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Foundation Scholars and Donors Reception

Kevin Rose, Market President for Centennial Bank in Batesville and a BRTC alumnus, was the guest speaker at the annual Donors & Scholars Reception held April 2 in the Randolph County Development Center. The event is held each year to acknowledge the financial contributions of businesses and individuals to the BRTC Foundation for scholarships and donations along with the students who are Foundation scholarship recipients.

Rose described his path to achieving his education and the many individuals who helped him along the way. One such individual was Dr. Jan Ziegler who told him not to give up on his education and encouraged him to keep going despite whatever obstacles he faced.

After a short concert by the Kimbrough Choir, under the direction of Joniece Trammel, accompanied by Glenda Blassini, Kelly Rose, BRTC Foundation board chair, welcomed guests and expressed his sincere appreciation for the support of BRTC's donors and the hard work of the scholarship students. With a few humorous stories, he also welcomed his brother and special guest Kevin Rose.

Dr. Eric Turner, BRTC President, introduced special guests in the audience including Board of Trustees mem-

bers and Foundation Board members. He especially encouraged and showed his appreciation of the students who agreed to speak before the audience.

Melodie Palmer, Mikayla Morrow, and Susan Glasgow, current students who were

Foundation scholarship recipients, each expressed their appreciation to the donors for making a difference in their lives and providing them 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

BRTC's Dietetics Department served a beautiful and delicious buffet of hors d'oeuvres. Karen Liebhaber, BRTC Vice President of Institutional Advancement, gave closing remarks.



Kevin Rose

Important Dates

- April 17**
LETA Graduation
- April 18**
ACT Testing
- April 21**
BRTC Health Fair
- April 23**
Business Expo & Job Fair
- April 28**
Fun Before Finals
- May 5**
PN Pinning & Graduation Ceremony

Bethune to Address Graduates

Former Congressman Ed Bethune will be the guest speaker at Black River Technical College's graduation to be held May 7. The ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. in the Randolph County Development Center on the BRTC Pocahontas Campus.

Bethune grew up in Pocahontas and graduated from Pocahontas High School. At age 18, he joined the United States Marine Corps. When his enlistment ended, he earned a B.S.B.A. and in 1963 a Juris Doctorate from the School of Law at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

In 1978, Bethune won a seat in the United States House of Representatives. He was the first Republican to hold that seat in 104 years. He went on to serve a total of three terms in Congress.

Bethune and his wife, Lana, attempted to sail their 31-foot sailboat across the Atlantic Ocean in 1990. However, they entered a fierce storm and had to be rescued by

the U.S. Coast Guard 200 miles south of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, on their sixth day at sea.

In 2011, Bethune wrote his memoir: *Jackhammered, a Life of Adventure* and in 2014 he finished the novel, *Gay Panic in the Ozarks*. He is working on another novel to be published late this year or early in 2016.

Bethune and his wife, Lana, have two children and eight granddaughters. They reside in Little Rock.



Ed Bethune

BRTC Art Club Enjoys Behind the Scenes Tour of Saint Louis Art Museum

A group of 20 from the Black River Technical College Art Club traveled by train to St. Louis on April 3. They visited the Saint Louis Art Museum (SLAM), which was built for the 1904 World's Fair and is ranked in the top 100 art museums in the world.

Because Dr. Sandy Baltz had worked at SLAM several years ago, she was able to arrange a private tour with Registrar Director Jeanette Fausz. BRTC students and staff were allowed to tour the basement of the museum and view behind-the-scenes restoration and repair of artwork as well as the giant elevators and platforms necessary for moving the massive pieces of art. The group also toured the public areas.

Saturday the group toured the Old Courthouse then visited the Arch and viewed a movie of its construction. Afterward participants had free time to visit the City Museum, Union Station, or the St. Louis Zoo. The group then returned home by way of the Amtrak train Saturday evening.

BRTC Students attending were Katie Castleberry, Shayla Dickson, Stephanie Holcomb, Tori Clairday, Sarah Cullum, Brynna Morgan, Kaylan Hutsell, Jacob Pipkin, Hannah Powers, Katelyn Leonard, Nancy Miller, Shelly Summit, Amber Smith, DaWayne Anderson, and Shannon Wegener. BRTC employees attending included Janice Harvery, Vickie French, Mary Anderson, Mantha Baltz, and Art Club advisor Dr. Sandy Baltz.



Kimbrough Choir Attend Opera

BRTC Kimbrough Choir along with faculty, staff, and community members enjoyed a trip to St. Louis on March 12 and 13.

The trip was organized by Joniece Trammel, director of the Kimbrough Choir. "We visited the University of Missouri St. Louis and watched a choir rehearsal directed by Dr. James Henry," shared Trammel. It was a wonderful experience for all.

The highlight of the trip included visiting The Fox Theater which was built in 1929. Here they were able to see *The Phantom of the Opera*. They also ate at Sweetie Pies which has been featured on the Opera Channel.

The Kimbrough Choir is comprised of students attending BRTC along with members of the community. They perform campus concerts throughout the year as well as singing at events in the community. For more information about the Kimbrough Choir contact Joniece Trammel at (870) 248-4188.

The trip was paid for with funds earned by the choir through Sing-A-Grams, Rock N Roll Music Festival, a SEAS Foundation grant, and SGA.



Front row, left to right-Teresa Shepard, Vicky Wilson, Madonna Foster

Back row, left to right-Johnathan Wren, Elizabeth Harvey, Bobby Hatfield, Garrett Lynxwiler

Piano Fundraiser

Graduation is quickly approaching and this year one change is in order: a new piano. The current piano has served the college, as well as the community, faithfully for the past 22 years; however, it is starting to show, and sound, its age.

Kimbrough Choir Director, Joniece Trammel said, "The piano we are looking at purchasing is a console piano that will actually sound like a baby grand. The piano will greatly add quality to the graduation ceremonies and public events which require a piano by providing the volume and tone quality needed for such occasions."

To raise funds for a new piano, the Office of Institutional Advancement is offering BRTC Sausilito mugs for a gift of \$25 or more. For \$50 and up, special piano keys go with your mug. To give online go to <http://www.blackrivertech.org> or contact Shawna Leopard by calling (870) 248-4026.



NTHS Induction

BRTC's chapter of the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) held its spring induction March 17 at the Randolph County Development Center. Since the chapter began in the Fall of 2012, 178 students have joined. This semester's new members are Ana Howell, Loretta Hubbard, Sarah Kirby, Becky Pentecost, Donald Ruple, and Taylor Stallings.

Students in BRTC's technical programs of study who have a 3.5 GPA, have completed 12 credit hours, and have a faculty recommendation for exhibiting outstanding characteristics are invited to join. Members will find opportunities to attend meetings and conferences, to develop leadership skills, and gain networking options with others in the field from across the nation.

Current NTHS officers are Rachel Weekly, President; Janine Mitchell, Vice President; Jillian Whitson, Treasure; and Taylor Stallings, Secretary. Advisors are Alan Haskins, Fire Science Instructor; Gary Meier, Machine Tool Technology Instructor; Mack Downey, Business Instructor; and Nanette Carter, Phlebotomy Instructor.



PTK Induction



The Black River Technical College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society of two-year colleges founded in 1918 was pleased to accept 30 new members on April 6.

In order to be considered for admission into Phi Theta Kappa, students must have completed at least twelve credit hours and maintain a minimum 3.5 grade point average. PTK membership centers on cultivating the hallmarks of scholarship, leadership, fellowship, and service in its members. This is done through honors study topic, currently Frontiers and the Spirit of Exploration, which is studied by members and then developed into an Honors in Action project.

This year PTK studied the advancements in cancer research and held a Color War to raise money after studying where they thought the money should go. PTK has also worked with BRTC's administration to develop a college project which is focused on encouraging students to complete their two year degrees or certificates through the C4 initiative. Studies have shown that 85% percent of community college students that sign the C4 pledge go on to complete their associates and further their education even more.

BRTC's chapter advisors of PTK are Ashley Hall and TommyShawn Long.

Nerd Bowl Winners Announced

Being a nerd just became cool when the Beta Delta Phi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa held its first Nerd Bowl in March.

The Nerd Bowl was held according to the official National Academic Quiz Bowl Tournament rules and covered questions in history, geography, political science, art, literature, science, math, and entertainment. There were preliminary rounds held on the Pocahontas and Paragould campuses. Two teams from each campus made it to the final rounds.

From Pocahontas the teams were "The Realist" consisting of Adam Ransone and Paige Ratliff and "Team" consisting of Edward Kelson and Michael Secrest. From Paragould, the teams were "Beauty and the Brains" consisting of Stephanie Rock, Garrett Taylor, and Kyle Sample and "Thunder Cats" consisting of Makenna Budding, McKay Thompson, and William Retherford. The winning team was "Beauty and the Brains" and they received a \$300 prize. Beta Delta Phi wants to thank all of the teams who participated and hopes that everyone will consider putting together a team next year!



Pictured is the winning team from the Nerd Bowl (from left to right): TommyShawn Long – Advisor, Garret Taylor – Team Member, Stephanie Rock – Team Captain, Kyle Sample – Team Member, Ashley Hall - Advisor.

Israel Hired in Student Affairs

Martha Nelson, Vice President of Student Affairs, announced a new hire in her department.

Eugenia Isreal of Imboden has accepted the position of Administrative Specialist 1 for Financial Aid at the Pocahontas campus of Black River Technical College.

Eugenia is originally from St. Louis and graduated from Granite City High School in Granite City, IL. She is currently attending BRTC and working towards her AAS in General Education.



Eugenia Isreal



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BRTC Mission Statement

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

Perkins Appointed State Delegate for AMATYC

Daphne Perkins, math instructor at Black River Technical College, has been appointed to the two-year position of State Delegate for the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC). The AMATYC is exclusively devoted to providing a national forum for the improvement of mathematics instruction in the first two years of college.



Daphne Perkins

As a delegate Daphne is responsible for encouraging articles from members for the Math AMATYC Educator and other AMATYC publications. She will assist the regional vice president in updating the directory of two-year colleges and the list of potential AMATYC members from Arkansas. She will also attend delegate assemblies where she will present written recommendations to the executive board, appoint campus representatives for colleges in Arkansas, and vote on all dues and constitution changes approved by the executive board.

Daphne earned her B.S.E. in Mathematics from Arkansas State University. She holds a M.S. from Arkansas State University as well as Texas A&M University.

Student Wins \$100 in College Bookstore Survey

Jessica Carter, a first-year student from Jonesboro majoring in Respiratory Care, won \$100 from the Black River Technical College Bookstore after taking the National Association of College Stores (NACS) survey offered on the BRTC website.

"This is a national survey," said Janice Harvey, director of the BRTC bookstore, "which gives students the opportunity to tell us what they want." Currently enrolled students take the 20-minute survey and complete questions about their preferences regarding classroom computers, e-books, paper textbooks, and their college experience.

The survey is available in October and February and awards \$100 to one winner in each semester. Winners of BRTC's survey are entered into a national drawing in which they can win \$1,000. Spring 2015 is the fourth year in which BRTC has participated in this survey.



Jessica Carter, left, receives check from Janice Harvey, director of the BRTC Bookstore