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Important Dates

- May 8**
BRTC Graduation
- May 12**
Intersession Classes Begin
- May 15**
BOT Meeting
Math Center Ribbon Cutting/Open House in Paragould, 2:30
- May 20**
Serendipity
- May 26**
Memorial Day - Campus Closed
- June 9-12**
Kids' College
- June 14**
ACT Test

Weaver Speaks at Luncheon Honoring Foundation Scholarship Donors/Recipients

Dr. RoseMary Weaver of Pocahontas was guest speaker at the Annual Foundation Scholarship Luncheon held April 24 in the Randolph County Development Center. The event is held each year to acknowledge the financial contributions of businesses and individuals to the Foundation for scholarships, along with the students who are the recipients of those scholarships.

In keeping with the theme of the event, Weaver thanked the scholarship donors for planting and nurturing the seeds – the students – so they would have opportunity to grow and flourish. She referred to BRTC as the container in which the seeds have been planted, providing the foundation needed for growth.

Kelly Rose, Foundation Board Chair, welcomed the guests who enjoyed a nice meal prepared by BRTC's Dietetics Department and entertainment provided by BRTC's Kimbrough Choir under the direction of Joniece Trammel and accompanied by Glenda Blassini.

Foundation Board member Scott Trammel gave the invocation. Rose and Trammel, together, acknowledged the donors, while Foundation Board member Carol Bel-

ford-Lewallen announced the scholarship recipients and introduced the guest speaker.

Brandi Beckman, Dawn Jansen, and Roseann Thomason, student recipients, each gave an emotional and heartfelt testimony, expressing their appreciation to the donors for making a difference in their lives and providing them with the opportunity to pursue their education. Each hope that one day they, too, can pay it forward and help someone just as they have been helped.

Weaver is the K-12 Curriculum Specialist for the Pocahontas Public School District. She previously taught at Williams Baptist College where she directed the implementation of the BSE program.



Dr. RoseMary Weaver

Drawing is Held for Free Trip to D.C.

Two BRTC students, Deborah Woodson and Britt Grice, have been selected to attend the college's upcoming Washington D.C. field trip free of charge. Fine Arts instructor Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz, who spearheaded the project, compiled random lists of both December and May graduates from BRTC's Technical programs and General Education programs. Dr. Roger Johnson, Vice President of General Education, and Angie Caldwell, Vice President of Technical Education, drew the winners from a hat.



Dr. Sandy Baltz, center, holds a hat containing names of students eligible to win a trip to D.C., as VPs Dr. Roger Johnson and Angie Caldwell prepare to draw the winners.

certificates at the student recognition ceremony held April 17. They will join Baltz and many other students and staff on the trip to D.C., May 12 through 15, traveling by way of charter bus.

The trip will feature many sights in Washington D.C., including most of the presidential memorials and war memorials, the U.S. Capitol, Arlington Cemetery, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Mount Vernon, the National Cathedral, the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian.

The value of each student's trip is approximately \$900, half of which will be provided by BRTC's Student Gov-

Woodson will graduate this week with an AA in Gen Ed degree, and Grice graduated in December with a degree in Tech Ed. Both students received honorary

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Caldwell Gives Presentation at International Conference

BRTC Vice President of Technical Education Angie Caldwell recently traveled to St. Louis, MO, to give a presentation at the Chair Academy's 23rd Annual International Leadership Conference held in the Sheraton Westport Conference Center.

Caldwell's presentation - "So You are a New Division Chair... What Now??" - offered suggestions and recommendations to faculty members from many colleges around the nation and the world who were interested in, or recently elected to, chair positions in their institutions.

"Serving as a new division chair can be overwhelming," said Caldwell, "especially when many chairs have no formal preparation for serving in this vital position where academics and administration of the college will interface. This session provided advice for a new division chair or those who aspire to become a division chair."

"There were 39 participants in attendance at the hour and a half breakout session," noted Caldwell, "and many of those attending had very positive comments."



Angie Caldwell

SGA Sponsors Lecture on Abraham Lincoln

BRTC's Student Government Association (SGA) recently presented Dr. Gary Edwards as part of an Artist/Lecturer Series held on the Paragould campus. Edwards' presentation, "Understanding Lincoln as Icon and Man," focused on misconceptions and myths about Lincoln, according to Daniel Lee, SGA advisor.



Dr. Gary Edwards, left, and Daniel Lee, SGA Advisor

Approximately 100 students, faculty and staff attended the lecture sponsored by SGA, which included a catered meal. "By all accounts, it was a big success," said Lee, "and we appreciate everyone who helped out to make it a successful event."

Edward's holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Memphis, and both an M.A. and B.A. in History from Abilene Christian University.

French Attends Ceremony to Recognize 'Purchasing Month'

Angie French, Purchasing Technician for BRTC, and fellow board members of the Arkansas Chapter of NIGP (National Institute for Governmental Purchasing) recently joined Governor Mike Beebe in recognizing March as 'Purchasing Month.'

"Each year, March is designated by NIGP (also known as the National Institute for Public Procurement) as 'Purchasing Month' to promote the significant role of the public procurement profession," explained French, who serves as Membership Chair of the ARNIGP board. "They are responsible for ensuring the development of efficient purchasing methods and practices, promoting uniform public purchasing laws, simplified standards and specifications, and promoting ongoing training and certification of those engaged in the profession."

According to their website, the Arkansas Chapter of NIGP is a member-based, non-profit organization that was established to bring together and provide support for groups representing procurement in all fields, including educational, governmental, and public institutes.



BRTC Adds Three to Staff

Amy Courter of Walnut Ridge, David Dement of Imboden, and Jonathan Wren of Pocahontas have all recently been hired for Institutional Services positions at BRTC in Pocahontas.

Courter is a graduate of Normal Community High School in Normal, IL. She was a telephone operator with GTE for 13 years and most recently worked for Trinity Behavioral Health in Warm Springs. She will serve as Institutional Services Assistant on the evening shift.

Dement, who will serve as evening Supervisor of Institutional Services, is a graduate of Pocahontas High School and earned a Certificate in Electricity/Electronics from BRTC. He also holds a real estate license and has worked the past nine years at Pocahontas Healthcare and Rehab.

Wren will also serve as Institutional Services Assistant for the evening shift. He is a graduate of Pocahontas High School and attended BRTC where he sang in the Kimbrough Choir and was employed as a student worker.



Amy Courter



David Dement



Jonathan Wren

PTK Spring Induction



Black River Technical College's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, Beta Delta Phi, held a ceremony for inductees on March 31 in the Randolph County Development Center. The requirement for selection into PTK is an overall 3.5 grade point average or higher after completing at least twelve college credit hours.

Students inducted into PTK during the ceremony were Shayla Dickson, Adam Ransone, Michael Harris, Christopher Sheridan, Sara Benson, and Lourindia Rufkahr. Other new members to PTK are Jessica Carroll, Brandi Delarosa, Joshua Dye, Braddie Eads, Kenneth Folsom, Ashlynn Shaw, Jacob Speirs, Cassandra Street, Susan Sutfin, Autumn Taylor, Theresa Thompson, Erica White, and Samantha Wilson.

Current PTK officers are Adam Ransone, President; Tina Morrison, Vice-President of Leadership; Jamie Weeks, Vice President of Service; Beth Greenway, Vice-President of Fellowship; Sara Benson, Vice-President of Scholarship; and Tina Bruce, Pocahontas Blood Drive Coordinator.

Also present for the ceremony were Shaunya Fraysher, outgoing President, and Michelle Riley, Vice President of the Eastern District of the Oklahoma/Arkansas Region. PTK advisors are Ashley K. Hall, Karen Liebhaber, and Daphne Perkins.

For more information on PTK, contact Hall or Perkins on the Paragould campus at 870-239-0969, or Liebhaber on the Pocahontas campus at 870-248-4000.

NTHS Spring Induction



An induction ceremony for BRTC's National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) was held April 8 in the Randolph County Development Center. The event drew a large crowd with more students than ever before being inducted, according to Nanette Carter, Phlebotomy instructor and NTHS advisor.

NTHS, a recent addition to the honor societies at BRTC, recognizes the accomplishments of students in the college's technical education programs. It encourages members to maintain high personal standards and invest their talents, skills, and knowledge in their future careers, their everyday lives, and their communities.

New members inducted were: Sara Benson, Shilah Boudin, Brandi Delarosa, Braddie Eads, Kenneth Folsom, Misty Jones, Elizabeth Leopard, Sarah Looney, Natalie Marriott, Tomas McNaughton, Lourindia Rufkahr, Michael Shreve, Jacob Speirs, Autumn Taylor, Christopher Taylor, Theresa Thompson, Cheryl Tinnon, Cheri Walker, and Keith Wright.

In addition to Carter, NTHS advisors are Alan Haskins, Fire Science instructor; Gary Meier, Machine Tool Technology instructor; and Mack Downey, Business instructor. NTHS Officers are Susan Glasgow, President; Samuel Story, Vice President; Garrett Johnson, Secretary; and Carmen Cobb, Treasurer.

BRTC faculty and staff present for the event were Dr. Wayne Hatcher, President; Angie Caldwell, Vice President of Technical Education; Phillip Dickson, Division Chair of Technical Education; Ramonda Housh, Interim Division Chair of Allied Health; and Rhonda Stone, Department Head of Business.

"We had a great event and an awesome turnout this year," Carter noted, "with lots of support from the families."

Student Wins \$100 for Completing Bookstore Survey

Bennie Green of Alicia recently won \$100 for participating in an online survey through the BRTC Bookstore.

"A total of 127 students completed the survey," said Bookstore Director Janice Harvey. According to Harvey, BRTC was selected to participate in the Student Watch™ 2014 Research Study sponsored by the NACS Foundation (National Association of College Stores).

The survey is conducted twice a year to study different aspects of the college stores in higher education. Students were asked to complete the survey online and, at the completion of the survey, had the option of providing an email address to be entered into a cash drawing. One student per survey from each participating college was selected to receive \$100, and one student among all participating colleges will receive \$1,000. Tisha Olsen of Black Rock was the winner of the first drawing held in November.

Green is an English major who has been taking classes part-time at BRTC for the past three years while working. She will automatically be entered into the drawing for \$1,000.



Janice Harvey, left, Director of the BRTC Bookstore, presents a check to Bennie Green.



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BRTC Mission Statement

*Blending tradition, technology and innovation
to educate today's diverse students
for tomorrow's changing world.*

Campus Commentary...



Martha Nelson

BRTC Vice President for Student Services

BRTC recently held its first Campus Preview event, an evening of activities designed to introduce prospective students and families to the Pocahontas campus, give them some basic information about the college application process, and give them the opportunity to see our beautiful facilities and talk with many of our outstanding faculty.

Eight families attended the event, and while we wish we had been able to entice more families

inside on one of our first warm spring evenings, we know that word will get out and we will attract more families for similar events next year.

The Campus Preview event was open to prospective students for technical and general education programs, and we had both groups present. We will continue to highlight our technical programs and our transfer preparation opportunities. The Paragould campus will be holding a preview event in the fall.

The following week, we had approximately forty-five new students on campus for a mandatory pre-freshman advising event, and students met with advisors to develop their fall schedules before returning to campus the next week to use the computer lab to register themselves for their classes.

This sequence of events is designed to "bond" students with the campus early in the summer, ensure that they are receiving accurate and timely information on how to build schedules for fall, and start the process of becoming successful BRTC students.

We will hold advising and registration sessions throughout the summer, and Paragould will be holding similar events as well.

Drawing Cont'd. from Pg. 1

ernment Association (SGA). SGA will cover the total cost of the trip for both Woodson and Grice.

Says Baltz of this project, "Many years ago, Steve Manley gave away a free car as a prize to one BRTC graduate every May. I thought it would be good to have something for graduates again. After I suggested this idea to Dr. Hatcher, he suggested we needed two winners instead of one, covering both the General Education and Technical Education divisions of our college. Along with that, it was suggested that SGA would pay a portion for up to 30 students to go on the trip as well."

According to Baltz, all seats on the bus have been filled.

I look forward to sharing more news about Student Affairs initiatives in the coming months. We hope to implement a number of programs that will help students make a smooth transition to the campus and be prepared for success in the classroom. We also plan on developing a student activities program to encourage our students to stay on campus and explore co-curricular and leadership opportunities.