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Bosch Gives Gift to BRTC

The Black River Technical College Foundation received a \$2,500 donation from Robert Bosch Tool Company. The funds are to be used as needed in support of the students.

Presenting the check to Dr. Eric Turner were Bosch representatives Steve Engelken, Operations Manager, and Nick Lee, Human Resources Manager. "We are grateful for the longstanding relationship with Bosch and the demonstrated commitment to helping provide resources to assist in the accomplishment of our mission of being the college of choice for students in our region and beyond," stated Dr. Turner.

Previous Bosch funds have provided furniture in the student commons area of the Administration Building as well as furniture in Student Affairs.



Steve Engelken (left) and Nick Lee (right) present Dr. Eric Turner with gift from Robert Bosch Tool Company.

Foundation Gala Quickly Approaching



Bill and Sherry DeClerk (from left) along with Carol and Lloyd Lewallen enjoying the 2014 Gala.

Plans are underway for the 9th Annual BRTC Foundation Gala to be held Saturday, March 7, 6:00 p.m. at the Rolling Hills Country Club in Pocahontas.

A new addition to this year's planning is that auction items will be listed on the BRTC website as they come in. Click on the icon on the home page or visit <http://www.blackrivertech.org/office-of-development/foundation-gala>. "This page will help attendees have an idea of what they want to bid on ahead of time," explained Ann Savage, Director of Marketing and PR. "Everyone should keep checking the site because we will update it as items come in."

(Continued on pg. 2)

Important Dates

- February 7**
ACT Testing
- February 10**
Technical Advisory Dinner
- March 6-7**
PBL Yard Sale
- March 7**
Gala
- March 16**
PTK Nerd Bowl
- March 17**
NTHS Induction Ceremony

Living History Tribute to Maya Angelou

Black River Technical College in collaboration with the Eddie Mae Herron Center will present Living History Tribute to Maya Angelou featuring Dr. Gwendolyn Twillie on Tuesday, February 10, at 11 a.m. in the Randolph County Development Center in Pocahontas.

The presentation takes a look at the life of Maya Angelou and her work as a singer, author, poet, dancer, and actress. Dr. Twillie will portray Angelou on stage from the time she was three years old until her death, including time she spent growing up in Stamps, Arkansas with her grandmother.

Prior to retirement, Dr. Twillie was employed in the public schools of Arkansas and at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock where she taught Modern Dance, Movement Education, and Pantomime. During her twenty-four-year tenure at UALR she also served as Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department for ten years.

This presentation is funded in part by the BRTC Foundation SEAS (Special Events and Activities Support) Program and the Eddie Mae Herron Center. Admission is free to the public. For more information contact Jessica Bailey at 870-248-4189.



Dr. Gwendolyn Twillie

Operation JumpStart

The Corporate & Community Education Department of Black River Technical College, in partnership with Winrock International and the Arkansas Women's Business Center, will be offering Operation JumpStart (OJS). OJS is a 6-week hands-on, microenterprise training program designed to help entrepreneurs test the feasibility of their business idea. In OJS, students will examine their business idea from every angle and discover whether the life of an entrepreneur is right for them.

Operation JumpStart: First Step is a comprehensive curriculum which includes development, market research, market analysis, financial projections, and case studies. The curriculum walks aspiring business owners through the feasibility process and gives them the opportunity to complete a business feasibility plan. This feasibility plan will help students decide if their business concept would prosper before investing money. Additionally, John Riggins, President of The Riggins Group, Inc., will be available to periodically counsel and tutor OJS students. Riggins is a market strategist and product management practitioner, who helps entrepreneurs and small businesses launch successfully and grow profitability.

Graduates will have the opportunity to compete for \$1000 in seed money to go towards their start-up or expansion. Trisa Morrison, our winning graduate from Fall 2012, credited the OJS training program for giving her the guidance and assistance to take her business to the next level. Morrison is the owner of the Purple Turtle Gallery, a business focusing on custom framing and casual artwork in downtown Pocahontas.

Operation JumpStart will begin on Monday, March 2 and conclude on Thursday, April 16. Classes will be held from 6-9 p.m. on the Black River Technical College, Pocahontas campus. No classes will be held on March 23 or 26. Tuition for this course will be \$99. Students who complete the course and submit a feasibility plan will be eligible for a tuition refund of \$50. Deadline to register is Monday, February 16. For additional information or to register e-mail zebulon.blansett@blackrivertech.edu or call 870-248-4180.

Gala (Cont'd. Pg. 1)

Also new this year is the ability to purchase Gala tickets, raffle tickets, and souvenir wine glasses and beer pilsners online. Purchase of glasses ensures unlimited drinks until the supply runs out. "We are trying to make the process more streamlined for guests. As soon as they enter the door to the club, we want things to be as stress free as possible," stated Karen Liebhaber, VP of Institutional Advancement. "This is a new process for us, though, so we are still working out the kinks."

Proceeds from this event will assist the BRTC Foundation in providing scholarships and other needed services to the college, the students, and the community.

Tickets are \$125 per couple and may be purchased from Ann Savage at (870) 248-4025, Jessica Bailey at (870) 248-4189, or online.

Personnel Changes

Julie Edington, Director of Human Resources, at Black River Technical College has announced personnel changes for the Pocahontas campus in the Office of Administration.



James Thielemier

James Thielemier of Pocahontas has been promoted to Skilled Tradesman-Electricity in Maintenance. Thielemier is a Master Electrician. He has worked at BRTC as Maintenance Assistant for the past 10 years. Before coming to BRTC he was self-employed.



John Janetos

John Janetos of Maynard has been promoted to Food Preparation Coordinator. Janetos worked for BRTC as Institutional Services Assistant in Maintenance before accepting his new position. Prior to joining BRTC Janetos worked as chef and manager of Green Tomato Café in Pocahontas, 501 Club in Jonesboro, and Josie's Steakhouse in Waldenburg.

Thielemier and Janetos look forward to serving BRTC in their new positions.

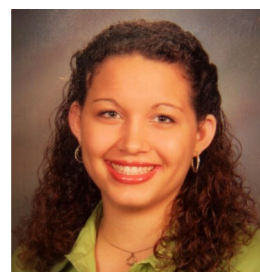
Four Receive Wal-Mart Scholarship

Yolanda Bornds of Osceola, Morgan Haulcroft of Pocahontas, Jacqueline Pierce of Jonesboro and Logan Waddell of Imboden have all been awarded the BRTC/Wal-Mart Scholarship for the Spring 2015 Semester at Black River Technical College.



Yolanda Bornds

Bornds is pursuing the PN degree and wants to receive her RN degree and pursue a career in nursing. She is a graduate of Osceola High School.



Morgan Haulcroft

Haulcroft, a Paragould High School graduate, is pursuing her RN degree. She hopes one day to become a nurse practitioner.

Pierce is the daughter of Terry and Marie Pierce of Jonesboro. She is pursuing her degree in Early Childhood Education.



Jacqueline Pierce

Waddell is the son of Anthony and Margaret Waddell of Imboden. He is a member of the National Technical Honor's Society at BRTC. He received his Associate of Applied Science-Registered Nursing degree from BRTC and is getting his basics in order to transfer and gain his Bachelor of Science in Nursing. He became a licensed Registered Nurse in December of 2014 after receiving his AAS-RN.



Logan Waddell

Recipients of the scholarship must be a current BRTC student with at least one completed semester here, along with submitting a current BRTC transcript and 100-200 word self-descriptive essay. For more information on the Wal-Mart and other scholarships, contact the Financial Aid Office at 870-248-4000.

SimMom and Infant Join Nursing Department

SimMom has arrived to the BRTC campus. She is an advanced full-body birthing simulator with accurate anatomy and functionality and can facilitate training the student in the management of labor and delivery.

Tonya Hankins, Director of Practical Nursing explained, "Quick decision-making during child birth can mean the difference between life and death. Unfortunately, our nursing students do not always have the opportunity in the clinical setting to experience a delivery while they are on the floor or to see a variety of situations that could arise during labor and delivery."

SimMom is easy to use and adaptable, allowing instructors to accommodate individual student or team learning needs at basic or advanced levels.

SimMom gives birth to Birthing Baby, a full-term newborn manikin. This adds standardization to every training session allowing instructors to concen-



Ramonda Housh, Division Chair of Allied Health, and Jennifer Hibbard, Nursing instructor, work with the infant after SimMom delivered.

trate on evaluating students. Students can assist in different birthing positions, including a normal vaginal delivery, a breech delivery, a Cesarean section, and birthing complications for the mother and/or the baby.

"SimMom will benefit both the Practical Nursing and Registered Nursing students," stated Ramonda Housh, Division Chair of Allied Health. SimMom comes with a touch-screen patient monitor that will allow students to see fetal heart rhythms, a webcam to video scenarios, has IV access, is hands-free defibrillation capable, and can simulate a seizure. She will have her own birthing suite in the new Health Science Complex.

"We plan to host a Baby Shower for SimMom and her infant soon," explained Hankins. "We will be sending out invitations with a list of needed supplies and everyone attending will have the opportunity to submit a name for the baby and we will draw the winning name!"

Students Give Back



Art students with some of the pieces they donated.

In the midst of finals and the rush of the holiday season many BRTC students gave up their personal time and resources to help others.

Rotaract volunteered to be bell ringers with the Salvation Army. They spend hours in the cold to make sure others in need

would be able to get help when it is needed most.

Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) collected food to benefit Mission Outreach in Paragould as part of the Student Government Association's food challenge. PBL received 208 canned and boxed food items. They even gave up group funds to ensure enough food was collected.

Dr. Sandy Baltz's drawing, design, and painting classes donated 118 original art pieces to the residents of Randolph County Nursing Home. Students wanted to make sure the residents had a gift for Christmas as well as something that would dress up their rooms.



Left: Sara Benson volunteering with the Salvation Army.



Right: Shelaegh Bollinger (left) Edward Kelson and Shannon Ogden with PBL food donations.

Prince Among Slaves

The Eddie Mae Herron Center (EMHC) will show *Prince Among Slaves* Thursday, February 12 at 6 p.m. This movie was made possible by a grant that Black River Technical College collaborated with the EMHC and was awarded. The Muslim Journeys Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association Public Programs Office gives books and movies to libraries in order to familiarize the public with Islam and the cultural heritage of Islamic civilizations around the world. The grant was awarded to 125 libraries in the United States.



The film is the true story of Abdul Rahman Ibrahima, a Fulbe Muslim of elite ancestry, who was captured in an ambush and sold to English slavers. He was enslaved in the United States in 1788 in Mississippi.

According to legends, Abdul Rahman told the farmer who purchased him that he was an African prince and that his father would pay for his return. The offer was refused and Abdul Rahman worked on the plantation, married, and fathered nine children.

After forty years in America, he won his freedom and was able to return to Africa in 1828. Abdul Rahman's story shows a West African society during the transatlantic slave trade, an American plantation at the beginning of the cotton boom, how the early American republic responded to slavery. Abdul Rahman built a dignified life despite slavery and was even able to negotiate his family's release from bondage. Many of his descendants still live in Mississippi as well as other parts of the United States.

The film is based on the book, *Prince Among Slaves*, by Terry Alford. The book can be checked out at the BRTC Library.



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BRTC Mission Statement

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

Instructor Named Phi Theta Kappa Regional Coordinator

Ashley Hall, Instructor of Philosophy and English on the Black River Technical College Paragould campus, has been selected to serve as Associate Regional Coordinator for Phi Theta Kappa's Oklahoma/Arkansas Region. She has served as a Phi Theta Kappa Advisor of the award-winning 5 Star Beta Delta Phi Chapter since 2010, and the chapter has been recognized as a Top 100 Chapter internationally.

As Regional Coordinator, Ashley will work closely with Associate Director of Regional and Chapter Development for Division III Mia Ramos-Shirley and Division III Key Services Consultant Paige Still to ensure a smooth transition for the region. Ashley will also be supported by longtime advisor and Regional Coordinator Jim Mauldin.

Ashley earned B.A. and M.A. degrees in English from Arkansas State University. She also holds an Ed.S in Community College Teaching from Arkansas State University. Phi Theta Kappa is an international 2-year honor society which recognizes and encourages scholarship among two-year college students.



Ashley Hall

Student Wins \$100 for Completing Bookstore Survey

Donielle Andrews, a Black River Technical College student from Paragould, was named the winner of \$100 for participating in a survey through the BRTC bookstore.



Janice Harvey, left, Director of the BRTC Bookstore, presents check to Donielle Andrews

The Student Watch Research Study is sponsored by the National Association of College Stores Foundation. Each participating school has one \$100 winner chosen from those students who complete the survey. One student among all the participating colleges will receive \$1,000. This survey is conducted twice a year to study different aspects of the college stores in higher education.

Andrews is working towards an AA degree at BRTC. When notified she was the winner she said, "I was shocked!" Andrews will automatically be entered into the drawing for \$1,000.