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LETA Graduation is Held for 43 Officers

BRTC’s Law Enforcement Training Academy held a graduation ceremony November 16 for 43 officers completing the Basic Police Training Course. Chief Danny Bradley



Law Enforcement Class 2012-B

with the North Little Rock Police Department served as guest speaker during the ceremony held in the Randolph County Development Center on the Pocahontas campus.

Graduating students completed a thirteen-week course that included instruction in standard police tactics, firearms, legal education, technical skills and practical exercises. Officers are required to score at least 70% on each exam, and consistently fire at least 80% during firearms training exercises in order to graduate.

Eric Cheatham of the North Little Rock Police De-

partment received the Top Overall Award, which is earned by having the highest overall average in the areas of academics, firearms, and physical fitness. He also received the Top Physical

Fitness Award. Clinton Eifling of the Lonoke County Sheriff’s Office received the Top Firearms Award, and Jonathan Giles of the Heber Springs Police Department received the Top Academics Award.

James Sellers, Jr., of the Vilonia Police Department was selected by classmates to serve as class spokesperson. Aaron Moody, Independence County Sheriff’s Office, and Kevin Neal, Greenbrier Police Department, sang the National Anthem to open the ceremony, and LETA Director Steve Shults served as Master of Ceremonies.

Important Dates

- November 29**
Kimbrough Choir Presentation
- December 3**
Respiratory Care Pinning and Graduation
- December 4**
PN/RN Pinning and Graduation
- December 7**
Business Technology Day
- December 13**
Graduation
- December 22– January 1**
Campus Closed

Puerto Rico is Feature of Country Feast

Puerto Rico native Raul Blasini was the guest speaker at the Biannual Country Feast held November 20 in the Randolph County Development Center on BRTC’s Pocahontas campus. His native country was featured at the event, which is hosted each year by Dr. Sandy Baltz’ World Civilization class.

“The event was established several years ago as a way to provide an educational experience for students in my World Civilization and art classes,” explained Baltz. “The event, held both fall and spring semesters, focuses on different cultures, and art students produce related pieces of art while history students present reports related to the featured country.

Dietetics students, led by instructor Kathy Murdock, prepare a feast of foods with authentic recipes, and the Kimbrough Choir, under the direction of Joniece Trammel, provides entertainment through songs, each relevant to the culture of the chosen country.

Blasini, who is originally from Auayanilla, a small town in Puerto Rico, shared with the audience some of his life experiences from his native country. He came to America in 1979 and joined the U.S. Army where he served 20 years. He resides in Pocahontas with his wife, Glenda, and is an active volunteer in the community. In 2010, he was chosen by the Governor’s Office and the DHS Department of Volunteerism to receive the Arkansas Volunteer of the Year Award.



Raul Blasini speaking at Country Feast.

“Backpacks for Kids” is Focus of FEA Service Project



Dr. Hatcher with FEA students on the Pocahontas Campus.

BRTC’s Future Educators Association at both Pocahontas and Paragould campuses has been participating in “Backpacks for Kids” as their community service project. Students on the Paragould campus participated through the project organized at Greene County Tech Schools in Paragould, according to Daphne Perkins, FEA advisor at Paragould. While students on the Pocahontas campus participated through the project organized at Corning Park Elementary in Corning, according to Lisa Jackson, FEA advisor at Pocahontas.

“Backpacks for Kids” was organized through the Arkansas Foodbank and operates sites throughout the state. Through these sites, more than 1,000 underserved children each month are provided with food for the weekends and school holidays. At the end of each week children involved in the program

pick up a backpack of food and other necessities to take home. The backpacks are inconspicuous and previously prepared by volunteers. They are filled with nutritious, child-friendly items that are easy for young ones to prepare.

Throughout the month of October, the FEA groups collected food and other needed items to donate to their respective Backpack Projects. “The local Food Pantry was bare,”

said Kelly Crouse, FEA member who helped lead the drive on the Paragould campus. “The Backpack Project is so moving. It’s amazing what the school is doing for these families.”

Greene County Tech serves approximately 160 families. The group collected and delivered to the school 35 coats, 120 canned items, and a few packages of underwear/panties. “FEA members even washed the coats and put them on hangers before delivering to the school,” Crouse added.

The FEA group on the Pocahontas campus collected 587 food and toiletry items along with pencils, erasers and a coat for the

Corning School.

“Each semester, FEA will select a different school in our area as the focus of a service project,” said Jackson. “As future educators, our members want to reach out to local schools to assist them in a variety of ways.” Hoxie School has already been chosen for next semester.

“We would like to thank everyone that contributed to this effort,” both Jackson and Perkins added. “You are the ones that made the project so successful, and we appreciate your generous donations.”

For more information on FEA or their community service projects, contact Lisa Jackson on the Pocahontas campus at 870-248-4000, or Daphne Perkins on the Paragould campus at 870-239-0969.



FEA students on the Paragould Campus with the goods they donated.

Ziegler Awarded for Contributions to Social Studies

Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development at BRTC, recently received the Arkansas Council for the Social Studies (ACSS) 2012 “Friend of the Year” award for her role in “Strengthening Social Studies Education in the State of Arkansas,” as is the motto of ACSS. The award was announced at the ACSS luncheon held November 8 in Little Rock during the Arkansas Curriculum Conference.

According to the ACSS website, the “Friend of the Year” award is given annually to a deserving individual based on contributions to the field of social studies education in the state of Arkansas. The document nominating Ziegler for the award states: “Through her many years in education, both at the college and secondary levels, Jan has been instrumental in developing programs and activities that promote the education and preservation of Arkansas’s history and advanced social studies education in Arkansas.”

For example, in her role as coordinator of Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage), Ziegler continuously works to provide educational opportunities for the community, for BRTC faculty and staff, and for teachers and students of area schools, with the primary goal being to connect learning to historic preservation.

Ziegler has also had a significant role in developing a friendship and partnership between BRTC and the Eddie Mae Herron Center museum in Poca-

hontas, which serves to identify, preserve and display African American history in Randolph County. The partnership has led to numerous and ongoing collaborative efforts to promote education of the region’s African American history.

In addition to her VP position, Ziegler teaches German Language and Holocaust Studies as an adjunct instructor through BRTC and Williams Baptist College. Her love of writing has led to numerous published works, including a book *The Schooling of Japanese American Children at Relocation Centers During World War II: Miss Mable Jamison and Her Teaching of Art at Rohwer, Arkansas* that was awarded the Adele Mellon Prize.



Dr. Jan Ziegler

“This recognition of Dr. Ziegler’s accomplishments in the area of social studies education in Arkansas is well-deserved,” said BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher. “She continuously gives unselfishly of herself to BRTC, her community, and to the state of Arkansas for the purpose of education.”

English Club Field Trip Brings Classwork to Life

Approximately 30 BRTC students from the Pocahontas and Paragould campuses recently participated in an English Club field trip to Piggott. The highlight of the trip, according to Lisa Inman, English Club advisor, was a guided tour of the Hemingway-Pfeiffer house and museum.

Ernest Hemingway, best known for works such as *The Old Man and the Sea*, *A Farewell to Arms*, and *The Sun Also Rises*, married his second wife Pauline Pfeiffer in 1927 and visited Piggott frequently to drop off the children with Pauline's parents.

"My students had just read Hemingway's *A Day's Wait*, which was inspired by real life events that occurred at the Hemingway-Pfeiffer house in Piggott," explained Inman. "The tour guide pointed out the actual room where that story took place and also showed us the copy of Howard Pyle's *Book of Pirates*, which is referenced in the story. It was quite exciting for the students to see in person

these things they had just read about."

The field-trip, made possible by funding support from BRTC's Student Government Association (SGA), concluded with a visit to Pumpkin Hollow, where students enjoyed a hay ride and corn maze.



English Club members standing in front of the Hemingway-Pfeiffer house.

NTHS Induction

BRTC's Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) recently held its fall induction ceremony. "We inducted 35 new members during our second induction," said Alan Haskins, NTHS advisor and director of fire science. "Around 60 members were inducted during the first NTHS ceremony held in the spring at BRTC."

To qualify for NTHS, BRTC students must have completed a minimum of twelve credit hours of course work in a technical field and have a 3.5 GPA. Once inducted into NTHS, a member must maintain a 3.0 GPA to retain membership in the Society.

To become a member, students are first recommended by a technical faculty member and then selected based upon the following characteristics, which the candidate regularly exhibits and have been observed by his/her instructor(s): a desire to pursue a career in his/her course of study, scholastic achievement, honesty, dependability, responsibility, high quality task performance and pride in work performed, cooperation and ability to work well with others, interest in learning, initiative, leadership, and citizenship.

Current NTHS officers are Samantha Brown, President; Samantha Watson, Vice President; and Stephanie Malin, Secretary. Advisors along with Haskins are Gary Meier, machine shop instructor, and Janet Murrell, respiratory care instructor.



Art Club Visits Crystal Bridges

The BRTC Art Club, accompanied by art club advisor Sandy Davis-Baltz and a few BRTC staff members, recently traveled to Bentonville to visit the Crystal Bridges Art Museum. The new museum nestled in the forests of NW Arkansas was endowed by the Walton Family Foundation with \$800 million, according to *The Washington Post*. Crystal Bridges joins the ranks of the richest museums in this country, and it has been using its extraordinary resources to assemble a collection of American art that may rival in quality, if not quantity, anything available to museum visitors in New York, Washington, Los Angeles or Chicago.



Art club members stand in front of silver tree at Crystal Bridges.

The BRTC students and staff viewed the world renowned collection featuring the famous Asher Durand's *Kindred Spirits*, Norman Rockwell's *Rosie*

the Riveter, and Gilbert Stuart's *George Washington*. "From Stuart's sketches of the president, you have the design on the one dollar bill used today," noted Baltz. These three pieces alone are speculated to be worth over \$55 million.

The group also visited nearby Eureka Springs where they toured the internationally known *Thorn-crown Chapel* designed by Fay Jones, pupil of Frank Lloyd Wright, and viewed the *Christ of the Ozarks* statue, the second largest statue of Jesus in the world (the tallest being *Christ the Redeemer* in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

"This was a wonderful opportunity for the students," said Baltz. "Thanks

to BRTC's Student Government Association (SGA) and the BRTC Foundation's Student Events and Activities Support (SEAS) fund for making the trip possible."

Class Visits Studio

Students in BRTC's Digital Photography class recently toured Camera Corner Studios in Pocahontas and visited with owners James and Cindy Throgmorton, according to instructor Kellee Hardage.

Mr. Throgmorton used an old camera to demonstrate to students how film images were created in the 1950's and how the process has progressed to present day digital photography. Mrs. Throgmorton demonstrated how to measure light in a room with a light meter and how to pose clients for group shots. She also discussed photo editing techniques and their printing process.

Students brought their personal cameras and were able to ask specific questions regarding camera features and how to take certain images successfully.

"The entire visit to the studio was very informative and beneficial to the students," noted Hardage. "Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Throgmorton!"

(See picture, pg. 4)



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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

When our Respiratory Care and Nursing students receive their diplomas at their December 3 and 4 graduation ceremonies, respectively, an impressive percentage of the graduates of both programs will have this in common: many of them have been participants in BRTC's Career Pathways program.

This is a program through which income-eligible individuals who are parents of dependent children can receive assistance in the form of gasoline

vouchers, child care assistance, and tuition assistance after other sources have been accessed.

In some instances, Pathways students actually begin their educational pursuits in our Adult Education program, completing their GED. All of them receive intensive academic advising, counseling, and mentoring as Pathways participants.

The point is, with the resources of Career Pathways, BRTC is able to take students where they are and offer them a way to pull themselves up and out of poverty. In this particular situation, Career Pathways is a major factor in producing graduates in high-demand short-supply medical fields.

These results prove just how well Career Pathways works: 45% of the RNs who will graduate from BRTC December 4 are Pathways participants; 28% of the PN's are Pathways participants; and 47% of the Respiratory Care graduates December 3 are Pathways participants.

Our Career Pathways program has consistently been rated as a top-performing program, with the recognition coming from the state and federal agencies that fund the program.

We have long known Pathways is a true success story, and that the program deserved continued funding support rather than the recent trend of reducing Pathways funds.

You can be sure we will share these numbers with those who will be making funding decisions. Career Pathways works for our students. Career Pathways works for Arkansas.



James and Cindy Throgmorton (far left), owners of Camera Corner Studios, visit with Digital Photography students.