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Higher Learning Commission Visits BRTC

BRTC hosted a team of four from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association April 16-18. The team concluded its visit with an overall positive verbal report to the President and vice presidents. A detailed written official report is expected in about six weeks.

“Singular” strengths and positive comments from the team included the close working relationship between this college and other educational entities in Randolph County and the many “compelling stories” that emerged from meetings with the Advisory Committee, BRTC students, and members of the community. The team also concluded that they view the institution as a “gem” in this community, and stated they believe the college is positioned well to continue moving forward to successfully meet future challenges.

The visit was conducted as a part of the institution’s reaccreditation process, or PEAQ (Program to Evaluate



BRTC Board of Trustee member Mike Dunn, left, visits with Dr. Bill Lindroth, member of the HLC Team.

and Advance Quality). BRTC was last accredited in 2002.

PN Students Win Several ALPNA Awards



BRTC's Practical Nursing Students and Instructors at ALPNA Competition

BRTC’s practical nursing students brought home several awards from the annual ALPNA (Arkansas Licensed Practical Nurses’ Association) conference held April 5-6 in Batesville, according to Ramonda Housh, Director of Nursing at BRTC. “The group of BRTC students earned six first place wins, four second place wins, and four third place wins during competitions held to showcase their skills,” said Housh. “The competitions are held each year at the annual conference, with LPN schools from around the state participating.”

BRTC took first and second place team awards for Quiz Bowl and swept all three places in CPR team awards. Nursing III students comprising the 1st place Quiz Bowl team were: Crystal Ashton, Jolly Ruminer, Angela Ragsdell, and Roxanne Burkheart. Nursing II students on the 2nd place Quiz Bow team were: Sharon Peek, Aaron Franklin, Elisabeth Woodard and Matt Phillips. CPR teams were: Jessica Crocker and Camie Godwin, Nursing III, 1st place; Jessica Carroll and Layla

(Continued on pg. 2)

Important Dates

- April 26**
Student Awards Ceremony
- April 28**
REACH Sites Open
- May 1**
Fun Before Finals
- May 3**
Foundation Board Mtg.
- May 8**
PN Pinning Ceremony
- May 9**
Milestone Award and Annual Potluck
- May 10**
BRTC Graduation

REACH Sites Open Saturday

(See details on page 2)

Country Feast Focuses on Nigeria

Students of Dr. Sandy D. Baltz, Joniece Trammel and Kathy Murdock combined their efforts for the annual Country Feast held Tuesday at BRTC. The event featured the African nation, Nigeria, and special guest speaker Reverent Athanasius Okeyi, a native of Nigeria.

Those in Dr. Baltz's Art classes displayed works relating to Nigeria produced in Drawing II, Graphic Design I, and Painting classes, while her World Civilization students gave presentations on such areas as the resources, architecture, geography, and foods of Nigeria.

Guests enjoyed several musical selections performed by the Kimbrough Choir, directed by Mrs. Trammel, and accompanied by Glenda Blasini. They also enjoyed many ethnic Nigerian foods

prepared by Dietetics students of Mrs. Murdock.

Following Father Athanasius' presentation,



Reverent Athanasius Okeyi

members of the audience had opportunity to ask several questions about his perceptions and experiences. He explained the origin of the name "Nigeria," and also explained that the West African nation, formerly a colony of Britain, is actually a constructed nation consisting of about 250 ethnic tribes, many of whom continue to feel allegiance not to Nigeria but to their respective ethnic groups. Among those

groups is the Igbo people, who have produced such great writers as Chinua Achebe and Chimamanda Adichie.

He noted that there is actually not a "Nigerian culture," but rather many African cultures that exist within the country.

Advisory Council Member Speaks to Electricity/Electronics Students



Dennis White speaks to students in the Electricity/Electronics program.

Dennis White, advisory member for the BRTC Industrial Electricity/Electronics program, and electrician/salesman for ARI of Jonesboro, visited with students in the Electricity/Electronics program at BRTC last week. He talked to the students about the current job market and how to successfully conduct themselves during job interviews.

White graduated from BRTC's Electricity/Electronics program 30 years ago and has since been a long-term supporter of BRTC, where he currently serves on the Advisory Council. "The students learned so much from his hour-long presentation," said instructor David Bowlin. "We welcome him back at any time."

REACH Begins Open Dates April 28

This weekend will mark the first Saturday in which the William Looney Tavern and the Rice-Upshaw House will be open to the public. BRTC selected this initial date as well as the October date to coincide with the Dalton Rural Fire Department's annual Fish Fry fundraiser.

Both sites will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with volunteers on hand to give tours and answer questions. There will be an entrance fee of three dollars per person. This fee will support the upkeep of the sites along with going towards future special events.

During the months of April through October the William Looney Tavern and the Rice-Upshaw House will be open the Second Saturday of each month. From May through September the Second Saturdays are May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11 and September 8. The sites will also be open on October 20.

For more information regarding the REACH sites please contact Black River Technical College's Development Office at 870-248-4000, Ext 4189.

PN Students

(Cont'd. from pg. 1)

Byrd, Nursing I, 2nd place; and Abbey Loggins and Alyssa Davis, Nursing II, 3rd place.

The nursing students received 2nd place in T-shirt Design. Shelley Mitchell and Jake Cooper, Nursing III students, received 1st place in Duet Talent.

Individual awards included: Bryan Tyner, Nursing I, 1st place - Job Interview; Tiffany Gugle, Nursing II, 1st place - Nursing Skills; Megan Owens, Nursing III, 2nd place - Nursing Skills; Kathy Jones, Nursing I, 3rd place - Nutrition; Samantha Brown, Nursing II, 3rd place - Prepared Speaking; Janea Lyons, Nursing II, 3rd place - Pharmacology; and Sharon Peek, Nursing II, 1st place - Solo Talent.

BRTC Nursing faculty attending with the students were Ramonda Housh, Lisa Hill, Tonya Hankins, Robin Banks, Kara Malin, Tina Stroud, Bridgette Kasinger, Jennifer Hibbard, and Kelsie Jones. Faculty members assist with the competitions, helping with the medical spelling bee and proctoring written exams.

"We are very proud of the students' performances and their professionalism," Housh said, speaking on behalf of the BRTC nursing instructors.

Retired Nursing faculty member, Judy Forrester, returned to assist with the judging of the Job Interview category. She was recognized and awarded the "Georgia Lee Tucker" award. This award is given for outstanding and dedicated service to ALPNA. "We are so proud of Judy's involvement in ALPNA and her receipt of this award," Housh stated.

Fun Before Finals

Tuesday, May 1

10:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

In and Around RCDC

Free food, games,
t-shirts, competitions,
and prizes.

LETA Graduation Ceremony Held for 45 Officers



LETA Class 2012-A

BRTC's Law Enforcement Training Academy held a graduation ceremony Friday, April 13, for 45 officers completing the Basic Police Training Course. State Representative Butch Wilkins served as guest speaker during the ceremony held in the Randolph County Development Center on the Pocahontas campus.

Graduating students completed a thirteen-week course that included instruction in standard police tactics, firearms, legal education, technical skills and practical exercises. Officers are required to score at least 70% on each exam, and consistently fire at least 80% during firearms training exercises in order to graduate.

Marcus Perez of the North Little Rock Police

Department received the Top Overall Award, which is earned by having the highest overall average in the areas of academics, firearms, and physical fitness. Scott Byrd of the Jonesboro Police Department received the Top Physical Fitness Award. Bryan Bailey of the Jonesboro Police Department received the Top Firearms Award, and Shaine Keasler of the Paragould Police Department received the Top Academics Award.

Everette Davis of the Bryant Police Department was the class spokesman and Christopher Kimbrough of the Hughes Police Department sang the National Anthem.

Another highlight of the ceremony was an honor conferred on Gage Clay, a local seven-year-old

cancer patient, naming him an honorary police officer. Clay is the son of Mitchell Clay and Melanie Clay, both of Pocahontas, and the grandson of Larry and Melissa Kirk of Pocahontas, Jackie Mann of Jonesboro, and Linda and Robert Jones of Imboden. This past October, Clay was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and continues treatment through St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"Gage wants to be a police officer when he grows up," explained LETA Director Steve Shults, "so his grandfather, Larry Kirk, former State Trooper and Randolph County Sheriff, brought him to the academy to show him around.

The students fell in love with him and wanted to do something special." During the graduation ceremony, Clay received a certificate, cap, t-shirt and a real badge, all made possible by contributions from the LETA students.



LETA Director Steve Shults pins a badge on Gage Clay making him an Honorary Police Officer.

PBL Students Compete, Win Awards

Members of BRTC's chapter of PBL (Phi Beta Lambda) attended the State Leadership Conference April 12-14 in Little Rock and received several awards during competitions, according to Darend Kersey, PBL co-advisor.

The Leadership Conference is an annual event held for state chapters of PBL. Participants attend business-related and leadership development workshops and participate in competitive events.

Students placing in competitions were: Laurie Wilkerson, 1st place – Machine Transcription; Vickie Broadwater, 3rd place – Computerized Accounting; Jason Moseley, 4th place – Business Communications; and Shelby Borst and Michelle Duran, 5th place – Desktop Publishing.

BRTC's chapter received 1st place in Largest

Increase in Local Chapter Membership and 5th place in Largest Local Chapter Membership Associate (2-year colleges).

"We are very proud of our PBL chapter members who competed in the State Leadership Conference and competitions," said Kersey. "This was their first competition and the students did an excellent job of representing BRTC."

PBL is an association of Future Business Leaders of America at the postsecondary level. Co-advisors along with Kersey are Shannon Ogden, business instructor, and Debbie Prichard, Business Department Head.

Anyone interested in learning more about BRTC's chapter can contact one of the advisors at 870-248-4000.



Representing BRTC at the PBL Conference were: (front row) Rita Burkhalter; (2nd row) Shelby Borst, Shannon Ogden, Darend Kersey, Vickie Broadwater, and Laurie Wilkerson; (3rd row) Michael Secrest, Michelle Duran, and Debbie Prichard, and Jamey Niswonger; and (back row) Ray Frederick and Jason Moseley.



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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. Wayne Hatcher

Excellence has many faces. It comes in many shapes and sizes, many flavors and colors, all of which are important and worthy and deserve our acknowledgement. From the time I arrived here at BRTC, one of the goals I hoped we could realize was to find more ways to shine the light on the excellence of our students through a campus-wide event that would acknowledge and celebrate their achievements. This week's Student Recognition Ceremony is our first attempt in what I hope will become a new annual tradition as we work to

achieve that goal.

This event is to some extent a traditional one, but it goes beyond the usual in many ways. Our ceremony is designed to acknowledge not only the traditional outstanding departmental awards and the highest achieving students in each area, but also the many examples of students' achievements and outstanding contributions they make outside the classroom.

This college understands that educating the whole student entails providing opportunities for him or her to connect classroom learning in practical ways, through the sorts of involvement student organizations make possible. We encourage student engagement in our growing number of college clubs and organizations, and we understand their achievements and outstanding services through these organizations also deserve recognition. These achievements may come through awards at conferences and competitions; they may be achievements through volunteer activities that benefit the college or community.

So we have designed an event that recognizes students that have achieved awards and honors through their involvement in BRTC organizations, as well as the many high achievers in the class-

Business Etiquette Luncheon

BRTC's Business Department recently held its annual Etiquette Luncheon to prepare students for future business meetings or potential job interviews held during a meal.



Pictured at right is Michael Secrest, PBL member, serving Theresa Anderson from IBERABANK.

room. We will, together with the families and friends and *many of the faculty and staff who were an important part of making possible the students' opportunities* honor many of those faces of excellence at our institution and celebrate their success. Their success is after all 'our' success here at BRTC.