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Liebhaber Named VP for Development



Karen Liebhaber

Karen Liebhaber has been named Vice President for Development at Black River Technical College, according to BRTC President Dr. Eric Turner. Liebhaber was chosen among three finalists following interviews and presentations held last month.

The other finalists were Dina Hufstедler of Walnut Ridge who is currently Director of Community Resource Development in the Office of Development at BRTC and Howard Moore, Jr., of Ripley, MS, who is an independent contractor, grant writer and fundraiser for non-profit organizations.

“Although a difficult decision, we feel this is best for our plans of taking the college in a new direction,” said selection committee chair and BRTC board member Ray Noel.

Liebhaber began working at BRTC in 2000 as an instructor of English and added the role of Distance Education Coordinator in 2003. Her prior experience includes teaching at ASU, working as a technical writer for Euronet Worldwide in Little Rock, teaching at Pikes Peak Community College in North Little Rock, instructional design contracting with Williams Baptist College, and teaching English Composition online for the University of Phoenix.

From 2011-2012 she served as Director of Distance Education before returning to the classroom to teach full time. She has also served as an advisor for both Rotaract and Phi Theta Kappa student organizations and has served as acting head of the English department.

Liebhaber is a 1992 graduate of Pocahontas High School and holds both BA and MA degrees in English from Arkansas State University. She is past president of the St. Paul School Board and current member of the Downtown Playhouse governing board. She and her husband, Brett, have two children and reside in Pocahontas.

Important Dates

- September 1**
Labor Day - Campus Closed
- September 5-6**
PBL Yard Sale
- September 19-20**
Dept. of Corporate & Community Education Authors & Artists Symposium
- October 3**
21st Annual Golf Tournament
- October 7**
Fall Technical Advisory Dinner

Serendipity Scheduled to Begin 11th Year

BRTC’s Serendipity program is scheduled to begin its 11th year with a luncheon on Friday, September 26, 11:30-1:00, in the conference room of the Business Technology Center, announced Patti Blaxton, Director of Corporate and Community Education, who plans and implements the program along with Dr. Jan Ziegler, presenter and BRTC Faculty Emeritus, and Jessica Bailey, Project Specialist of the Office of Development.



Dr. Jan Ziegler (l to r), Jessica Bailey, and Patti Blaxton look over books to be discussed during this year's Serendipity program.

“Serendipity is a community outreach endeavor designed to encourage lifelong learning,” Blaxton explained. “Membership is open to men and women of all ages and includes participation at monthly luncheon

meetings and other activities.” The meetings include lunch beginning at 11:30, followed by discussion of a book selected for that month including how it relates to the overall theme for the year.

“Our theme this year is ‘Ordinary People—Extraordinary Lives’ and will include mostly works of nonfiction that focus on real people—ordinary people like you and me—,” Ziegler explained, “and their real life experiences, often experienc-

es that could be taken from today’s news broadcast or headlines. The stories reflect a diverse range of people geographically, generationally and thematically and they

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NASA Scholarships Awarded to Three BRTC Students

Three Aviation Maintenance Technology students at BRTC have been awarded the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Scholarship. Braddie Eads of Paragould, David Ryan of Walnut Ridge, and Brandon Saala of Pocahontas have each been awarded \$2,000 through NASA's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARM) program.

Eads is a member of BRTC's Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society and BRTC's National Technical Honor Society. He has completed the Powerplant section of the AMT program and will finish the General section August 8, and then he will continue in the Airframe section of the course in the fall semester. He currently has a 3.67 GPA, and he plans to continue his education in different fields after earning the AMT degree. His father, Van Eads, completed the same degree and was also a NTHS member.

Ryan is a graduate of Walnut Ridge High School where he was vice president of FBLA for four years. He also is a member of 5 Rivers Trap Club in Pocahontas where he was Runner-up Na-



Aviation maintenance technology students Brandon Saala, from left, David Ryan, and Braddie Eads, were awarded NASA Scholarships.

tional Champion in Trap Shooting. He is a private pilot with aspirations of becoming an aerial applicator (crop duster). He has completed 17 credit hours of the Powerplant section of the AMT program, will be completing 19 hours in the general section August 8, then will start the Airframe section in the fall semester.

Saala is the son of Mark Saala and Kathy Wick-

er and is a graduate of Pocahontas High School. He lives in Pocahontas with his wife, Samantha Saala, who recently graduated from BRTC with an Associates in Dietetics. In the fall he will be entering his fourth semester in the AMT program and will graduate in May with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Aviation Maintenance Technology. After passing the FAA's Airframe and Powerplant certification tests, he and his wife plan to move to a bigger city that has a higher demand in their career fields. He is very thankful to NASA for this scholarship and plans to use it to further his education.

According to the NASA website, the ARM program is focusing investments in undergraduate and graduate education in its commitment to mastering the core competencies of aeronautics in all flight regimes. The purpose is to provide opportunities to attract highly motivated students to aeronautics and related fields and to help advance the nation's aeronautics enterprise by investing in the educational development of the future aeronautics workforce.

MSSPS Awarded for Summer Terms

Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarships in the amount of \$250 each were awarded to April Wellborn of Pocahontas, Valorie Anderson of Imboden, and Haley Zitzelberger of Biggers for the Summer I term. Zitzelberger was also awarded the scholarship for the Summer II term. Each scholarship was in the amount of \$250 and made possible by funding through the United Way of Northeast Arkansas.

Wellborn earned her GED in 2013 and is currently attending BRTC working towards a degree in Criminal Justice. She would like to become a youth probation officer.

Anderson is a 2009 graduate of Oak Ridge Central High School and earned a certificate at BRTC in 2013. She plans to complete the nursing program at ASU-Newport with hopes of becoming an RN.

Zitzelber also plans to pursue a degree in nursing and is currently attending classes at BRTC. She would like to become an NICU nurse.

To qualify for the MSSPS, a student must be a resident of Randolph County, have custody of a minor child and meet income guidelines. For more information on MSSPS, contact Janna Guthrey or Natasha Rush, MSSPS Co-Chairs, at 870-248-4000.



April Wellborn



Valorie Anderson



Haley Zitzelberger

Serendipity Cont'd. from pg. 1

are stories wonderfully told by great writers, some of them award-winning works of nonfiction, some of them memoirs.”

The books are: *The Book of Unknown Americans*, by Christina Henriquez; *I am Malala*, by Malala Yousafzai; *Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Re-unite with his Mother*, by Sonia Nazario; *A Train in Winter: An Extraordinary Story of Women, Friendship, and Resistance in Occupied France*, by Caroline Moorehead; *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, by Ishmael Beah; *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd; *The Jew Store*, by Stella Stuberman; *The Devil's Highway: A True Story*, by Luis Alberta Urrea; and *Radiance of Tomorrow*, by Ishmael Beah.

Blaxton hopes to see new individuals join Serendipity this year. The program has continued to grow each year and currently has approximately 30 members.

Anyone interested in learning more about Serendipity may contact Blaxton at 870-248-4181 or Bailey at 870-248-4189.

New Employees and New Positions at BRTC



Ramonda Housh



Kelly Williams



John Huggins



Brook Hale



Travis Harris



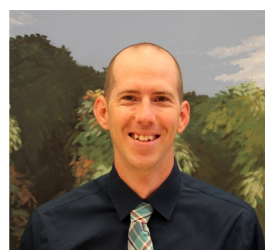
Amy Plaster



Jean Wilson



Ashley Hall



Zeb Blansett

Ramonda Housh of Pocahontas has been named Division Chair for Allied Health, a new position at BRTC responsible for the supervision and accreditation of all Allied Health programs. She has an MS in Nursing degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and a BS in Nursing degree from Arkansas State University. She has over 20 years of experience in both healthcare and education, and has served as Director of Nursing at BRTC. She also serves on the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

Kelly Williams of Paragould has been hired as Institutional Services Assistant for the Paragould campus. He is a graduate of Blytheville High School and has spent the past nine years working in the commercial refrigeration business. He holds both HVACR and EPA licenses.

John Huggins of Jonesboro has been hired as biology/AP/micro instructor on the Pocahontas Campus. He holds a master's in biology and a BSE in biology, both from Arkansas State University, and previously taught AP and micro at ASU. He previously worked in pharmaceutical sales for 25 years while teaching as an adjunct instructor.

Brook Hale of Jonesboro has been hired as biology/AP instructor on the Paragould Campus. She earned a BS in forensic biology from ASU and is scheduled to complete the MS in biology program in December. She previously worked in the entomology lab at ASU.

Travis Harris of Jonesboro has been hired as math instructor for the Pocahontas campus. He is a graduate of Maynard High School and holds both BS and MS degrees in math from ASU. He has been serving as an adjunct instructor of math for both BRTC and ASU, and he previously worked as a

graduate assistant and tutor for two years while in college.

Amy Plaster of Batesville has been hired as a criminal justice instructor. She holds an AS in criminal justice, a BA in criminality, and an MA in criminal justice, all from ASU. She served the past three years

as director and instructor for the criminal justice program at Ozarka College. Prior to that she worked as a paralegal working primarily in criminal defense. She was named Faculty of the Year while at Ozarka.

Jean Wilson of Pocahontas has been hired as a full time Adult Education instructor. She has a BA in English with certification in secondary education from the University of North Texas and adult education from ASU. She began working at BRTC as a full-time instructor for CETA and JPTA clients and was added to the GED program soon after. She then started teaching part-time in Adult Education where she has been for the past 27 years.

Ashley Hall of Jonesboro has been hired as a full time instructor of English on the Paragould campus. She is originally from North Little Rock where she graduated from Silivan Hills. She earned BA and MA degrees in English in addition to specialist in community college teaching, all from ASU. She has been an adjunct instructor of English at BRTC since 2008 and also taught English at ASU for two years as an adjunct instructor. She serves as co-advisor of both PTK and SGA at BRTC. She is also associate regional coordinator of Oklahoma/Arkansas region of PTK.

Zebulon Blansett has been moved to the new position of program specialist for the Office of Corporate and Community Education at BRTC. He has been working as administrative specialist in the Office of Student Affairs since May 2013. He is a graduate of Sloan-Hendrix High School and earned an AA from BRTC. He previously worked at Trinity Behavioral Health for seven years as an advisor and team leader. Prior to that he worked for two and a half years at Wal-Mart as cashier and in customer service.

Thomason Awarded Randolph Home Scholarship

Roseann Thomason of Pocahontas has been awarded the Randolph Home Healthcare Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 for the fall and spring semesters. She is in the practical nursing program at BRTC.

The Randolph Home Scholarship is awarded to a student pur-

suating a healthcare related certificate or degree from BRTC and maintains a cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

For more information on the Randolph Home Scholarship, contact Natasha Rush in the Department of Financial Aid at 870-248-4019.



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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. Eric Turner
BRTC President*

It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to serve as your president, for a variety of reasons.

Northeast Arkansas is very dear to my heart. In addition to being a Randolph County native, I have spent the last seventeen years at Williams Baptist College in various academic and administrative capacities. My wife of nineteen years, Barbara, is the Director of Financial Aid at Williams Baptist College, and our daughter, Emma Katherine, is a sixth grader at St. Paul's Elementary School in Pocahontas.

I am an active member of the Pocahontas Rotary Club and my family and I are actively involved in First Baptist Church in Pocahontas.

For as long as I can remember, education has been an integral part of my life, whether it was learning to form my numbers and letters, learning to change oil in my grandfather's 1966 Impala, or the significance of a smile.

The Black River mission aligns with my own philosophy—meeting students where they are in the educational continuum. Whether students are 18 or 80, obstacles often exist. It is up to us to help students overcome those obstacles by helping them accomplish their educational pursuits and life goals.

It is not enough for us to simply encourage students to finish what they start. We work to equip students to be the kind of people they desire to be.

Higher education is changing at a rapid pace, but our high quality, yet highly accessible technical and general education programs position us to help students excel within the context of a nurturing environment.

The economic development potential is palatable; in the months to come, the College and our broader community are being presented with the

Shipley Earns Bachelor's Degree

Helen Shipley, Administrative Specialist in the Department of Career Pathways at BRTC, was awarded a Bachelor of Applied Science degree from Arkansas State University during a graduation ceremony held earlier this month.

A Pocahontas resident, Helen began working with the Career Pathways program in 2005. She previously worked for Brown Shoe Company for 19 years before they closed. She also holds both AA and AAS degrees from BRTC.

"Helen's dedication has been an inspiration to many of our students," said Tom Baker, Director of Career Pathways.

game changing effects of the incoming poultry industry. This is an opportunity to serve students, industry, and our community on an unparalleled and unprecedented scale.



Helen Shipley