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First Student Recognition Ceremony Held



Dr. Wayne Hatcher presents Jason Moseley, and Priscilla Stillwell with Excellence in Leadership Awards.



BRTC's first Student Recognition Ceremony was held April 26 in the Randolph County Development Center. The purpose of the event, according to BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher, was to recognize BRTC students, faculty and staff who have achieved beyond that which is normally expected - with students being the focus.

High honors went to recipients of the President's Awards of Distinction for Excellence in Leadership: Priscilla Stillwell, who is the Academic Coordinator and a faculty member at BRTC-Paragould, and BRTC student Jason Moseley.

Recognized with a President's Award of Distinction for Excellence in Service was student Michael Secret.

The evening included announcement of BRTC's Academic All-Star, Trent Morledge, who will receive a scholarship for his final two years of study as a result of the selection.

Other All-Star honorees through the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges (AATYC) Award were also recognized. They are: Outstanding Alumnus, Susan

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Important Dates

- May 10**
BRTC Graduation
7:00 p.m.
- May 14**
First Day of
Intersession
- May 28**
Memorial Day
Campus Closed
- May 31**
Foundation Board Mtg.
- June 9**
ACT Testing
- June 11-14**
Kids' College

Retirement Reception Honors Four

Four individuals, including long-time VP of Finance Loretta Williams was honored at a reception on May 3. She will be retiring in June after 39 years of service to BRTC. Also retiring and honored at the reception were Roy Clark, Debbie Prichard and Betty Busby.

Williams began her career at BRTC in 1973 as a business instructor. She became Assistant Educational Vocational Technical Director in 1988 and became Vice President of Finance in 1992. Former BRTC President Richard Gaines was on hand to present a plaque to Williams.

Clark is retiring after 37 years with BRTC. He began in September 1975 as a part-time instructor in the High School Co-op program. He became a watchman in 1977, moved into building maintenance in 1980, and became Physical Plant Director in 1999.

Prichard joined BRTC in 1979 as Equity Coordinator then became a Business Instructor within a few months.

In 2002 she became Business Department Head. She has served BRTC for 33 years.

Busby has been with BRTC for three years as a full-time science instructor and Science Department Head for the past year, but has served as an adjunct instructor for BRTC for the previous 13 years while working for the Pocahontas Public Schools. She will retire with 39 years' experience in education.

Retirement of the four represents a combined 112 years of service to BRTC," noted Dr.

Wayne Hatcher, BRTC President. "Each of these individuals made important contributions to the college," he

(Continued on pg. 2)



Former BRTC President Richard Gaines (left) and current BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher, present VP of Finance Loretta Williams with a retirement plaque.

BRTC Dietetics Department Hosts ANFP Meeting

With summer picnic fun just around the corner, BRTC dietetic students were given the opportunity to entertain members from the Northeast Arkansas' Association of Nutrition and Foodservice Professionals during an April 11 meeting held on the BRTC Pocahontas campus. The funny and informative skit about food safety was written by the students, and garnered plenty of laughter and audience participation.

"Preparation for the skit was a great learning experience for the students," said Kathy Murdock, dietetics instructor.

Organizer for the annual meeting, Tina Harris, past Arkansas ANFP president and BRTC dietetics instructor, said the event provided certified dietary managers from Central and Northeast Arkansas an opportunity to



Students from BRTC Dietetics Department are front, from left: Marie Mitchell, Christina Derbes, Bethany Holt, Rayah Fortson, and Allison Brown; back, from left: Belinda Johnson, Ashley Cooley, Kara Callaban, Karen Burns, Annalisa Anis, Jason Cartwright, and instructor Kathy Murdock; not pictured is Jessica Maple.

earn required continuing education hours. Members also were given the opportunity to contribute non-

perishable items to be donated to the local food bank.

A special guest speaker for the occasion was Sherri Williams, president of the Arkansas ANFP chapter. Williams spoke to the group about the importance of ethics and professionalism. "Ethics and professionalism are closely related," she said. "We should set high ethical standards and support those values with training and communication."

Other speakers for the event and their topics were: Linda Bridges, sanitarian for Randolph County Health Department, with updates and essential information about mosquito control, rabies, and bedbugs; Tina Harris discussed the key role diets play in renal disease; and Sandra Parker, BRTC cafeteria manager, discussed the evolving technological changes managers are facing.

Student Recognition (Cont'd. from pg. 1)

Johnson; Outstanding Faculty, Sandra Williams; and Outstanding Staff, Jessie Tunstall. These recipients will be honored at the AATYC annual convention to be held this coming fall in Hot Springs.

Other awards presented were Academic and Technical Department Awards, BRTC Top Student Awards, President's Award of Excellence, President's Awards of Distinction, Student Organization Awards, Career Pathways Award, Online Student Award, and Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.



Dr. Wayne Hatcher (left) and Michael Secrest.

Students, line up for free t-shirts and to register for door prizes at the recent Fun Before Finals event.

Article and additional pictures will appear in the next issue of The River's Edge.



Retirement (Cont'd. from pg. 1)

said. "They all played a part in the growth of this campus and organization, impacting in positive ways the academic, the physical and financial expansion of BRTC. In particular, Loretta Williams has for many years played a lead role in ensuring this college is in sound financial condition, and this is a wonderful legacy for her and for us who remain."

A large number of faculty, staff and members of the community were on hand to wish them all well and Godspeed.

Large Audience Attends Online Training

The first online training for 89 BRTC faculty and staff was held in April, according to Karen Liebhaber, Director of Distance Education. The training was held for all those who teach online, post grades for on-campus classes using Moodle, use Moodle for CVN or hybrid classes, or will be using Moodle in the future.

Liebhaber created 13 videos that she used for the training. Participants were able to access them at any time, day or night, to complete the training. They then took a test over the material and took part in an online discussion forum. "The forum proved to be an excellent means of interaction," said Liebhaber.

"They created 71 topics which generated more than 250 discussion posts and allowed the sharing of techniques in a training situation. This was

very exciting because some of our adjunct instructors only teach online courses and never have a chance to interact with other BRTC faculty and staff."

"Participants who completed the training received a certificate of completion, which counted as professional development," noted Liebhaber. "They were able to complete the training at their leisure during a three-week period and 91% completed all or part of the training."



Blending Entrepreneurship and Education is Topic of Presentation

Entrepreneur Matthew Hampton, accompanied by his wife Maria, was on the BRTC campus recently to give a presentation on ways entrepreneurship can be worked in the curriculum, and shared ways that it's being utilized in other educational institutions.

Hampton is a graduate of the University of Arkansas in Little Rock and began his entrepreneurial journey at the age of 15. His passion for employing and helping other youth led to the launching of a service contracting business called Teen Connection. He later had the opportunity to work in the Clinton White house developing youth programs and to give presentations nationally. His goal has been to increase child and youth-age level of engagement.

After graduating college, he became a partner in a funeral home company and developed it into a

multi-million dollar operation. He then sold it and moved into venture capital. In 2005, through his company, MH Marketing, he formed the Elevate

Entrepreneurship organization to help youth learn how to develop their own businesses. The group has developed programs for a wide variety of organizations.

Several BRTC faculty, staff, and students, along with a few members of the community, gathered to hear

Hampton speak about how to identify and guide prospective entrepreneurs into appropriate courses and projects.

That morning Hampton met with area mayors and community officials to discuss the potential of partnering with BRTC to enhance entrepreneurship opportunities in the region and encouraging economic development.



Matthew Hampton

Edington Moves to Finance Department

BRTC's VP for Finance Loretta Williams announced the hiring of Beverly Edington, of Biggers, as Fiscal Support Specialist in the Office of Finance. She moves from the BRTC Bookstore where she has worked as Cashier for the past five years.



Beverly Edington

Prior to joining BRTC, Edington worked as an office manager at Randolph County Medical Center. She is a graduate of Van Buren High School in Missouri and earned an AA in Applied Science degree from Three Rivers Community College in Poplar Bluff.

Rainwater Receives Regional and International PTK Awards

John Rainwater represented BRTC's Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at the Oklahoma/Arkansas Region Annual Convention held last month in Nashville where he received two honorable awards, according to Dr. Linda Moss, PTK Advisor and science instructor.



Pictured, from left, are Dr. Linda Moss, John Rainwater and Dr. Wayne Hatcher, BRTC President

Rainwater was awarded the Distinguished Chapter Officer Hallmark Award on the regional level and on the international level. His award is based on demonstration of leadership, promotion of Honors in Action and other engagement in the Society, along with enthusiasm for the Society's Hallmarks.

Rainwater served as President of the PTK at BRTC while he was a student. He graduated in December with an AA in General Education degree and plans to pursue an education in engineering and chemistry at Arkansas State University.

"John was very deserving of this honor," said Moss. "He was a tremendous asset to the PTK program and always went above and beyond what was expected of him. He will truly be missed and we wish him luck with his future endeavors."

Pinning and Graduation Held for Practical Nursing

BRTC's Practical Nursing Class of Spring 2012 held their Pinning, Candle Lighting, and Graduation Ceremony for 23 graduates May 4 in the Randolph County Development Center, according to Ramonda Housh, Director of Nursing.

Several awards were presented during the ceremony. They were: Sarah Taylor, Shelley Mitchell, Amanda Ferrell and Jolly Ruminer - Florence Nightingale; Sarah Taylor - Faculty Choice; Megan Owens - MedSurg; Megan Owens and Rachel Smith - Pharmacology; Lesley Nailling - Pediatric; Jolly Ruminer - Obstetrics; Lesley Nailling - Mental Health; Dianna Bonavoglia - Geriatric; Shelley Mitchell - Community Service; Rick Brannon - IV Therapy; and Rick Brannon - Award of Excellence.





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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

Time is often expressed in colleges in terms of "academic years." We are now approaching the end of Academic Year 2012 (AY 12) - my first here at BRTC - and it's a good time to look back and celebrate. We are here first and foremost for the students, so it's good to celebrate their success. That includes more than 400 who have earned credentials they can put to work immediately or use for further study. We celebrated with a campus-wide Student Recognition Ceremony recently to honor students and faculty members who achieved great things. This ceremony included those who excelled academically and in the college and community

through service and leadership.

The event was a culmination of the work and the gains made in establishing student organizations at BRTC. Thanks to the enthusiasm and capable work by faculty and staff, this college now has many new student organizations that allow students, in the words of our BRTC Board Chair John Jackson, to experience a more fully rounded college experience. Among the new and/or newly constituted clubs: English Club, Phi Beta Lambda, National Technical Honor Society, President's Leadership Council, and Student Government Association-in-process. Other organizations are planned to be launched in the fall.

After a most unusual summer of being displaced by flood-devastated facilities (ten of our 13 buildings), we recovered and went on to hold many traditional BRTC events: an annual Golf Tournament, Gala, and Scholarship Luncheon, Country Feast and Business Etiquette Luncheon. We enjoyed multiple performances by the Kimbrough Singers, and we again hosted a Holocaust survivor with hundreds of individuals of ages attending his events. We welcomed area veterans and others to hear from a member of the original Special Forces (Green Berets) on a visit to our community. We raised a record amount of money for the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholar-

ship Foundation, and hosted around a thousand people during the three days Celebration for Project REACH. We all worked extra hard to prepare for the ten-year accreditation visit from the Higher Learning Commission, and were moved by an outpouring of positive support by our students and by the community during this milestone event.

Academic activities during AY 2012 included the awarding of a major grant through which we are in process of restructuring our developmental classes and working to shorten time-to-completion. We undertook pilot efforts—one at Pocahontas High School and one at BRTC-Paragould—to help prospective and current students test out of remedial course work and into credit-bearing classes, also in an effort to improve completion and graduation. We opened a "Success Lab" to provide extra help to students, with the physical lab slated for opening in the fall semester.

This year also brought the departure of longtime faculty and staff members through their retirement. Their contributions are many and I appreciate all they have done for this college. Their efforts, like AY 12, will long be remembered by all of us as we turn our attention and our hopes for another successful year to AY 13. These are indeed...exciting times at BRTC!