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Important Dates

- April 7**
Registration Begins for Returning Students
- April 10**
Campus Preview Night
- April 11**
LETA Graduation
- April 12**
ACT Test
- April 14**
Registration Begins for First-time & Transfer Students
- April 16**
BRTC Health Fair
- April 17**
Student Recognition Awards Ceremony
- April 24**
Annual Scholarship/Donor Luncheon

Another Record Year for Foundation Gala

For the second time in as many years, the 8th Annual BRTC Foundation Gala, held March 8 at the Rolling Hills Country Club, raised a record amount, according to Ann Savage, Gala Chair. The event netted \$17,230, compared to \$15,823 raised last year. The Gala is one of the major fundraising events of the BRTC Foundation with proceeds providing scholarships for students and helping to fund other activities of the college.



Enjoying the Gala are, left to right, Bill and Sherry DeClerk, and Carol and Lloyd Lewallen.

Holding the event at the Country Club on a Saturday night, in contrast to a weeknight at the Randolph County Development Center, has again proven to be a profitable move for the Gala with its second year at the club, noted Gala Committee members.

“The event had reached a plateau of proceeds for a

few years and then a significant drop with the 2012 Gala,” noted Dr. Wayne Hatcher, BRTC President. “It was time to reevaluate the event and make a decision on whether to continue or try something different.” Hatcher approached the Gala Committee with the idea of changing the venue to cut down on expenses and changing the day of the week to boost attendance.”

All were in agreement that change was needed and moved forward with Dr. Hatcher’s suggestion. The change resulted in a 65% increase in profit the first year at the club, and an additional 13% increase this year, Savage noted. “I appreciate the efforts of so many in making it all come together for another successful year,” said Savage.

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BRTC Campus Preview Night is April 10

Campus Preview Night, a new event for BRTC, has been scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 6-8 p.m., in the Randolph County Development Center on the Pocahontas campus, according to Sarah Waltermire, BRTC Coordinator of Student Recruitment and Concurrent Enrollment. “Preview Night is something Martha Nelson, VP for Student Affairs, introduced as a way of orienting students to the college as early as possible in their decision making process.”

“It’s pretty much an admissions staple at any other place I’ve worked,” Nelson explained. “We invite students to come and see us, learn about our programs, and allow us to help with all the steps necessary in working towards a college degree.”

During the event, potential students will receive admissions and financial aid information, hear from various administrative personnel, meet faculty and staff, take campus tours and listen to a student panel discussion on ways to be successful in college.

“Over 700 invitations have been sent to students who have contacted us this year for more information about BRTC, but who have not yet enrolled,” said Waltermire. “Local high schools have also been contacted. We are holding the event at night to accommodate people who work during the day or have family members they would like to bring. Anyone interested in learning more about BRTC or needing assistance with the enrollment process is invited to attend.”

Refreshments and door prizes will be provided. For more information, contact Waltermire at 870-248-4157.



Martha Nelson (left), and Sarah Waltermire, work on plans for Campus Preview Night.

Liebhaber Presents at Conference and Wins Awards for Published Writings

BRTC English instructor Karen Liebhaber has been busy giving presentations as well as writing poetry and short stories, with many winning awards.

Liebhaber recently traveled to Anaheim, CA to present at *Innovations 2014*, the annual conference for the League for Innovation in the Community College. Faculty, staff, and administrators from community colleges all around the United States gathered at the event, which was held March 2 in the Anaheim Marriott and Convention Center. According to Liebhaber, her presentation, "Creating Instructor Presence in the Online Classroom: Improving Student Completion and Retention," went extremely well. "Not only were all 50 seats taken, but people were standing up in the back and sitting on the floor." She gave similar presentations at the AATYC conference last October and at the Spring Faculty Convention at South Arkansas Community College.

Liebhaber has also won several awards for her poetry and short stories, including 1st place in the Suzanne Suddeth Memorial Prize for Prose or Poetry, from the Green River Writers' contest (December 2013); 1st place in the Jime Stone Grand Prize Memorial Award for Fiction, from the Springfield Writers' Guild (October 2013); 2nd place in the Formed Poetry Award, from the Springfield Writers' Guild (October 2013); 3rd place in the Winklebleck's Challenge Award, from the Mississippi Poetry Society (September 2013); and 2nd honorable mention in the Erdel Family Memorial Award, from the Arkansas Writers' Conference (June 2013).



Karen Liebhaber

Yocum Joins BRTC Staff

Micheal Yocum of Jonesboro has been hired as Public Safety Officer for the BRTC-Paragould campus where he has been working the evening shift.



Micheal Yocum

Yocum is a graduate of Havana, IL High School and graduated from BRTC's Law Enforcement Training Academy in 2008, Class A. Prior to joining BRTC, he worked for three years at the Marion Police Department.

Gala

"Success of the Gala would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our Foundation Board and the Gala Committee, as well as the generous contributions of so many volunteers and donors," said Hatcher. "Members of the Foundation Board worked exceptionally hard this year to make things happen, from making donations and soliciting donations, to selling tickets and helping before, during and after the event. Participation is key to the success of any Foundation Board, and their contributions are to be commended."

The elegant evening consisted of a full course dinner prepared and catered by Teresa Bibb and the RHCC staff, along with a live auction conducted by Jim Early of Pocahontas. A silent auction and raffle were also held.

"The Gala was well attended and beautifully decorated," said Foundation

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Board Chair Kelly Rose. "Seeing the energy of the room that evening, it was no surprise that the event proved to be a financial success. The continued support from our longtime patrons coupled with the new enthusiasm of the first time attendees and supporters created a festive atmosphere where generosity was the theme. Congratulations to the Gala Committee for successfully building upon this long term event, and congratulations to our patrons who once again demonstrated their support of the Foundation and its efforts to support the college."

Gala photos can be viewed on the BRTC website at blackrivertech.edu. Click on the "Community" tab, then the "Office of Development" tab, then the "Gala" tab, and then select the year 2014.



Gala attendees pictured clockwise from top left: Phillip Dickson, Kimberly Riddle and Edward Kelson; Jana and Michael Caldwell; Teresa and Jim Earley; Lowell and Joy Carlen; Greysyn Colbert, Amy Story and Ashley Baker; Dallas Carlisle and Rob Olvey; Mary and John Jackson; and Ruth Ann Cox and Dorothy Wright.

PBL Hosts Business Technology Day at BRTC

BRTC's Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) club recently hosted a Business Technology Day for high school students of the surrounding area to introduce them to BRTC's Business programs. Sixty-eight students and five teachers from Hoxie, Rector, and Walnut Ridge High Schools attended.

PBL and First National Bank manned tables and provided refreshments during the event's FBLA testing sessions. FBLA, or Future Business Leaders of America, is the public school version of the collegiate PBL. The testing sessions helped to prepare local students who would be entering the FBLA state competition.

PBL members Todd Wilcox, Tina Morrison, Shelaegh Bollinger and Barry Clayton gave students one-on-one insights about their possible future at BRTC, as well as in the world of business.

All high school students and teachers received gift bags from the BRTC bookstore, which also provided door prizes for the event. Business instructor Kellee Hardage organized the FBLA testing sessions, and she and other members of the Business department proctored the sessions and managed a hospitality room for the high school teachers and bus drivers. PBL advisors Shannon Ogden and Ruth Schaa were instrumental in securing SGA funding for the event.



Walnut Ridge High School students and business teacher, Mary Smith, attend BRTC's Business Technology Day.

BRTC Reps Talk to Students at High School Career Fair

BRTC representatives visited with over 350 high school students from the Lawrence County School District - Walnut Ridge and Black Rock - during a Career Fair held February 18 in the Walnut Ridge High School gym. The fair was sponsored by the high school business department and featured many area businesses and educational institutions that provided information to students about the different options available to them after graduating high school.



BRTC Instructors Alan Haskins, from left, Joe Chappell, Butch Dail and Travis DeClerk talk to high school students at a recent Career Fair.

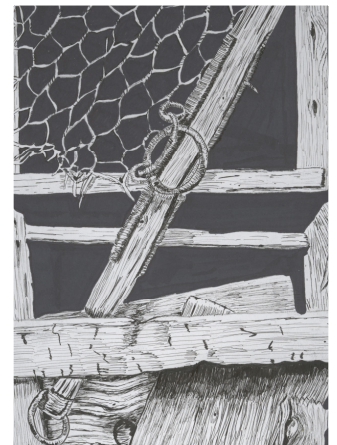
BRTC faculty, staff, and student government members took promotional items and information packets from their respective fields and talked to students about the different programs available at BRTC.

Representing BRTC were: Travis DeClerk, Automotive Service Technology; Butch Dail, Auto Collision Repair; Steve Shults, Law Enforcement Training Academy; Alan Haskins, Fire Science; Joe Chappell, EMT/Paramedics; Shannon Ogden, Ruth Schaa, Rhonda Stone, Kellee Hardage, Mack Downey, and Susan Shanlever, Business; Kathy Murdock and Christina Derbes, Dietetics; Dana Clay, Nursing; and Todd Wilcox and Edward Kelson, BRTC students and SGA officers.

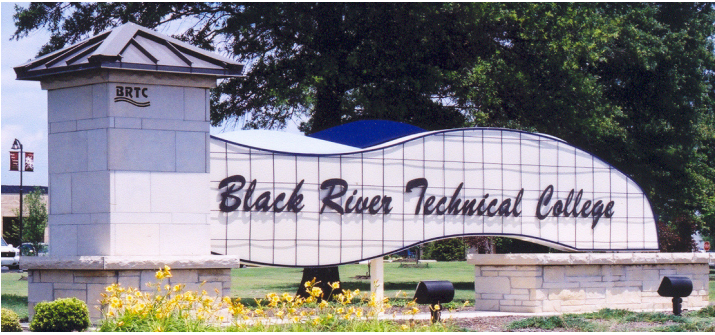
Artwork Displayed at Local Banks

Artwork of students in BRTC's Painting, Drawing II, and Graphic Design classes were recently on display at all banks in Pocahontas, according to Dr. Sandy Baltz, Fine Arts Instructor. The art exhibits were set up at BankcorpSouth, First National Bank, IBERIABANK, Integrity First Bank, and Riverbank Savings and Loan.

"This is a semiannual event enjoyed by the students and community in which the college's art department is showcased," said Baltz. "We exhibit at every bank in Pocahontas each semester. I truly appreciate their continued support of the students and their work."



Two items recently displayed at a local bank are creations by Dawn Jansen, Painting, and Angela Vitale, Drawing II.



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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
BRTC President*

Spring is here, at least officially, and we only have a few weeks of the semester remaining here at BRTC. As one looks back on each year at BRTC, it's easy to point out a multitude of positive things that have occurred and are in the process of changing.

The building of a new multimillion dollar health science complex is about to commence on the main campus. Final plans are being made for the con-

struction of a state-of-the-art fire tower at the site of the Fire Science training facility in Walnut Ridge. In addition, the new Math Center on the Paragould campus is near completion and plans are being made for an open house later this month.

The new Distance Education/Media Studio suite in the Administration building was finished last month and is now open. And we are finalizing plans for the move of Campus Police and Human Resources in the coming months.

Additionally, we have successfully implemented some pilot projects this past year. Weekend College at Paragould had a goal of 30 enrollments for the initial semester and ended up with over 280.

Four-week courses were added to the BRTC schedule to go with the recently initiated eight-week courses. An enrollment of over 200 in the first set of four-week courses far exceeded the hope for 50 enrollees.

We are also initiating BRTC Preview Night, scheduled for April 10, 6-8 p.m. The event will provide prospective students and their families with key information about BRTC and what we have to offer including educational and specialized training opportunities, as well as how to make it affordable.

A select group of faculty and staff have also made some recommendations on how to make our advising system more student-friendly. We look forward to sharing those ideas with you in the near future.

Speaking of faculty and staff, many have been invited to give presentations at local, regional, national and international levels. Others have had writings published. And several are working to complete advanced academic work.

Our Foundation Board is on course to break fundraising records for the third year in a row. They are making a real difference in many ways, and I believe they are preparing to go to the next level of excellence.

If you think it has been an exciting time at BRTC....well, you haven't seen anything yet!

Other projects are in various stages, so stay tuned for the announcement of more improvements and opportunities that will strengthen the success of our students and our communities.

Thanks to our caring faculty and staff, BRTC is headed in the right direction. With your help, we will reach the next destination more quickly.