

March 20, 2015

Volume 13, Issue 2



Inside this issue:

<i>Nursing Assistant Students Receive Scholarships</i>	2
<i>Staff Positions Announced</i>	2
<i>Respiratory Care Receives Nursing Annes</i>	2
<i>MSSPS Awarded to Nine Students for Spring 2015</i>	3
<i>Pi Day Festivities Take Place on the Paragould Campus</i>	3
<i>Students and Faculty Involved in Steel Magnolias</i>	4
<i>Common Grounds Gives Students Experience</i>	4

Above and Beyond Healthcare Creates New BRTC Scholarship

On March 7 at the BRTC Gala, Dr. Eric Turner announced the creation of the Above and Beyond Scholarship. This scholarship was created and donated by Above and Beyond Healthcare, Inc., owned by Gary Johnson, Susan Johnson, and Dr. Roger Johnson.

The Above and Beyond Scholarship will award up to \$750 to one student, available each fall and spring, based upon students' answers to an essay question. The scholarship hopes to help focus on students' interaction with and



From Left: Susan Johnson, Gary Johnson, and Dr. Eric Turner at the Gala.

contribution back to the community.

"One of the first people to reach out to me when I became president was Gary Johnson. With this gift to establish the Above and Beyond Scholarship, the Johnson family exemplifies the importance of our community investing in the lives of students for the betterment of us all," said Dr. Turner, President of BRTC.

To apply for this scholarship or any other BRTC institutional scholarships, visit the Black River Technical College website. Deadlines are coming up soon.

French Family Donate Land to BRTC

On March 13, Jack and Christina French donated a parcel of property in Dalton to the Black River Technical College Foundation. This property is located next to the college's Looney Tavern, also donated by the Frenches in 2007, and was restored to its original 1833 glory over the past 7 years.

The new parcel of land includes a cemetery where many Looney descendants rest. It will also be the site for a new pavilion and public restrooms which will be used by Looney Tavern visitors. Construction of the pavilion is planned for this spring.

After hundreds of visitors and many special events at the Looney Tavern, the need for a pavilion and restrooms on site was obvious. "When giving a tour, if someone needed a restroom, we would have to drive 15 minutes back to the Rice-Upshaw site. It wasn't a good situation for any visitor," said Jessica Bailey, Project Specialist.



Karen Liebhaber, left, VP of Institutional Advancement, with Christina and Jack French after they gifted land to the BRTC Foundation.

With agreement from the Frenches, BRTC applied for and was awarded two grants from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council in Little Rock. With these funds, BRTC will be able to build a pavilion as well as make a few enhancements to both the Looney Tavern site as well as Rice-Upshaw House. Karen Liebhaber, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, stated, "This project would not be possible without the immense generosity of the Frenches. We can't thank them

enough for their gift."

The REACH sites include both the Rice-Upshaw House and Looney Tavern. The sites are open every Tuesday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. and the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. April through October. For tours of the site, a donation of \$3 per person is requested. For more information or to request a tour contact Jessica Bailey at (870) 248-4189.

Important Dates

- March 23-27**
Spring Break
- March 31**
Nerd Bowl Finals
- April 2**
Scholars and Donors Reception
- April 6**
PTK Induction
- April 17**
LETA Graduation
- March 18**
ACT Testing

Nursing Assistant Students Receive Scholarships

On Thursday, February 12, sixteen students completed the Nursing Assistant Class at Black River Technical College. BRTC offers evening Nursing Assistant classes once a year to assist those students who are not able to attend daytime classes due to their work or school schedule. This year half of the class consisted of current high school students from Randolph, Lawrence and Craighead counties.



“The graduates will be better prepared to enter into a variety of healthcare settings and employers will more readily hire those who already have this certification,” said Tonya Hankins, Director of Nursing.

Students were also provided \$75 scholarships at the successful completion of the course. The scholarships are a partnership with NEA Uniforms in Paragould. Students may purchase supplies such as a blood pressure and stethoscope kit, uniforms, or shoes to better equip them for a job as a certified nursing assistant.

This group of students was offered additional training and supplies through the Arkansas Partnership for Nursing's Future (APNF) grant. The purpose of this grant is to enable Arkansas workers to be trained for careers in the nursing profession and provide materials that will expand nursing in the state.

Students who received training and supplies through the Arkansas for Nursing Future grant.

Through the grant funding an additional offering of the American Heart Association Basic Life Support course was provided. All students successfully passed the training and received certification. “By having this certifi-

“All the students worked very hard and have exemplified professionalism in both the class and clinical setting,” stated Kara Malin, nursing instructor. “As a result of all of their hard work, over half of these student have already been offered employment at their clinical locations.”

For more information about upcoming Nursing Assistant classes contact Kara Malin at (870)248-4115.

Staff Positions Announced

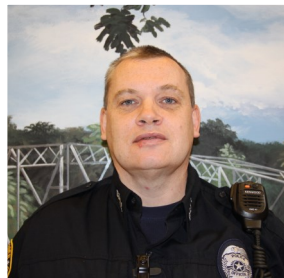
Four positions have been filled at Black River Technical College according to Brenda Gillogly, Vice President of Administration.

Charles Parker of Pocahontas has been hired as Maintenance Assistant for the Pocahontas Campus. He worked at Trinity Behavior Health for four years and then Flippo Heating and Air for ten years before coming to BRTC. He holds his Type II in heating and air. He also took a class in carpentry at BRTC when it offered carpentry classes.



Charles Parker

Jennifer Tubbs of Powhatan has been promoted to Institutional Services Assistant for the Pocahontas Campus. She has been working part time in the maintenance department. She is a graduate of Black Rock High School.



Thomas Nelson

Darlene Crawford has accepted the position of Fiscal Support Technician. She will working in the bookstore on the Paragould campus. Crawford lives in Paragould and has her AAS in Business with an emphasis on accounting from BRTC. She is currently working towards her AAS in Business Technology. She previously worked at Quad Graphics in Jonesboro for 12 years before they closed.

Thomas Nelson of Pocahontas has been hired as the Public Safety Officer for the Paragould campus. Nelson received his AAS in Criminal Justice from BRTC. Previously, he worked for the Pocahontas Police Department for seven years.



Jennifer Tubbs



Darlene Crawford

Respiratory Care Receives Nursing Annes

Respiratory Care has just received two Nursing Annes so that students will be able to practice their skills on a lifelike subject.

One manikin was purchased from Laerdal and the other was donated by Laerdal. This donation came after the purchase of manikins for both the nursing department and respiratory care.

“With these two new manikins our students will be able to complete more labs in the same amount of time as before and we will have two more practice stations set up,” stated Jessica Alphin, Director of Clinical Education for Respiratory Care. Alphin explained that these also manikins have the capability of being tracheotomy patients which will be a huge asset to students.



Brea Glenn, Jessica Crawford and Tiffany Hensley check vitals on Nursing Anne.

MSSPS Awarded to Nine Students for Spring 2015

A total of \$4,375 in scholarships have been awarded to nine students through the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship (MSSPS) fund for the Spring 2015 semester. The following recipients from Pocahontas were awarded \$500: Susan Kercheval, Emily Anderson, Kara Davison, Sabrina Godwin, Elizabeth Loyd, Stephanie Searcy and April Wellborn of Pocahontas. Laura Graham of Pocahontas was awarded \$375, and Shannon Reinhold of Maynard was awarded \$500.

Laura Graham, Emily Anderson, Kara Davison, and Sabrina Godwin have been designated as United Way recipients through MSSPS.

Laura Graham is pursuing her business degree with emphasis in accounting. Previously, she worked for Wal-Mart and she is now working at B.R.A.D. Anderson is working to become an LPN and then plans to enroll in the RN program. Davidson is working to obtain her Associate of Arts degree. Godwin is studying to become an RN. They are all students of Black River Technical College.

Loyd graduated from Pocahontas High School in 2011. She plans to graduate in May 2015 with her Associate of Arts Degree. Searcy is working towards her Practical Nursing Certificate and plans to become a RN. Wellborn is studying to obtain her Associate of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. Reinhold is working towards her Associate of Arts degree at BRTC. All attend BRTC except for Su-

san Kercheval who is attending Williams Baptist College. Kercheval is pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education.

Since its inception in 1992, \$179,698 have been awarded through the MSSPS. Funding for the scholarships is generated through the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund, United Way of Northeast Arkansas, and BRTC employee contributions and fundraisers.

According to MSSPS Chair Janna Guthrey, to qualify for the single parent scholarship, individuals must be single parents with custody of minor children, be enrolled in a program of higher education, meet certain income guidelines, and be residents of Randolph County.

For more information about MSSPS, contact Janna Guthrey at (870) 248-4092.



Stephanie Searcy



Emily Anderson



Sabrina Godwin



Susan Kercheval



April Wellborn



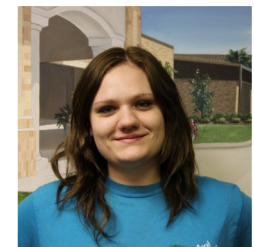
Laura Graham



Kara Davison



Elizabeth Loyd



Shannon Reinhold

Pi Day Festivities Take Place on the Paragould Campus

The Paragould Math department celebrated Centennial Pi Day with a Pi poster contest, giveaways, pie and punch.

Centennial Pi Day took place on March 14, 2015, with the date represents the first digits of pi-3.141592653. This occurrence only happens once every century. Daphnie Perkins, math instructor, said, "We wanted to encourage students to learn more about this irrational number and to peak their mathematical interests."

Students could participate in a pi poster contest and included information about pi on their posters. First place went to Katie Damron, second was awarded to Lori Anderson, and Makayla Carter took third place.

No pi event is complete without pie. Punch was also served. Throughout the day door prizes were awarded along with other giveaways.

This event was made possible by a BRTC Foundation SEAS grant.



Katie Damron with her first place poster about Pi.



Students, left, Amber Thomas, Amy Thomas, April Flowers, Marissa Johnson, Joseph Owens, and Jessica Owens enjoy pie on Pi Day.



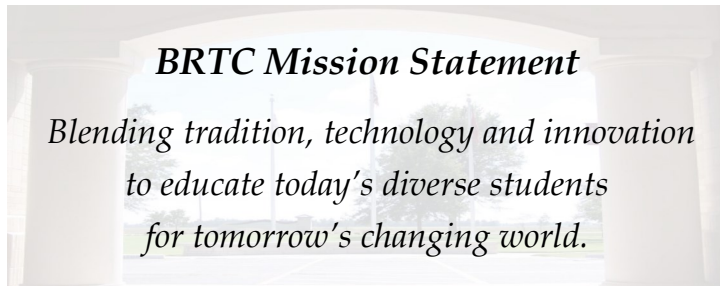
P.O. Box 468
1410 Hwy 304 East
Pocahontas, AR 72455

Phone: 870-248-4000
Fax: 870-248-4100

P.O. Box 1565
1 Black River Drive
Paragould, AR 72450

Phone: 870-239-0969
Fax: 870-239-2050

www.blackrivertech.edu



Students and Faculty Involved in *Steel Magnolias*

Thomas Fielder, BRTC Fine Arts Theater and oral communications instructor, directed the dinner theater production of *Steel Magnolias* at the First United Methodist Church in Paragould on March 13 & 14.

Playing Shelby in the production was BRTC student Stephanie Rock. The BRTC-Paragould Creative Arts Club provided the famous red velvet armadillo groom's cake for Shelby's wedding.

"The arts are alive and thriving in Paragould, thanks in part to the involvement of BRTC's faculty and students," stated Fielder.



Thomas Fielder with Stephanie Rock
(above)

Joan Linnstaedter (left), Sandra Williams and Thomas Fielder

Common Grounds Gives Students Experience

In an effort to prepare students for careers in the business field PBL (Phi Beta Lambda, a post-secondary version of Future Business Leaders of America) allows members like Lourinda Rufkahr and Edward Kelson to work in the Common Grounds coffee shop.

Working in Common Grounds gives students the opportunity to earn important business skills and learn responsibilities that are important when running a business. It also gives members a chance to give back to their community and to the PBL organization by using money earned from the coffee shop to help the March of Dimes, AR Children's Hospital, and to fund members' trips to state conferences and special trips like the one PBL will be taking soon to the National Treasury in St. Louis.

For questions or to join PBL contact Ruth Schaa (870) 248-4131 or Shannon Ogdan (870)248-4134.



Lourinda Rufkahr serving coffee in Common Grounds.

Online River's Edge Address:
http://www.blackrivertech.org/rivers_edge/

The River's Edge is produced by the
Office of Development.

jessica.bailey@blackrivertech.edu

karenl@blackrivertech.edu

anns@blackrivertech.edu

shawna.lepard@blackrivertech.edu