

March 1, 2013

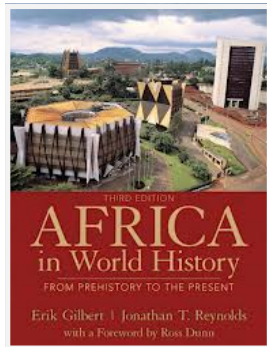
Volume 11, Issue 3



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African Presentation Opens SGA Artist/Lecturer Series



The Student Government Association (SGA) of BRTC began its plans for an Artist/Lecturer Series February 18 with a presentation by Dr. Erik Gilbert, professor of History at Arkansas State University. According to Daniel Lee, BRTC History instructor and SGA advisor, Gilbert spoke about Africans in the Atlantic World and how African slaves contributed to the development of the Atlantic World beginning in the 16th century.

"Gilbert grew up in Africa and spent a lifetime studying Africa and the slave trade," Lee noted. He teaches African History and Global History at ASU. He has done research in Tanzania, Kenya and Yemen, and is the author of *Dhows and the Colonial Economy of Zanzibar, 1860-*

1970 (2004), and co-author (with Jonathan Reynolds) of *Africa in World History: From Prehistory to Present* (2003). He holds a B.A. in Greek from College of William and Mary, an M.A. in History from University of Vermont, and a Ph.D. in History from Boston University.

Gilbert's interest in World History began in high school, but his fascination with African history developed while working on his dissertation. "My dissertation was on the East African island of Zanzibar and its maritime links to the western Indian Ocean," explained Gilbert. "It became apparent to me during my research that Indian Ocean historians were uninterested in East Africa, despite its obvious connection to the Indian Ocean. I then began to notice history books that did not include East Africa in the content."

"As I started to look at other classic works of world history," Gilbert continued, "I realized that the problem was not limited to Indian Ocean studies. The early, field-

(Continued on pg. 2)

Important Dates

- March 8-9**
Arkansas Folklore Society Meeting
- March 9**
BRTC Foundation Gala
REACH Sites Open
(9 a.m. – 12 p.m.)
- March 12**
Advisory Dinner
- March 14**
PTK Induction
- March 18-22**
Spring Break
- March 26-27**
PTK Blood Drive

Arkansas Folklore Symposium to be Held at BRTC March 8-9

The Arkansas Folklore Symposium, scheduled for March 8 and 9, is a multifaceted event celebrating the culture and history of the state. The public is invited to this unique gathering, which combines folklore and fun.

On Friday, March 8, starting at 1:30 p.m., visitors departing from the Randolph County Development Center (RCDC) will be able to tour the log cabins at the REACH project sites throughout the day. Participants can then enjoy a jam session featuring country, bluegrass, and other folk music at the Eddie Mae Heron Center, beginning at 7:00 that evening. Guests may bring and play any acoustical instruments that they wish.

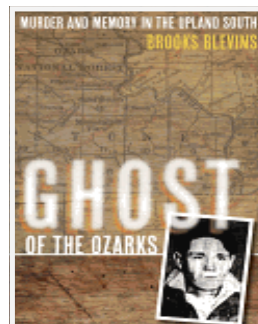
On Saturday, March 9, after registration and greetings from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. in the RCDC building, spectators can attend several interesting programs about Arkansas folklore. These include a lecture by Dr. Brooks Blevins, author of *Ghost of the Ozarks: Murder and Memory in the South* who will talk about the regional history and memories of the Ozarks; a "Water Witchers" dowsing

presentation will be given by local well-digger Jim Caldwell, local plumber Bryn Ulmer, and international guest speaker Marek Halir; an Ozark fiddling performance by musical artist Gordon McCann; and an introduction to the Arkansas



Dr. Brooks Blevins, author of "Ghost of the Ozarks: Murder and Memory in the South," is scheduled to speak at Arkansas Folklore Symposium.

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Tompkins Shares Story of "Hoxie 21"

In honor of Black History Month, the President's Leadership Council (PLC) of BRTC hosted guest speaker Ethel Tompkins, one of the "Hoxie 21" students. She shared her story and personal experiences from 1955 when the Hoxie School District became the first school in Arkansas to do a full integration of K-12, despite opposition and challenges. The presentation, held February 13 in the BRTC Administration building, opened with a performance by BRTC's Kimbrough Choir under the direction of Joniece Trammel.

A total of 25 students were integrated into the Hoxie school system, but only 21 remained for over two months. In 1961, Tompkins became the first integrated student to graduate from Hoxie High School. "Many people had to move to find jobs," Tompkins explained. "But, my family was able to stay because my father had work as a share-cropper and my mother as a maid."

Tompkins told the audience about LIFE Magazine being there on the first day of school to take pictures and do a story. The published article and photos, including photos of white children playing with colored children, outraged protestors. "The

Hoxie School stood firm against the protestors," stated Tompkins. She praised the school board members and then superintendent Howard Vance for "not backing down and for standing up for what was right, even though they and their families were being threatened."

After graduating from Hoxie, Tompkins attended college for one year, but dropped out due to finances. She then joined the Navy so she could further her education under the G.I. Bill. She is now a retired Librarian who devotes her time to telling her story of the "Hoxie 21." Tompkins said, "I might have had to work harder than others, but I would always get what I wanted with hard work and dedication."



Ethel Tompkins

African Presentation Cont'd from pg. 1

defining, works of world history had very little to say about Africa once human origins had been dealt with."

Gilbert's lecture addressed the extent of Africa's exclusion from World History, the reasons for it, and what, if anything, can be done to satisfy the desire of Africanists and world historians to get more information about Africa into the textbooks. He also shared his own personal experience of writing an African History textbook with a World History emphasis.



Dr. Erick Gilbert

The evening presentation was held on the Paragould campus with approximately 80 students and 20 faculty attending. Following the lecture, a catered meal was provided free to attendees. "This was the beginning of an Artist/Lecturer Series sponsored by SGA that we hope to continue each semester," said Lee. "It was the first 'after hours' event held here on the Paragould campus, and, by all accounts, it was a complete success."

Dietetic Students Attend Luncheon at State Capital

Students of BRTC's Dietetic Technician program and their instructors, Tina Harris and Kathy Murdock, recently traveled to Little Rock for a legislative luncheon held in the Capitol Hill building during the 89th session of the general assembly. Members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, including Dietetic students and instructors from around the state, took this opportunity to meet with legislators to gain their support for Senate Bill 74.

"The bill is an act to modernize references to the national and state Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics within the Dietetics Practice Act," Murdock explained. "The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics was formerly the American Dietetic Association." The group met with Representative Scott Baltz of District 61 (Randolph County), among others.



Pictured in front of the State Capital are, from left to right: Christina Derbes, Rayah Fortson, Tina Harris, Annaliza Anis, Jason Cartwright, Kathy Murdock, and Belinda Johnson .

Art Showcase to be Held April 7

The April 7 BRTC Art Showcase, scheduled for 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Randolph County Development Center, will offer something for everyone, from bargain shopping to musical entertainment, according to Dr. Sandy Baltz, Fine Arts instructor. Customers will be able to browse through paintings, drawings and pastels, ranging in price from \$5 to \$150.

"All merchandise is produced by past and present students of BRTC art classes," said Baltz. "We had over 100 pieces at our last Art Showcase held seven years ago, and we hope to have that many again."

In addition to the art sale, the Kimbrough Choir is planning a public performance at 2:00 p.m. in the RCDC auditorium. The Art Club will also sponsor a bake sale and a used book sale.

Visitors can enjoy free popcorn provided by the Student Government Association (SGA), and participate in drawings for door prizes, including original artwork and baked goods.

This event is co-sponsored by SGA and the BRTC Art Club, with proceeds funding field trips for current students, including a trip to the art museum in St. Louis currently scheduled for Art Club members.

For more information on the Art Showcase, contact Baltz at 870-248-4000, ext. 4152.



Come for the food, fun, entertainment, and bargain sales!

Whitmire is New Lab Facilitator

Kelly Whitmire of Hoxie has been hired as Nursing Simulation Lab Facilitator for the Nursing Department at Black River Technical College. She has worked for the past three years as an RN at St. Bernard's Regional Medical Center in Jonesboro.

Whitmire is a graduate of White Hall High School and attended Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge before transferring to Black River Technical College to complete the Practical Nursing program. She graduated from Arkansas State University in 2010 with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.



Kelly Whitmire



Actress Shinnerrie Jackson portraying Zora Neale Hurston during part one of the "Ain't I a Woman" presentation held Monday night at BRTC. Her accompaniment includes Wendy Law, Cello; Byron Sean, Piano; and Micheal Parola, Percussion.

PBL Week Celebrated with Luncheon

In celebration of National FBLA-PBL Week, the BRTC Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda held an entrepreneurship luncheon February 14 in the Continuing Education building, according to Darena Kersey, business instructor and PBL advisor. Dina Mason, President of MorMedia in Paragould, was guest speaker at the luncheon.



*Dina Mason
President of MorMedia*

"The second week in February is designated as FBLA-PBL Week," said Kersey, "and Dina was invited to come share her entrepreneurial story with the luncheon attendees." After the luncheon, students enjoyed a networking opportunity with several local business owners also in attendance.

FBLA-PBL Week encourages local chapters to publicize their activities and successes, boost their membership, and gear up for their spring activities.

Technical Education Department is Represented at Local Career Fair

Rhonda Foster, BRTC's Coordinator of Student Recruitment/Concurrent Credit, and Phillip Dickson, BRTC's Division Chair of Technical Education, along with 13 BRTC Technical Education instructors, recently attended a Career and Technical Education event held at Walnut Ridge High School.

February is designated as Career and Technical Education Month, and this is the third event sponsored by WRHS where area colleges and businesses are invited to attend and share with high students the employment and educational opportunities available to them. "Career and Technical Education teachers want students to be employable and ready to enter the workforce," explained Mary Smith, FBLA sponsor and Business teacher at WRHS. "Not all students plan to go to college, but this event introduces them to certifications, training and education, they did not realize they could get."

Over 38 careers and 27 businesses were represented at the event. Instructors attending from BRTC and the programs represented were: Joe



WRHS Junior Dylan Smith talks with BRTC instructors Butch Dail (from left), Travis DeClerk, Gary Meir, and Alan Haskins.

Chappell, EMT/Paramedics; Gary Meier, Machine Shop; Alan Haskins, Fire Science; Nanette Carter, Phlebotomy; Jennifer Hibbard and Kara Malin, Nursing; Rhonda Stone, Ruth Schaa, Darena Kersey, Shannon Ogden, and Linda Stacy, Business; Butch Dail, Automotive Collision/Repair; and Travis DeClerk, Automotive Service Technology.

Symposium Cont'd. from Pg. 1

Folklife radio program by folklorist Mike Luster. A discussion panel, "Folklore in Arkansas, Today," will follow, headed by Mike Luster, Rachel Luster, and three Arkansas State University professors of Literature and Folklore: Drs. William Clements, Rick Burns, and Gregory Hansen.

BRTC faculty member Dr. Gary Buxton spearheaded this project, bringing together the other folklorists to collaborate on the event. Buxton is an active member of the Missouri Folklore Society, and after attending some of its symposia, he remarked that he wished for Arkansas to be able to have a similar gathering. Buxton states of himself and the other planners of this symposium, "We are looking forward to this being a good event, and hope for it to become a yearly experience in Arkansas." He explained that the collaborators hope to spread the symposium all around the state, with a different Arkansas college or museum sponsoring and holding the event each year.

For more information, contact Buxton at 870-248-4000, ext. 4154.



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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

Many of us have repeatedly heard the sad fact that as a state we rank 49th in the number of college degrees in the nation—or 48th on a good year. We know that is a major reason why Arkansas does not have a growing number of good paying. However, I want you to know that a lot of your local public school and community colleges are working together successfully to solve this huge problem. One highly successful effort is concurrent enrollment.

Normally, concurrent enrollment is when a student, who has completed the 8th grade, is enrolled in a college level course that is taught at their

high school, for which they receive both college and high school credit. Acceptable ACT or COM-PASS scores and permission from high school administration are all that is required. Each course is taught by an instructor who possesses a master's degree plus at least 18 semester hours in the discipline being taught. The course requirements, assessments, syllabus, textbooks, etc. are the same as that taught at BRTC for that course, including student evaluations. Most of the time the instructor is one who teaches at that high school who possesses the necessary professional qualifications.

Multiple advantages exist via such a partnership between the high school and BRTC. It makes it convenient for the student in that they can enroll in one or more college level courses and mix them in with their other high school classes and activities. The cost is at least 50% less than the normal BRTC rate, and textbooks are often furnished by the school district. Some school boards in the state cover part or all of the discounted tuition in addition to the books. I have had many high school students graduate from their high school and enter community college or a university as a sophomore. Some have graduated from my community college the same month they graduated from high school.

Students that completed the equivalent of an academic year of college level work at BRTC have spent approximately \$1,500 or half of the actual cost. But that isn't the financial kicker. If these students had gone to a university straight out of high school with no concurrent credit, they would have spent about \$7,000 a year or \$14,000 for two years, which is \$5,500 and \$11,000 more, respectively. With the savings one could more than pay for that third year at the university level—including attending classes at either BRTC campus.

These are all advantages of concurrent enrollment, and we hope that you encourage your family and friends to participate...but it is not the main reason I am a strong advocate for it. You see, we have many children in our public schools who aren't thinking about college because they don't believe they are college material. They don't have hope. Concurrent enrollment, by being offered and made affordable in your public schools, gives many children the opportunity to enroll in college...to believe...and to hope. Call your high school principal now to find out how you can give someone hope.

In the next issue you will read about how Dr. Ziegler has taken the leadership in initiating a method to spread hope to our high school students and with local sponsorships can make a lot of dreams come true. It's not that difficult and the results will make you wonder why more things like it aren't more widespread.