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BRTC Benefits Students From Start to Finish

Two "former" BRTC students, one at the beginning of a degree and the other at the end, both give credit to the college for the opportunities, present and future, that have come their way.



Jason Pitcher

Jason Pitcher graduated May 5 at the top of his department in Plant Science in the Agricultural program at Arkansas State University. A 2002 Sloan-Hendrix graduate, Pitcher enrolled at BRTC in 2003 and completed his two-year Associate of Arts degree before transferring to ASU.

"I loved it here [at BRTC]," he stated. "I didn't know it at the time, but when I transferred to ASU, I realized I was well prepared." Pitcher went on to praise BRTC faculty and support services, and added, "I wish I could have gone all four years here. I was nervous about going to a four-year college, and the education I got at BRTC was just as good—some classes were even harder," he added. "I'd recommend BRTC to anyone."

At the other end of the higher education pathway, one 2007 Pocahontas High School graduate has similar praise for BRTC, but with a twist. Jessica Moore is one of about 40 students accepted into ASU's Radiology Technology program, a feat made possible because she completed at BRTC the 22 hours of prerequisite course work required for that highly competitive program.



Jessica Moore

Moore had already completed courses in College Algebra and Freshman English I. In her final semester as a senior, she enrolled concurrently in sixteen hours in order to be able to satisfy the prerequisite requirement. "I had to work really hard," she said, "but it was worth it."

The young student had originally planned a career doing medical research, but in the summer between her junior and senior years in high school, she had an oppor-

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Important Dates

May 24

Serendipity Banquet

Conference on Domestic Violence

May 29 - June 28

Summer I

June 11 - 14

Kids' College

June 25 - 28

Summer II Registration

July 2 - August 2

Summer II

July 19

GED Graduation

Beth Bagwell Scholarship Established



Phil and Carolyn Collins

Phil and Carolyn Collins have established the Beth Collins Bagwell Memorial Scholarship in honor of their daughter, the late Beth Bagwell. The \$1,000 scholarship, to be awarded each semester, is funded by the Collins family as well as friends and co-workers with special assistance from the BRTC Foundation.

Carolyn Collins serves as Financial Aid Director at BRTC

and previously worked as Division Chair for Technical Education and, prior to that, Business Instructor. The family owns Quality Building Supply at Reyno.

For more information or to donate to the Beth Collins Bagwell Memorial Scholarship Fund contact Vickie French at 870-248-4000 ext. 4070.

Additional Fall Scholarships Announced

The Office of Financial Aid announces the awarding of an additional 23 scholarships to students who will be attending BRTC in the Fall 2007 semester. The awards, according to Financial Aid Officer Brandi Chester, include five Academic Distinction scholarships, five Presidential Scholarships, four privately funded scholarships, and nine BRTC Foundation scholarships. This brings to 37 the number of awards made to date for the fall semester.

Academic Distinction Scholarships provide full tuition funding for up to two years at BRTC, and may transfer to a four-year setting at the discretion of the transfer university. The scholarship is awarded to those graduating in the upper ten percent of their class or scoring 24 or higher on the ACT.

Accepting these scholarships to BRTC are Sarah Taylor, Matthew Chadwick, Tiffany Maronde, Travis Burgess and Allison Ruth.



Sarah Taylor

An Oak Ridge Central graduate, Taylor is the daughter of Rachel Saylor and Vince Saylor. She plans to major in Education. Chadwick, son of

Eddie and Peggy Chadwick, is a graduate of Black Rock High School. He plans to study Landscape Architecture. Also a Black Rock graduate, Tiffany Maronde lists a major in a medical field. She is the



Matthew Chadwick

daughter of Scott and Julie Maronde. The son of David and Keeley Burgess, Travis Burgess plans to major in psychology, eventually pursuing a medical degree. He is a



Tiffany Mironde

Pocahontas High school graduate. Valley View High School. Allison Ruth is the daughter of Stephen and Kathleen Ruth. Her career plans include an AA



Travis Burgess

degree, followed by a BSE degree in Theatre Arts.



Allison Ruth

President's Scholarships provide full tuition for one year at BRTC, and are based on a combination of class ranking, test scores and completion of an essay. Recipients of this scholarship are Laura Stayton, Ashley Loggains, Phyllis Holmes, Brian Higginbotham, and Destiny Wray.

A Pocahontas High graduate, Laura Stayton plans

to major in Business. Her parents are Joe and Robin Stayton. The daughter of Wes Loggains and Stacy Throesch, Ashley Loggains plans to major in EMT-Paramedic. She is an ORC graduate. Phyllis Holmes plans to major in Dietetics at BRTC, and then continue her studies to



Laura Stayton

become a Registered Dietician. She and her husband Mark Holmes have four adult children, five grandchildren, and are guardians for a three-year-old. Brian Higginbotham, son of



Ashley Loggains

Steve and Rhonda Higginbotham, plans to major in Aviation. He is a Sloan-Hendrix graduate. The daughter of Tom and Tonya Wray, Destiny Wray plans to major in Social Work at ASU after



Phyllis Holmes

completing basics at BRTC. She is a Greene County Tech graduate.



Brian Higginbotham

Privately funded scholarships are made possible by individuals, organizations and



Destiny Wray

business donors. The Beth Collins Bagwell Memorial Scholarship, established by her parents, Phil and Carolyn Collins, has been awarded to Matthew Chadwick of Black Rock. The scholarship

is for \$1,000. Hope Cox of Jonesboro has been named to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Wal-Mart. She plans to major in Animal Science. The



Hope Cox



Randi McCurter

Eddie Mae Herron Scholarship for \$250 goes to Randi McCurter, a Maynard High graduate who plans to major in Accounting. A \$1,000 Wal-Mart scholarship has been awarded to Brantley Terry, son of Barbie and Terry Brantley of

Rector, who plans to major in Engineering. Foundation Scholarships are funded by the annual golf tournament, and provide \$1,000 per semester. Technical education scholarships have been accepted by Cody Burris, Rachel White and Adam



Brantley Terry

Baldrige. General Education scholarships have been awarded to Brittany Niswonger, Courtney Cagle, Randi McCurter, Tiffany Maronde, Sarah Taylor, and Holly Franklin.

Cody Burris is a Piggott graduate who plans to major in Industrial Electricity and become a Master Electrician. His parents are Mark and Sherri Burris. Maynard graduate Rachel White plans to major in Crime Scene Investigation at BRTC. She is the daughter of Jerry and Karen White. The son



Cody Burris



Rachel White

of Jim and Cynthia Baldrige, Adam Baldrige is a Highland High School graduate who plans to major in Electricity.

Brittany Niswonger plans a career in nursing. She is the daughter of David and Penny



Adam Baldrige

Niswonger and is a graduate of Hillcrest High School. Maynard



Brittany Niswonger

graduate Courtney Cagle is the daughter of David and Kim Cagle, and she will pursue studies in Radiology. Randi McCurter is the daughter of Harold and Rhonda McCurter

who plans to transfer to a four-year college after completing basics. Maronde also plans eventually to transfer to a four-year institution to pursue a medical career. Taylor plans to become a math teacher at the secondary level. Marmaduke



Courtney Cagle

High School graduate Holly Franklin plans to complete basics, and then transfer to a university where she will pursue a degree in Pharmacy. She is the daughter Kevin and Joyce Franklin.



Holly Franklin

Additional scholarship opportunities remain, according to Chester. For more information, phone 870-248-4000, ext. 4021, or visit the website at www.blackrivertech.org and follow the links to Financial Aid.

Ulmers to Retire From BRTC



Erma and Jim Ulmer

Jim and Erma Ulmer have announced their upcoming retirement from BRTC in June of this year. Erma Ulmer has worked at the college for eighteen years, while Jim Ulmer has been at

BRTC almost 22 years. The two were honored with plaques commemorating their service during the employee potluck on May 10. Jim Ulmer is BRTC's Director of Admissions and Counseling, while Erma Ulmer is the college Librarian.

Presenting the plaques were BRTC President Richard Gaines and BRTC Board Chair Mike Dunn. The couple were also honored by their co-workers with the gift of a money tree.

BRTC VP for Academics Jack McCord, also acknowledged the Ulmers' years of commitment and hard work for BRTC. In addition to their official responsibilities, the Ulmers have worked in support of the annual golf tournament, with Jim Ulmer serving as tournament chair for the event's 13-year history.

Ulmer quipped that in retirement, the couple is "not going to do anything, and we're not going to start until noon." He then added that he plans to spend much time on the golf course. His wife said she looks forward to "being free from a routine" so that she can "do all those projects I never have time to do. If I were going to work anywhere, I'd stay right here, because I like this job better than any I've done before, but I am so looking forward to the freedom to do whatever."

The Ulmers plan also to have time to visit their son more often and spend more time playing with grandchildren.

Both spent much of their career before coming to BRTC in the public school setting, where Jim worked as a teacher and coach, and Erma was an English teacher and librarian.

Buxton Receives Doctorate

Dr. Gary Buxton, BRTC Instructor of English, has completed his Ph.D. in Heritage Studies, graduating from the program at Arkansas State University earlier this month. Buxton joined the faculty of BRTC in 2000.

In addition to English classes, Buxton also teaches Literature, Creative Writing, and a new course in Local Community Heritage he developed in concert with his graduate studies. Buxton's students contribute to two collections published by the college. The publication for the Creative Writing class is "Black River Backwaters," while the collection of works from the Local Community Heritage class is titled "Ebb and Flow: BRTC Heritage Collections."

Academic VP Jack McCord congratulated Buxton on his achievement,

and acknowledged his contributions to the college's curriculum and students as a direct result of his doctoral program.

Buxton completed a BA degree in English at then-Arkansas College (Lyon College) in Batesville, an MSE degree in English at ASU, and an MA degree in Heritage Studies.

His professional career as a teacher began in 1981 at Maynard, followed by a time in the Church of Christ ministry, and teaching assignments at Oak Ridge Central and Pocahontas High School before

coming to BRTC.

Buxton's dissertation topic is "The Art of the Auctioneer: A Performance Tradition in Ethnographic and Historic Perspective."



Dr. Gary Buxton

Employees Receive 'Milestone' Awards



*Roy Clark
30-Year Award*

Several BRTC employees received 'Milestone' recognition awards during the end of semester potluck held May 10. BRTC President Richard Gaines and Board of Trustees Chair Mike Dunn made the presentations to a total of fourteen staff members, including a 30-year award to Roy Clark, Director of Building Services.

Other awards for years of service (in five-year increments) include Sue Bentley, Angie Caldwell, Kay Ellis, Carl Hawkins and Peggy Weir, fifteen years; John Utnage, ten years; and Dana Clay, Renee Davis, Philip Dickson, J. P. French, Debbie Sorg, Priscilla Stillwell and Sharon Watson, five years of service.

Kids' College

June 11-14

Grades 1 - 3 8 a.m. - noon

Grades 4 - 6 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Register Now

870-248-4181

To establish a scholarship, contact the Office of Development:

Dr. Jan Ziegler, Ann French, or Dina Hufstедler at 870-248-4000

Black River Technical College

P.O. Box 468
1410 Hwy 304 East
Pocahontas, AR 72455

P.O. Box 1565
2402 North 12th Avenue
Paragould, AR 72450

Phone: 870-248-4000 Phone: 870-239-0969
Fax: 870-248-4100 Fax: 870-239-2050
Website: www.blackrivertech.org

The River's Edge is produced by the
Office of Development.

janz@blackrivertech.org
annf@blackrivertech.org
dina.hufstедler@blackrivertech.org



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.

On-line Application address:

<http://connect.blackrivertech.org/nappadm.html>

From the President's Desk



Richard Gaines

The large number of scholarships appearing in this issue of *The River's Edge* is something we here at BRTC celebrate. With those announced this week, the cumulative total number of Fall scholarships awarded now stands at 37, and more awards will be made.

An ever-increasing number of students eligible for Academic Distinction or President's scholarships, based on class rank and ACT scores, are choosing to enroll at BRTC to fulfill their initial higher education goals. We see this as a good trend.

Also a good trend is the growing number of scholarships funded by individuals and organizations, as well as a growing number of scholarships we are able to fund through the BRTC Foundation. Our annual golf tournament makes possible more Foundation scholarships which provide \$1,000 for the fall and spring semesters. Thanks to the success of that event, the BRTC Foundation now awards twelve such scholarships annually. The "Growing Strong" annual campaign currently underway is also generating additional scholarship dollars. The establishment of a scholarship as a way to honor friends or family members is also a wonderful option that we often see.

We encourage you to help us continue the growth trend in scholarship assistance. We know that financial support of this kind is vital to our students, and can make the difference in their decision to enroll or not to enroll, or to persist or not to persist to degree completion.

PTK, Scouts Collaborate

BRTC's Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society, with the assistance of local Boy Scouts, recently delivered food to the local food bank. PTK holds a food drive twice per year as part of their community service projects.



BRTC Benefits Students

Continued From Page 1

tunity to take part in a program called "A Day in the Life—Variety" offered by St. Bernard's Regional Hospital. She followed up by shadowing health care professionals at Randolph County Medical Center, and determined that Radiology was to be her future career.

Moore has been awarded a Dean's scholarship to ASU, providing for her tuition and fees.

As for Pitcher, he is spending the summer working, and plans to enroll in a master's degree program in some area of Agriculture—possibly forestry—at UA/Fayetteville in the fall.