

# THE RIVER'S EDGE



Black River Technical College

Pocahontas · Paragould

## Ellis Agriculture Scholarship

Long-time farmer Danny Ellis and his wife, Ruth Ann, BRTC board of trustee and foundation member, are offering a \$1,000 scholarship to BRTC agriculture students in Fall 2017. Danny and Ruth Ann are agriculture supporters who want to help students interested in farming and agriculture succeed. Thank you, Danny and Ruth Ann!



## Colby Hostler Memorial Scholarship

Steve and Rhonda Higginbotham have created the Colby Hostler Memorial Scholarship in memory of their son who they lost tragically last January. Colby would graduate from Sloan-Hendrix this May. To celebrate his life and memory, the Higginbothams have created a \$1,000 scholarship for a May 2017 graduating Sloan-Hendrix student who will be attending BRTC. BRTC is honored to remember Colby!



## 11th Annual BRTC Foundation Gala a Success!

Despite a lovely snow during the day and a historic Lady Redskins state basketball game, the 11th Annual BRTC Foundation Gala was a wonderful success!



Stephanie Sutton and Alan Higginbotham

The event netted almost \$18,000 and featured an additional raffle of \$500 in cash. This event is 1 of 2 major fundraisers for the BRTC Foundation with proceeds supporting student needs, scholarships and field trips, and program, institutional, and academic needs.

More than 50 donors gave auction items and money to make the event possible. Foundation board members, BRTC volunteers including Vickie French and Sharon Watson, and the Office of Institutional Advancement spent more than 3 months preparing.

"We sincerely appreciate our generous donors coming out and braving the winter weather to support our students and college," stated Kelly Rose, Foundation chair. "It was a beautiful event and I appreciate the hard work of the Foundation and the Office of Advancement."

Gala photos online at Flickr can be accessed via the BRTC website at [www.blackrivertech.edu](http://www.blackrivertech.edu).



Jake Foster & Mindy Gollhofer



Dr. Joe Jones and Mike Miller

From left: Scott Trammel, Donna & Kevin Foster, Mary Nell & Greg Baltz, Joniece Trammel (forefront), Nancy and Dr. Paul Baltz

## TO GET IT DOWN

April 19  
Child Abuse Walk, Poca.

April 25  
Scholars & Donors, RCDC

April 27  
Kimbrough Choir Concert,  
Downtown Playhouse

April 28-29  
Renaissance Fair, Para.



## BRTC's Dillion Teaches Defensive Tactics

BRTC campus safety officer Dane Dillion assisted BRTC Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA) by offering a week-long officer defensive training course called Krav Maga. Dillion said the course teaches cadets how to "take control of a situation using the least amount of force necessary."

After a few hours in the classroom, cadets spent the week in drills and hands-on training. In order to make the training as realistic as possible and to prepare officers for real life situations, Dane said all 42 cadets and trainers were in the men's locker room performing drills. "Police officers have to be able handle a situation while protecting themselves without second thought wherever a problem occurs," Dane explained.

We appreciate the dedication and skill our campus and future officers possess!

## 8th Graders Use REACH to Study Genetics



On February 24, Cindy Robinett, BRTC adult education instructor, spoke to Pocahontas 8th graders about Project REACH to help them understand genetics. Project REACH is funded in part by the Arkansas Natural Cultural Resources Council.

## Spring Advisory Dinner

On March 14, BRTC advisory boards attended their spring meetings and had dinner together on the Pocahontas campus of BRTC. Advisory Committees are comprised of working professionals who provide input and advice to BRTC's technical and professional programs such as welding, law enforcement, respiratory, and agriculture. Advisory board members are integral to insuring that BRTC academic programs are meeting the needs of business, industry, the community, and students.

We appreciate these working professionals' guidance and support!



## ENTER CONTESTS IN RENAISSANCE FAIR!!

Students: Enter to win cash:

- Up to 2 original poems of any length, style, or form AND
- Up to 2 original Shakespearean sonnets

Prizes are as follows:

1st Place	\$100
2nd Place	\$50
3rd Place	\$25
Best Sonnet:	\$75

Visit the BRTC website for more information!

## BRTC FOOD PANTRY

Remember that students can visit the BRTC Food Pantry on either campus when needed!

The Food Pantry also accepts donations of money and non-perishable food items.

## Important Dates!

4/10	4-Week classes begin
4/10	Registration begins
4/19	Blood Drive, Paragould
4/19	TRIO Financial Literacy, Pocahontas
4/20	TRIO Financial Literacy, Pocahontas
4/25	ACCUPLACER Testing
4/19	TRIO Financial Literacy, Paragould
4/28	Fun Before Finals Job Fair, Paragould
4/29	Renaissance Fair, Paragould
5/1	DEADLINE: Summer Financial Aid Paperwork

the 411



# BRTC Foundation Scholarships Provided by Generous Donors

Many generous donors to the BRTC Foundation provide scholarship opportunities to worthy students. These students must meet GPA, academic, and in some cases programmatic standards.

## Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship

A total of \$2,250 Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarships (MSSPS) has been awarded to 3 students. Funding for the MSSPS is through the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund, United Way of Northeast Arkansas, Energy, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, and BRTC employee contributions.

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.

### MSSPS Recipient



**Recipient:** Cynthia Nishimura  
**Hometown:** Ravenden Springs  
**High School:** Jefferson High School, 2009  
**Major:** Nursing  
**College Attending:** BRTC  
**Award Amount:** \$750

### MSSPS United Way Recipient



**Recipient:** Bobbie Anderson  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Sloan-Hendrix High School, 2013  
**Major:** General Education  
**College Attending:** BRTC  
**Award Amount:** \$750

### MSSPS United Way Recipient



**Recipient:** Holly Smart  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School, 2015  
**Major:** Nursing  
**College Attending:** BRTC  
**Award Amount:** \$750

## Sylvia Cagle Single Parent Scholarship

The Sylvia Cagle Single Parent Scholarship is provided by Darrell Cagle in honor of his mother, Sylvia, who raised him while being a single mother. Pictured with the recipient is BRTC's Mike Smith.

**Recipient:** Holly Smart  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School, 2015  
**Major:** Nursing  
**Award Amount:** \$500



## Legacy Scholarship

BRTC's May 201 Practical Nursing class realized many PN students' in their last semester of the PN program struggled to pay for Arkansas State Board of Nursing licensure and NCLEX-PN test fees. They decided to create The Legacy Scholarship to help students like their peers.

That semester, they awarded 5 scholarships. Each following class has continued to fundraise to keep the legacy alive. This semester, the award has increased by \$75.

This spring, the December 2016 class awarded ten \$375 scholarships to the May 2017 class. Recipients are Shaelyn Robertson, Natalie Gould, Elizabeth Rutledge, Audrey Bettis, Katelynn Woodard, Lisa Wilcox, Jenny Cook, Amber White, Whitney Rodgers, and Krystal Wagster.



## BRTC Hosts Rappelling Class for Specialized Fire Training Rescue

On Saturday, April 1, BRTC hosted a rescue class for members of area fire departments who are pursuing the specialized Rope Rescue Technician certification. These specialized fire personnel are trained to rescue individuals from structures with high elevations such as water towers and high rise buildings.

In the past, BRTC could not host this training because the old fire tower was not structurally sound enough. With the new fire tower, however, this course will be offered more frequently to interested fire professionals and area fire departments. To learn more or schedule a class, contact Alan Haskins at (870) 248-4000 ext. 4129.



## Kimbrough Choir Members Sing in Ireland

During spring break, 6 members of the Kimbrough Choir joined ASU's choir to travel and sing around Ireland.



Choir members sang at St. Kevin's Church in Glendalough, Church of St. Iberius in Wexford, St. Mary's Church of Ireland in Killarney, and a variety of castles.

*Back:* Debbye Jarrett, Madonna Foster, Karen Parish, Jody Thielemier, Vickie Wilson *Front:* Joniece Trammel, Audrey Long, Donna Peppers

Choir members who participated are Madonna Foster, Vickie Wilson, Debbye Jarrett, Karen Parish, Audrey Long, and choir director Joniece Trammel. Two community members, Jody Thielemier and Donna Peppers, accompanied them.



*Gala cont'd.* *Top:* Melissa Davis; Robert & Ashely Counts, Michelle & Garret Counts; Dorthy Wright; Julie Edwards, Chris Bennett, Justin Broadway, Cheyenne Smith, Carol Reynolds; Kim & Dr. Roger Johnson. *Bottom:* Larry Don & Frances Rose, Kelly Rose, Veronica Rose; Mary Helen & John Jackson; Lindsay & Chris Robinson, Jeremy & Lisa Baltz



## THEIR MARK BRTC Archery Club

MAKING

BRTC Paragould has a new club on campus: the Archery Club. Students have been practicing diligently and are excited to participate in the upcoming Renaissance Fair.

For more information about archery at BRTC, contact Daphne Perkins or Amber Richbough.



Lance Schmidt, adjunct; Rhett Evins, Maddie Adams, Mason Reed, Garrett Akins, Tom Baker

## BRTC Ag Hosts Farm Safety Day

High school agriculture students from Maynard, Highland, and Pocahontas were at BRTC's Pocahontas campus for Farm Safety Day on Friday, March 17. The program was put on by the Randolph County Conservation District and hosted by the BRTC agriculture department.

Students learned about safety basics and spent the afternoon in hands-on scenarios. To learn more about the BRTC agriculture program contact Tom Baker at (870) 248-4000 ext. 4068.

## BRTC Nursing Students Witness Hearing at AR State Board of Nursing

Nineteen practical nursing students attended hearings at the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN) in Little Rock on February 15. Students were excited to see BRTC allied health division chair Ramonda Housh, ASBN's current president, leading the hearing proceedings.



Back: Bridgette Kasinger, Natalie Gould, Josh Rabey, Krystal Wagster, Katie King, Natalie Gipson, Emma Slusser, Seth Morris, Beverly Brown, Jenny Cook, Elizabeth Rutledge, Tahnee Green. Front: Jennifer Hibbard, Ramonda Housh, Amber White, Lisa Wilcox, Audrey Bettis, Whitney Rodgers, Cassie Wilson, Cheyenne Rainwater, Shaelyn Robertson, Katelynn Woodard, Lindsey Ford



Janice Harvey, bookstore manager; Cynthia Nishimura

## Bookstore Winner

BRTC nursing student Cynthia Nishimura of Ravenden Springs won a \$50 gift certificate from the BRTC bookstore after taking the National Association of College Stores survey. She will be entered with BRTC's fall winner in a national drawing for \$1,000.

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." ~Nelson Mandela*

## French Is Volunteer of the Month



Kim Dollins, ASPSF; Vickie French

Vickie French, Administrative Assistant to the President, was named January's Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund (ASPSF) Volunteer of the Month for her work with the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Randolph County. Congratulations, Vickie!

## New Employee



Shannon Morris

**Position:** Business Office Assistant, PT  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**Spouse:** Hunter Morris  
**Children:** Peyton, Ethan, Kelsey  
**Campus:** Pocahontas  
**Education:** Sloan-Hendrix HS  
 Black River Technical College, 2007, AA

## CAMPUS

CLOSEUP

You may have already heard the news. As of March 7, BRTC has been placed on probation by our accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). HLC says BRTC is not in compliance with one or more of their Criteria for Accreditation.

I want to personally assure you that BRTC faculty and staff are already working to address HLC's concerns. This sanction has no effect on the following essential duties of our college: to offer a quality education to students, provide financial aid to worthy students, graduate students, or transfer course credits to other institutions of higher education.

We are working with all students to insure their educational goals are not effected. Being on probation means BRTC cannot create any brand new programs while on probation. However, rest assured that all current programs are unaffected, including the recently approved ag program.

If you have questions, feel free to contact our HLC liaison Sissy Gray. You may also visit our HLC website, <http://www.blackrivertech.org/hlc>, for more information including a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and access to HLC information. This site will be updated frequently.

Student success is our core mission and we will do everything in our power to use this opportunity to improve students' – and our – success.



Dr. Eric Turner

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