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## Ribbon Cutting and Open House Held for Math Center on BRTC Paragould Campus

A ribbon cutting and open house event was held May 15 on the campus of BRTC in Paragould for the new Math Center. The 3,000 square foot facility, formerly a child care center owned by the Greene County Industrial Training Center, was recently renovated to help accommodate the growing need for classroom space, according to Priscilla Stillwell, Academic Site Coordinator. The center has two classrooms, a Success Lab and offices for the math faculty.



*BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher cuts the ribbon at a ceremony held for the new math center on the Paragould campus. Joining him in the ribbon cutting were members of the Board of Trustees, Senator Robert Thompson, Mayor Mike Gaskill, representatives of Greene County Industrial Training Center, representatives of Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce and other BRTC personnel.*

grades,” noted BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher, “with additional support of the BRTC Board of Trustees and the GCITC Board.”

Dr. Hatcher welcomed guests to the event and Dr. Roger Johnson, VP for Gen Ed, gave an overview of the renovation. Both expressed the crucial need for additional space on the Paragould campus because of the

continued growth and how the Math Center is a big step in the right direction for fulfilling that need. Senator Thompson and Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill each provided remarks and expressed their support for and appreciation of the college and all of the opportunities it provides for the community and its residents.

*(Continued on pg. 4)*

### Important Dates

- June 9-12**  
*Kids' College*
- June 14**  
*ACT Test*
- June 19**  
*Nursing Blood Drive*
- July 1**  
*Summer II Classes Begin*
- July 3-4**  
*BRTC Campus Closed*
- July 14-Aug 13**  
*Fall Registration*
- August 18**  
*Fall Classes Begin*
- September 1**  
*Labor Day - Campus Closed*

## Commencement Recognizes 329 Graduates

BRTC Spring commencement exercises were held the evening of May 8 in the Randolph County Development Center to recognize 329 graduates, according to Martha Nelson, VP for Student Affairs.

Degrees were conferred by BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher and awarded by Dr. Roger Johnson, VP for General Education, and Angie Caldwell, VP for Technical Education. The degrees awarded included two-year Associate of Arts and Associate of Applied Science degrees, as well as one-year Certificates, and one-semester Certificates of Proficiency.

Dr. Chuck Welch, Arkansas State University System President, served as keynote speaker for the ceremony. The Jonesboro native has emerged as one of the state's leading advocates for higher education and is noted as being the youngest person to ever serve as president or chancellor of an Arkansas community college, the youngest university president in Arkansas, and one of the

youngest college presidents in the United States. He is chairman of the board of the Arkansas Association of Public Universities as well as co-chair of the executive council of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, and he is past president of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges.



*Dr. Chuck Welch*

Dr. Welch shared his story of being a first-generation college student and the first member of either side of his family to receive a graduate degree. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Arkansas, where he served as president of the student body; a Master of Arts degree in Political Management

*(Continued on pg. 3)*

## PBL Wins Awards at State Leadership Conference

The BRTC Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) won a combination of six awards at the 52nd Annual State Leadership Conference held last month in Little Rock, according to Ruth Schaa, PBL advisor who accompanied the group on the trip.

The group received a chapter award for increase in membership, and five members won individual competitors awards. Individual winners were: Sabrina Atkins – 3rd in Retail Management; Barry Clayton – 4th in Job Interview; Ashlee Koth - 2nd in Small Business Management; and Tina Morrison - 3rd in Job Interview and 4th in Accounting Principles.

“Competitors were from two-year and four-year colleges and universities from around the state and competed in performance events and open exams, which ranged from business etiquette, advertising, business principles and computer operating systems,” said Schaa. “Some members took objective exams prior to the conference or submitted projects such as the small business plan or a resume with an application letter. When members were not scheduled for competitive events they could choose among various tours to local businesses.”

Atkins and Koth, by virtue of their scores in their respective events, qualify to advance to the PBL National Leadership Conference to be held June 24-27 in Nashville, TN. Morrison will also be going to the Nashville competition in



*Ashley Koth (l to r), Tina Morrison and Sabrina Atkins show awards they earned during the PBL State Conference.*

place of one of the top state winners in the job interview competition who is unable to attend.

Jon Harrison, the keynote speaker at the opening session, expounded upon the theme of VIP<sup>2</sup> (V=Value, I=Informed and P<sup>2</sup> = Passionate People). He said a company and its employees must be value driven and integrity, excellence, respect, commitment and teamwork must be demonstrated consistently from the top down at any cost. He also said you must train and educate your employees for them to be informed, including sharing information about the business and treating employees like owners. A successful business is driven by passionate people, Harrison emphasized, and employers must continually raise the bar for standards to see improvement. Tie individual goals to organizational goals and celebrate victories.

Others attending the conference from BRTC were: President Todd Wilcox, Historian Jamie Weeks, Shelaegh Bollinger, Barry Clayton, Shaunya Fraysher and Edward Kelson, along with Shannon Ogden, PBL advisor. Morrison serves as VP/Paragould Campus and Koth as VP/Pocahontas Campus.

The conference attendance was funded in part by a contribution from BRTC's Student Government Association along with PBL fundraising events, which included the Valentine's Day raffle, an online auction and the indoor yard sale.

## Author Sends Items to Adult Ed

Always on the hunt for interesting young adult novels for her students, BRTC Adult Education instructor Cindy Robinett discovered last fall the *Guards of the Shadowlands* series by author Sarah Fine. The books include *Sanctum*, published in 2012, and *Fractured*, published in 2013. A third and final book in the series is due out this October. The urban fantasy books delve into issues of Heaven and Hell, Purgatory, the Holocaust, demons, angels, morality, loyalty and young love.



*Adult Ed instructor Cindy Robinett (left) and student Tessa Louthain show books and other items received from author Sarah Fine.*

Robinett, a firm believer in the Immersion technique of teaching reading (listening to a professional narration while reading the text), purchased audio and hard copies of the two books and made them available to her students in January. “Once they started reading, they couldn't put them down,” said Robinett.

After nine or ten students, both male and female, went through both books and asked about more of the same, Robinett located Fine through her website and sent an email to the writer letting her know how popular the books were with her students.

Recently, the author, who is also a child psychologist, sent a personal email to Robinett and asked if her students would like a copy of her most recent book, *Scan*, which she promptly autographed and sent. Fine also included a handwritten note of thanks and well-wishes in addition to bookmarks and bracelets for over 20 students.

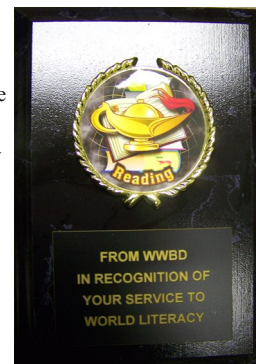
## Art Club Awarded for Book Donation

BRTC's Art Club recently received an award from World Wide Books in recognition of their service to world literacy through the donation of books, announced Dr. Sandy Baltz, BRTC Fine Arts instructor and Art Club advisor.

During the 2013-2014 school year, the Art Club held a drive to collect books of all types to be sent to Africa and Asia by World Wide Books. The company paid \$1 for every eligible college textbook that was received among the donation.

“We received \$148 and the highest award (gold) for the amount of books we shipped,” said Baltz. “We had over 50 boxes filling up four large pallets and weighing thousands of pounds.”

“So, while the club did not receive much money for their efforts, thousands of books were distributed because of the hard work of the students and the generous donations of so may, including BRTC faculty and staff,” Baltz added.



*Award received by Art Club for book donation.*

## BRTC Dietetics Department Attends Spring Conferences

Members of BRTC's Dietetics Department had the opportunity to attend two conferences during the spring semester, according to Kathy Murdock, Dietetics instructor. In March they attended the Spring Conference of the Association of Nutrition & Foodservice Professionals (ANFP), and in April they attended the Arkansas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (ArAND) annual meeting. Both meetings were held in Little Rock.

Murdock, along with Christina Derbes, Dietetics instructor, and Sandra Parker, Cafeteria Coordinator, attended the ANFP conference with several students and, in addition to presenting, they heard speakers on a range of subjects from menu planning, effects of sodium, eating disorders, and sanitation & safety. They also sampled many products at a vendor expo.

The students performed a skit called "Fear Factor" that addressed the dangers of bacteria, and Murdock did a presentation on new trends in food service and how those trends affect long-term care. Derbes talked about factors that cause bacterial contamination in food.

Derbes, Murdock and Dietetics students, along with Angela Caldwell, VP/Technical



*Attending the ArAND Conference were: (front row, l to r) Samantha Saala, Angie Caldwell, Sarah Looney; (back row, l to r) Kathy Murdock, Tracy Yandell, Kendra Dixon, Jerrica Gray and Christina Derbes.*

Education, attended the ArAND meeting in April where they heard speakers on the subjects of budgeting, building rapport with co-workers, peers and patients, leadership development, IBS and lactose intolerance, connecting with the media and ethics in healthcare. They also attended a vendor expo where they visited with representatives and sampled products from various companies, such as United Medical Infusion, Nutricia, Simply Thick, Nestle, Tyson, Sara Lee, Abbott, Ben E. Keith, US Foods, Midwest Dairy and the Beef Council.



*Dietetics students Jerrica Gray (from left), Samantha Saala, Amanda Sanchez, Lacy Wheeless, Elizabeth Johnson and Sarah Looney performed a skit during the ANFP Conference.*

"Along with learning about subjects in the fields of nutrition and foodservice, annual meetings for both ArAND and ANFP give students the opportunity to network with professionals in their field of interest, as well as meet future potential employers," Murdock explained. "Seeing the many areas that exist in this field opens their eyes to the endless possibilities for career advancement and employment."

Parker serves on the ANFP State Board of Directors and is NE Arkansas ANFP District President.

## History Class Visits Regional Archives

The BRTC Corporate and Community Education Department's Second Annual Family History Series concluded on May 16 with a trip to the Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives (NEARA) at Powhatan. NEARA is a branch of the Arkansas History Commission (State Archives).

NEARA is a resource center for historical research, dedicated to the purpose of collecting and preserving primary source materials that bring together the unique history, culture, and heritage of 16 northeast Arkansas counties. Participants learned about what types of records are available—some of which date back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The Family History Series is taught by Cindy Robinett, BRTC instructor. "After many requests for an evening or weekend course in genealogy, another series is planned for later this summer or early fall," said Robinett. "Anyone interested can contact BRTC's Corporate and Community Education Department at 870-248-4180. Anyone interested in learning more about NEARA may call 870-878-6521 or email [northeast.archives@arkansas.gov](mailto:northeast.archives@arkansas.gov).



*Participants in the visit to NEARA were: (front row, l to r) Meredith McFadden, NEARA Archival Assistant, Lyda Davidson, Nettie Blaxton, Peggy Chadwick, Frances Perry and Frances Rose; (back row, l to r) Dr. Lisa Perry, NEARA Archivist, Anna Pfejfler, Interpreter at Old Davidsonville State Park, Joel Olive, and Cindy Robinett. Not pictured was NEARA volunteer Lesia Phillips and NEA Education Cooperative Literacy Specialist Glenda Cansbie.*

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from George Washington University; and a Doctor of Education degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. In sharing wisdom and inspiration from Martin Luther King, he told the graduating students that this is the first step in continuing their life-long learning.

Danyelle Odom of Doniphan, MO, graduate candidate for the Associate of Arts in General Education degree, served as Graduate Candidate Spokesperson. She acknowledged and praised the tremendous support she received from family and friends through her journey, in addition to thanking the BRTC faculty and staff for their impact.

Odom talked about the different emotions felt on this special occasion, but the one emotion shared among all of the graduates is pride. "We all have a reason to be proud," said Odom. "We are such a diverse group and we each have our own personal story, but we all have one thing in common—SUCCESS!"



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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...



*Dr. Wayne Hatcher*  
BRTC President

May 15, 2014 was a good day for BRTC. These are indeed exciting times for BRTC! Among the many good things that occurred that day was the grand opening of the Paragould Campus Math Center. Senator Robert Thompson and Mayor Gaskill were some of the officials that attended this event. Senator Thompson played a significant role in helping this facility become a reality for the citizens of our service area.

This facility will partially resolve the issues of

some vitally needed classroom and office space, in addition to needed access to computers with an area for tutoring and other supplemental learning assistance. With the continued growth of Paragould and Greene County, this additional space has been sorely needed. And growth is projected to continue. The BRTC Board of Trustees held its May meeting on the Paragould Campus to get a closer look at current needs, as well as those for the future.

It is widely understood that with the passing of time, change occurs. Harold Wilson puts it more directly: *"He who rejects change is the architect of decay. The only human institution which rejects progress is the cemetery."* Anyone familiar with BRTC knows that we are the architect of progress, beginning with a foundation that changes lives.

Just one example is how well BRTC as an institution continues to move forward, not missing a step, despite multiple leadership changes in the last few years. By the start of the Fall semester, not only will approximately 25% of our faculty be here less than four years, but the same can be said for three vice presidents and two presidents—and this does not include multiple middle management positions at both campuses.

During this same period we have received full

## Ribbon Cutting Cont'd. from Pg. 1

BRTC Board of Trustees Chair Sue Gibson led the ribbon cutting, which included Dr. Hatcher, Senator Thompson, Mayor Gaskill, BRTC Board of Trustees members, GCITC representatives, Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce representatives, Stillwell and BRTC math instructors. Board member Ray Noel provided closing remarks then guests were led by Stillwell on a tour of the facility.

accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission, initiated multiple academic courses and programs, opened two student success centers, completed multiple renovations, added many student organizations and distance education options, and this is just the tip of the iceberg!

The reason we are able to deal with change so well and effectively is because our faculty and staff never lose their focus of why we are here—teaching and learning, with the students and their success being our cause. You have probably heard it said this way: *Bridging Resources Technology and Challenges...One Graduate At a Time.* After all, if nothing ever changed, there'd be no butterflies... and BRTC graduates quite a few.