertainer Awards. His tunes have been featured on such diverse radio programs as Kids Radio, Dr. Demento and NPR.

He has appeared on national TV on "Bozo's Circus" and has performed as an opening act for Cheech & Chong, The Beach Boys, Tim McGraw, The Kentucky Headhunters, Sha Na Na, the Gatlin Brothers and the Smothers Brothers.

"Rudolf's wacky production of songs, humor, games and heavy audience participation make for an ideal motivational event," read one post on The Wacky World of Dave Rudolf website. "We do some goofy things to get everyone interacting," said Rudolf.

Admission is free to all events and students will have a chance to win some great prizes including an iPad.

For more information, contact Phillip Dickson or Dina Hufstedler, Pocahontas campus, at 870-248-4000, or Ashley Hall or Daniel Lee, Paragould campus, at 870-239-0969.

## Golf Tournament Cont'd from pg. 1

This and other great prizes will be awarded through the event's new golf scratch-off cards. Cards will be sold for \$5 each or five for \$20 and can be purchased from any Foundation Board or Tournament Committee member. They will be sold prior to the tournament as well as the day of the tournament at RHCC. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place, determined by the lowest scores on the cards. Winners will be announced during the 19th Hole After-Party following the tournament. The 19th Hole After-Party is sponsored by IBERIABANK and will feature the band Chillyrose.

The format of the tournament is the same as in previous years. There are two separate rounds of the tournament, which each stand alone. Tee-off times are 8:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Players are asked to report to the registration area 15 minutes prior to tee-off time to hear announcements. Cash prizes are awarded to the top three teams in the Championship, A, and B flights of each round. Cash prizes are also awarded for closest to the pin on the par 3's. The grand prize for a Hole-in-One on #15 is a 2012 Chevrolet truck, compliments of Baltz Chevrolet-Olds in Pocahontas.

Team entry fee is \$100, which includes two mulligans for each team member. The entry fee also includes a free barbecue lunch and eligibility for door prizes drawn after each round. Golf cart rental is \$25. Teams can also purchase their drive on Hole #4 for \$10.

"Without the cooperation and support of so many individuals, the tournament would not continue to be successful," said Hufstedler. "We appreciate all supporters and are grateful to IBERIABANK for their partnership in this annual event."

For anyone interested in being a sponsor of the tournament, there are three levels of sponsorship - Three-Star for \$500, Two-Star for \$250, and One-Star for \$125. A sign bearing the logo and information of the sponsor will be placed along the course from Thursday prior to the tournament through the following Monday. The size and location of the sign are dependent upon level of sponsorship. The three-star sponsorship also includes a team entry fee and golf card rental, if needed.

"The continued generosity and support of IBERIABANK and other businesses and individuals, is greatly appreciated," said BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher. "The tournament not only is an important source of funding for scholarships, but it's a fun event that brings together members of our community."

Anyone wishing to be a sponsor or participate in the tournament can contact Hufstedler at 870-248-4000, ext. 4187 or dina.hufstedler@blackrivertech.org.

## Caldwell Gives Presentation on Nutrition at YMA Conference

Angie Caldwell, VP for Technical Education at BRTC, gave a presentation on nutrition at the 2nd Annual Youth MOVE Arkansas Youth Empowerment Conference, held recently at Arkansas State University.

Youth MOVE (Motivating Others Through Voices of Experience) Arkansas, or YMA, is a division of Mid-South Health Systems and targets those who are directly served and impacted by Arkansas' child and youth serving agencies.

"See us Shine: Increasing Youth Engagement in the Systems Designed to Serve Them," was the theme of this year's conference and brought together participants from the fields of mental health, child welfare, foster care, housing, employment, education, research, business, youth



Angie Caldwell

services, and faith-based organizations.

Caldwell has been a registered dietitian for 23 years and has worked as a clinical dietitian, consulting dietitian, and a dietetics educator. Her presentation included practical tips for improving nutrition and health, and information on how to utilize food labels for making healthier choices. She also shared recommendations from the MY Plate program.

"I was blessed to have the opportunity to speak to about 45 young people from all across Arkansas," Caldwell said. "The students were polite, attentive, and asked very good questions! It was a pleasure to spend time with them and share information that can improve their health as they mature."

## Tunstal Retires



*"Everyday she showed up to work, she lived by 1st Timothy 4:12, in that she was an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity," stated Dr. Wayne Hatcher about Jessie Tunstal, BRTC Institutional Services, upon her retirement this past July. A resident of Delaplaine, "Ms. Jessie" had worked from 1975-1997 at Frolic Footwear in Walnut Ridge. She began part-time at BRTC in 1999, then began working full-time in 2006.*

## REACH Sites Topic of Arkansas History Inservice

A group of educators from the Black Rock campus of Lawrence County School District visited the REACH sites recently as a part of their Arkansas History inservice training.

REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage) is a BRTC project of historic preservation that entails the historic, architectural, and archeological study of early settlement in present day Arkansas, with restored log structures as the centerpiece of the project.

The structures, the Rice-Upshaw House (ca. 1828) and the William Looney Tavern (ca. 1833), along with related outbuildings at the Rice-Upshaw site, help tell the story of early pioneering settlers who arrived in the Eleven Point River Valley as early as 1803, bringing with them enslaved African Americans from present-day east Tennessee.



Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP of Development, addressing Black Rock teachers at the REACH sites.

Both the Rice-Upshaw House and William Looney Tavern were donated to BRTC by their owners, family descendants of Reuben Rice and William Looney. The Jean Upshaw family and Jack and Christina French, respectively, deeded the properties to BRTC for preservation and restoration with the agreement that the log structures would be used for educational purposes. Grant funding from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council provided the funds for the project.

The inservice was provided by Dr. Jan Ziegler and Jessica McFadden of the Office of Develop-

ment.

In addition to learning about those who migrated to the region and constructed the structures, teachers were encouraged to consider ways they can share the history with their students, including through scheduled field trips to the sites.

The REACH sites are open to the public every second Saturday

April through October, 10 – 4, and by special appointment for group events. The next open date is Saturday, September 8, with a second open date this month, September 22, to coincide with the Dalton Fish Fry, according to McFadden.

Special group events may be also be arranged by contacting McFadden through the Office of Development at 870-248-4000 ext. 4189. Educational visits can also be arranged by contacting Corporate and Community Education Director Patti Blaxton at 870-248-4181.



P.O. Box 468  
1410 Hwy 304 East  
Pocahontas, AR 72455

Phone: 870-248-4000  
Fax: 870-248-4100

P.O. Box 1565  
1 Black River Drive  
Paragould, AR 72450

Phone: 870-239-0969  
Fax: 870-239-2050

[www.blackrivertech.edu](http://www.blackrivertech.edu)

On-Line River's Edge Address:  
[http://www.blackrivertech.org/rivers\\_edge/](http://www.blackrivertech.org/rivers_edge/)

*The River's Edge is produced by the  
Office of Development.*

*[janz@blackrivertech.org](mailto:janz@blackrivertech.org)  
[dina.hufstedler@blackrivertech.org](mailto:dina.hufstedler@blackrivertech.org)  
[jessica.mcfadden@blackrivertech.org](mailto:jessica.mcfadden@blackrivertech.org)  
[rhonda.foster@blackrivertech.org](mailto:rhonda.foster@blackrivertech.org)  
[anns@blackrivertech.org](mailto:anns@blackrivertech.org)*

## **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*

As many of you are aware BRTC just completed another successful accreditation process, and with it the Higher Learning Commission team left us with some fine accolades as to what we have done and are doing. A segment of our accreditation documents not only notes our mission statement but also our 10 Strategic Priorities which influence BRTC's planning at all levels: institutionally, divisionally, departmentally, and even individually.

At this time I want to focus on one facet of Priority One: "Create an environment to increase the likelihood that all BRTC students will complete

certification and degrees."

Very soon BRTC will be initiating a new credit course for new students to help them build knowledge and skills essential for success in college. Typically the course includes a focus on both academic and life skills such as time management, note-taking, as well as study and test-taking, in addition to providing guidance for student in using the information and academic support resources available at the college. Academic and career goal setting and planning will also be part of the course.

This course is a keystone in our goal to significantly improve student learning, success and completion. As stated in my last commentary, approximately 50% of community college students don't return for their second year.

This startling statistic made me ask these questions: Are we doing all we can to equip students with the tools and skills necessary for them to be successful? Are we, in reality, setting them up for failure if we do not provide them the basic tools we know they need to succeed?

I am proud to say that the faculty requested student involvement in the final construction of the

curriculum of this new course. There will be continuous quality improvement assessment of how effective the course is, which modules are more valued by students and why, suggestions on how to utilize the course to enhance their success and we will track the impact of this course on their academic success versus the past students that did not take the course.

Data from colleges requiring students to enroll in a student success course in their initial term indicate that these students are more likely to succeed on a number of indicators: semester completion, successful course completion, persistence into the next term, etc. Research also shows that it is the students who experienced well-executed orientation and student success courses that recommend that both be mandatory.

Students face a myriad of choices and options as they struggle to navigate through a college's system which often creates confusion—inhibiting student success. BRTC has a responsibility to improve student success by creating coherent pathways that help students move through an engaging collegiate experience. The success strategies course is one of those pathways, with more on the way.