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Important Dates

- October 24**
PTK Blood Drive
- October 25**
ASSET Test
- October 30**
Business Technology Center Dedication
- October 31**
PTK Induction
- November 8**
Board of Trustees Mtg
- November 9**
Foundation Board Mtg
- November 16**
LETA Graduation
- December 13**
Graduation

Governor Mike Beebe to Highlight Business Tech Center Dedication

Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe will be on hand at the dedication and open house ceremonies for the new Business Technology Center on Tuesday, October 30, at 1 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Ceremonies will include an address by the governor, as well as recognition of major community donors who helped make possible the 26,500 sq.ft. facility. Also taking part in the dedication will be members of the VFW Honor Guard and members of the BRTC Kimbrough Choir.

The dedication and ribbon-cutting will be held just outside the facility's entrance on the west side, on the south end of the building. Following the ceremonies, which will include the official "naming" of specific spaces in

honor of the major donors, guests will be able to tour the facility and see demonstrations of the technology featured in this building.

Spaces to be officially named in honor of donor organizations include the City of Pocahontas Community Conference Center; the Bank of Pocahontas Student Center/Internet Café; the First National Bank of Hoxie, Walnut Ridge and Pocahontas Lecture Hall; and the Universal Asset Management Compressed Video Classroom.

Other naming opportunities in the new facility remain available to businesses, organizations, or individuals. For more information, contact Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development at BRTC.



Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe

Faculty Visit Historic Sites

Several BRTC faculty and staff members recently made a site visit to the two historic structures that are a part of Project REACH. The old log structures, the Rice Dwelling House and the Looney Taven/Inn, are scheduled for restoration in conjunction with the REACH Project (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage on the Eleven Point River). REACH is funded through a grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resource Council.

The faculty members are currently working with Joan Gould, Preservation Consultant, to develop plans for incorporating aspects of REACH into their teaching activities. This aspect of the project, the Heritage Scholars program, will bring opportunity for

them to share the story of the two structures with students.



Ramonda Housh and Rhonda Stone view Rice House.

At the Rice House, the faculty members discovered old financial documents which were retrieved and will become a part of the REACH archive in the BRTC Library. Among the interesting "finds" at the

Looney Tavern/Inn were old newspapers that once insulated the walls and roof in the upstairs of the structure. Interestingly, many of the still-legible articles covered topics relevant to the faculty members' academic disciplines.

Gould explained to the group the uniqueness of the houses' structure and architecture. She also explained the process for the Rice Dwelling House restoration, to begin later this year.

Those visiting were amazed at the size of the logs in both structures. Gould pointed out many contrasts in the two houses, including the fact that the Rice house consists of many

(Continued on page 4)

Executive Chef is BRTC Dietetics Graduate

Within three years of graduating from BRTC's Dietetics Program, Meredith Fluke became an Executive Chef in charge of an eleven-person culi-

nary team at a Holiday Inn in Fort Smith. She credits her educational background and work experiences, along with a string of good luck, in leading her to the position she is currently in.

Fluke earned a Dietary Managers Certificate in December 2003 and went on to earn an AAS in Dietetics degree the following year, during which time she served as a Student Ambassador. For the first year after graduation she worked for Morrison Foods at NEA Medical Center in Jonesboro as a Dietetic Technician in a Clinical Nutrition setting. In addition to working at NEA, she served as the



Meredith Fluke

cook for Imperial Dinner Theatre where for the first year in their new location, she prepared every meal, including a prime rib dinner for the Theatre's Grand Opening Gala.

Also during that time, Fluke was chosen as one of the top five finalists in the nation for her entry in a nationwide barbecue turkey contest through Morrison foods. As one of the finalists, she was flown to Chicago to compete in the Kraft Food Test Kitchen at Kendall College. "That was an amazing experience and quite an honor," said Fluke.

Plans of continuing her education at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway after moving to Little Rock changed when life steered her in a different direction, which led her to Fort Smith.

"I saw an ad in the newspaper for a Banquet Chef at the Holiday Inn and I applied," recounted Fluke. "Thanks to my education at BRTC and my experience at the theatre, I got the job." After just two months of working as a Banquet Chef, Fluke was promoted to the vacated position of Sous Chef. Another two months later, the Executive Chef position became available and Fluke was promoted once

again.

"I have accomplished many things while here," says Fluke. "I manage a team of eleven culinary employees including two other chefs. I have choreographed the preparation of meals for groups as large as the 1100 people in attendance at the US Marshals Convention earlier this year. We were voted 'Best Presentation' at the 'Taste of Crawford County' event, and we'll be entering the 'Taste of Fort Smith' event this month."

Other highlights for Fluke include personally preparing meals for those of "local fame" including Governor Mike Huckabee, Senator Blanch Lincoln, and the US Secretary of Energy. "I have been busy creating some new recipes for the hotel," said Fluke, "including a pineapple flambé that is to die for."

Future plans for Fluke include returning to school in the near future to continue her education, but for right now, she is very content where she is and with what she is doing. "I love my job and the work that I do," she noted. "It changes all the time and is a constant challenge, but I love it."

Mom, Daughter Committed to Fighting Breast Cancer

Nanette Carter, instructor of Phlebotomy at BRTC, and her daughter Kristen, a seventh grader at Pocahontas Schools, are actively involved each year in raising money for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation which, according to its website, is "the world's largest and most aggressive grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all, and energize science to find the cure."

The foundation was started by Nancy G. Brinker in 1982 in keeping with a promise to her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, to do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever.

Circumstances are similar for the elder Carter in the reasons behind her motivation to participate in the Foundation's efforts. "In 1993, as a nurse, I began working with those who had been inflicted with cancer,"

she explained. "And to be honest, caring for those with cancer has made me a better and stronger person." But, the real passion for her fundraising efforts came when her best friend, Tammy Blackwell, lost her battle with breast cancer in 1999.

Carter's vow to her friend was to do whatever she could in her lifetime to wipe out the disease. She began that effort 13 years ago by participating in the "Komen Race for a Cure" in Little Rock, which, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, is the largest series of 5K runs/fitness walks in the world with well over one million participants.

Being inspired by her mother's annual commitment to participating

in the race, the younger Carter joined in the efforts when she walked in her first race at the age of four, "carried by Mom part of the way," she notes, "but I was there." Now, at the age of 12 and completing her ninth race this past weekend, Carter has also joined



Nanette and Kristen Carter

her mom in raising money each year for the foundation in other ways. "Each year we meet in June to discuss fundraising ideas," the elder Carter explained. "We come up with new ideas each year, and the fundraisers typically begin in August and continue through November."

On August 14 of this year, Kristen was honored for her fundraising in a ceremony at the Governor's mansion. She was designated as a "Hot

Pink Hero" for being 10th out of the top 25 in the state to raise money for the foundation. So far this year, by writing personal letters, selling pink ribbons and saving her change, she has raised \$1172 with plans to exceed her goal of \$1200. "I asked my mom in 2006 if I could help her raise money, and she said yes," Kristen explained. "My parents teach me to give back to our community. And most of all, I walk for 'Sue Sue' (Sue Statler). Walking with her family and friends makes me proud to raise money for the Komen Foundation."

The Carter ladies participated this past weekend in the annual race for the cure in Little Rock. Their team consisted of 52 people from this area, the largest team they've ever had. "It is my belief that we will find a cure for breast cancer in my lifetime," said Mom Carter, "so that my daughter does not need to be afraid of this devastating disease."

Sixteen Awarded Single Parent Scholarships



Kim Bates



Cathy Blevins



Shirley Contreras



Emily Cook



Tim Dodd



Sherri Echols



Mark Godwin



Tonya Garza



Carrie Haugh



Brandy Jones



Melanie Morin



Kathleen Murphy



Julie Perkins



Kendreia Prater



Lawana Watson



Melissa Wilson

Mary Salle Single Parent Scholarships totaling \$7,625 have been awarded to sixteen Randolph County single parent recipients for the Fall 2007 semester, according to Janna Guthrey, MSSPS Committee Chair.

The awards are made to eligible single parents residing in Randolph County who are pursuing an undergraduate course of study in a college or university. This award brings to \$86,243 the total awards made since the inception of the MSSPS program.

The local chapter is an affiliate member of the

Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship program. The MSSPS is funded through payroll deductions of several BRTC faculty and staff members, as well as by an annual silent auction, donations from interested community members, and the BRTC Foundation. Funds raised locally are matched at a rate of up to 150% by the state organization and other initiatives, including the Entergy Grant.

Scholarship awards are typically \$500 for full time enrollment, and pro-rated for those attending part time. Receiving the full award are Kimberly

Bates, Cathy Blevins, Shirley Contreras, Emily Cook, Tim Dodd, Sherri Echols, Mark Godwin, Carrie Haugh, Brandy Jones, Melanie Morin, Kathleen Murphy, Lawana Watson, and Melissa Wilson. Each receiving a \$375 award are Julie Perkins and Kendreia Prater, and Tonya Garza \$250.

For more information on supporting the MSSPS program, contact Vickie French at 870-248-4070. Applications are available through the BRTC Office of Financial Aid and at Camera Corner Studios in Pochontas.

Staff and Student Honored at AATYC Conference

Tina Harris, Larry "Butch" Dail, and Sharon Watson, Black River Technical College staff members, along with student Samantha Baltz, were honored at the 19th Annual Fall Conference of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges held last week in Hot Springs.

Through committee selections, Harris, a graduate of BRTC's Dietetics program, was selected as Outstanding Alumnus, and Samantha Baltz, current student at BRTC, was selected as Academic All-Star. Watson and Dail were voted Outstanding Staff Member and Outstanding Faculty Member, respectively, through a vote by BRTC employees.



Tina Harris

A Registered Dietitian, Harris holds a BS in Dietetics degree and has been a full-time instructor in BRTC's Dietary program since 2000. According to Dr. Michael Sullens, VP for Student Services at BRTC, Harris currently serves her profession as the Secretary for the Arkansas Dietary Managers Association and Nominating Committee Chair for the Northeast Arkansas Dietetic Association.



Mantha Baltz

Baltz is completing her AA in Gen Ed degree at BRTC with plans to major in English and become an English instructor. "I hope that I can continue and add to the personal-level, knowledge-fostering experience of community colleges such as Black River, as a student and in the future as a teacher," said Baltz. Dr. Gary Buxton, English instructor at BRTC provided a recommendation for Baltz and said she "is a very dedicated and diligent student." Dr. Martie Shull, also of BRTC, added "In addition to intelligence, a strong work ethic, and a good sense of humor, 'Mantha' shows all the hallmarks of a leader."



Butch Dail

Auto Collision instructor since 1987, Dail is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and has been involved in the auto collision industry since he was a teen. "I see the job of an instructor as being very challenging with many

rewards," said Dail. "I strive to do the best that I can to help students in the short time that I spend with them. I consider the opportunity to teach a true blessing." According to VP for Academics Jack McCord, co-workers praise the enthusiasm and attention that Butch gives his students and quotes students as saying "He is dedicated to what he does and teaches us life lessons as well as auto body repair...he is a great guy."



Sharon Watson

"She displays a positive attitude, is very professional and takes pride in the work she does for the college."

The BRTC honorees, along with other two-year college honorees state-wide, were recognized and awarded plaques during special ceremonies held at the conference.

Watson is administrative secretary to the VP for Academics and has worked at BRTC for five and a half years. "Sharon comes to work every day with a smile on her face and is cheerful throughout the day, even when things get tough," noted McCord.

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Mission Statement

Black River Technical College is an institution of higher learning committed to a partnership with the individual and the global community to provide lifelong learning experiences, seeking always to empower those it serves to achieve their academic, vocational, and personal development goals.

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From the President's Desk



Richard Gaines

Next week we hope you will join us as we celebrate on the completion of our new Business Technology Center here on the Pocahontas campus of BRTC. This event will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, October 30. Weather permitting, we will hold the Dedication outside the southwest entry to this 26,500 sq. ft. facility, with Governor Mike Beebe as our special guest of honor.

The celebration will also provide opportunity to officially "name" portions of the building and to recog-

nize those organizations or individuals who helped make this high-tech center a reality. Also participating in the ceremony will be the local VFW honor guard, a quintet of the BRTC Kimbrough Choir, and law enforcement officers who comprise the current LETA class

Following the formal dedication and ribbon-cutting, everyone is invited to join in for refreshments and tours of the new facility, which includes a community conference center, a student center and internet café, lecture halls, computer labs, classrooms, and faculty offices.

We are very proud of the newest addition to our growing campus, and we believe the community has every reason to be proud, also. We sincerely hope you will share in this eagerly-awaited occasion.

Business Technology
Dedication
October 30 - 1:00 p.m.

Historic Sites (Continued from Page 1)

different types of wood, indicating the builders may have simply cleared the land, using all available timber. The Looney Tavern/Inn, in contrast, is constructed of oak. She noted also that the Reuben Rice family apparently did not have slaves, while the William Looney family did.

Rice and Looney were kinsmen who built the houses on opposite sides of the Eleven Point River near the Dalton community. The homes have been donated to BRTC by family descendants, Jean Upshaw and family and Jack and Christina French.

Schmidt New Lab Instructor

Nicole Schmidt has joined the BRTC staff as Medical Lab Assisting Instructor. BRTC will begin accepting students who have completed the phlebotomy program in this new certificate program in the Spring 2008 semester.

Schmidt is a Pocahontas High School graduate and completed her general education courses at BRTC before transferring to Arkansas State University and earning an AAS in Clinical Lab Science. She is ASCP (American Society for Clinical Pathology) Board Certified.



Nicole Schmidt

Previously, Schmidt worked as a Lab Technician for Randolph County Medical Center in Pocahontas, and then Corning Area Healthcare Clinic in Walnut Ridge. She and husband, Brent, reside in Pocahontas.