

February 20, 2006

Volume 4, Issue 3



The River's Edge

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Important Dates

February 20 - March 15

- Dr. Seuss Holocaust Exhibit

February 24

- Roland Freeman Mule Train Presentation

February 27 - March 4

- Mid-Term Exams

March 1

- BRTC Health Fair

March 6

- BRTC Advisory Dinner

March 10

- PN Educators Conference

March 20 - 25

- Spring Break

Clifton Assists in Hurricane Aftermath

The phrase "Thank God for Wal-Mart" took on new meaning for BRTC student and Wal-Mart employee Rachel Clifton during a two-week stint at Lake Charles, Louisiana, last fall. That's when the four-word utterance reflected the gratitude of Hurricane Katrina survivors shopping in their re-opened local Wal-Mart Supercenters a few weeks after the devastating flooding. Volunteers from Wal-Mart stores around the country were able to help clean up the debris from the flooding and restock the shelves with desperately needed food and supplies. Among those on the first bus to the Louisiana coastal area of Lake Charles was Clifton, a Support Manager at the Corning Wal-Mart.



Rachel Clifton pictured with photographs of some of the destruction she saw while in New Orleans

were so low." While the Supercenters there typically employed 200-300, in the days and weeks following the hurricane that number was only about 60 or so, Clifton said, since so many people had evacuated and had not returned. This meant a limited number of local Wal-Mart employees were available for cleaning up from the flood waters, or for restocking the shelves of items in extremely short supply—meat for example. "When those customers came in, they were very happy to finally be able to get something like hamburger meat, and they didn't mind that there weren't enough sales people to help them find things," Clifton added. "They were just so appreciative,

"At first we could only let in ten

customers at a time," she explained, "because the staffing levels there

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Attorney General Visits BRTC



Attorney General Mike Beebe, center, greets BRTC Registrar Margaret Snapp and Dick Trammel of Rogers

Arkansas Attorney General Mike Beebe visited the BRTC campus last week. A Democratic gubernatorial candidate, the Attorney General was making a campaign swing through several Arkansas communities to discuss his economic development plan with local community leaders. He met with several students and staff members during his stop at BRTC.

As the state's highest law enforcement officer, Beebe also visited the Law Enforcement Training Academy and spoke briefly with LETA students.

Other stops included a presentation at the Rotary meeting, along with a public program at the Waterloo plant and a visit to several Walnut Ridge locations.

Beebe was accompanied on the campus visit by Pocahontas native Dick Trammel of Rogers, and Trammel's son, Scott Trammel of Pocahontas.

Samantha Baltz to Receive 'Second Effort' Scholarship



Samantha Baltz

Samantha (Mantha) Baltz has been tapped to receive a four-year "Second Effort" scholarship from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. The award, \$1,000 annually, is based on her high score on the Arkansas High School Diploma (GED) in 2005. Her score on the GED

ranked her as the eighth (tie) highest scorer of the 7,017 statewide who completed the GED in 2005.

She is the daughter of BRTC Art and History instructor Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz of Pocahontas and Dr. Mark Baltz of Jonesboro. Baltz is one of the top 25 scorers who will be recognized and awarded a plaque at the State Capitol in April.

The seventeen-year-old student began home schooling in the fourth grade due to health reasons. She continued home study until she was sixteen, taking the GED test at BRTC's Adult Education Department. Baltz had taken concurrent enrollment classes in the ninth and tenth grades, beginning college full time in Fall 2005. At the end of the Spring 2006 semester, Baltz will have accumulated a total of 33 college credit hours. She works part-time in the BRTC Library.

Kildow Wants to "Give Back" To Help Other Students



Coralynne Kildow pictured with her print.

Coralynne Kildow, BRTC's Academic All-Star in the Fall 2005 semester, says she wants to "give back" something of her own resources to help other students, reflecting the opportunities she has herself been given. Consequently, she is donating a print of one of her paintings for the fund-raising auction at the annual conference of the Arkansas

Association of Two-Year Colleges.

As the college's Academic All-Star, Kildow received a tuition scholarship to BRTC, as well as a full scholarship to complete a four-year degree at one of six participating Arkansas universities. Announcement of the award came at the AATYC meeting in October.

The framed print of a rainbow trout is one of only ten copies of her original art work. It will be among the items to be auctioned at the fall meeting to generate funding for the Academic All-Star program.

Kildow is a single mother of two who earned an Associate of Arts degree from BRTC before enrolling in the college's Respiratory Care program. A native of Maynard, she previously served as a rural mail carrier for that area.

She expressed her deep appreciation to BRTC for the "gift of education and a great future."

Clifton

Continued from Page 1

and we kept hearing, "Thank God for Wal-Mart!"

Other than the Supercenter, only one gas station was open at the time Clifton was there, along with a hotel where her group stayed. The hotel was without potable water and other amenities most of her stay there. A strict curfew kept everyone inside after 7 p.m. Many areas did not yet have electricity restored. Clifton's group was replaced by yet another busload of Wal-Mart associates, a process that was repeated every two weeks as long as necessary.

"It was really a neat experience," she said. "There was nothing pretty about it—just devastation. But I'm really glad I got to go."

In addition to the personal rewards of helping hurricane survivors, Clifton gained also deeper appreciation for her employer. "Wal-Mart did some really amazing stuff," she said. "They contributed millions of dollars to help those people."

Clifton, a Corning native, is pursuing an Associate of Arts degree at BRTC. She plans to transfer to ASU and complete a degree in Art Education.

Anderson Graduates From ASU



Mary Anderson

Mary Anderson of Pocahontas was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from Arkansas State University during the institution's fall commencement.

She currently is employed at Black River Technical College in the Office of Student Services as a Financial Aid Officer. Anderson has been with the college since 1999. She finished an Associate of Arts degree at BRTC in 2002.

"We are all very proud of Mary's accomplishment," said Financial Aid Director Carolyn Collins. "She works hard here in our office. I know holding a full-time job while commuting to Jonesboro and completing those last two years is not easy and required a lot of sacrifices on her part. I congratulate her on a job well done."

***BRTC to Host PN Educators Conference
March 9 - 10***

High School Students Now Making College Decisions

Students facing high school graduation are now getting serious about their decision of whether and where to attend college after their May commencement, according to BRTC Recruiter Joniece Trammel. Large numbers of area high school students schedule a tour of BRTC to see its campus and learn about its programs.

Since January 1 of this year, more than 150 high school students have taken a campus tour, led by Trammel, as well as BRTC Counselor Jim Ulmer and Placement Coordinator Kim Bigger. An additional 45 potential students have been "walk-ins" for a tour, Trammel added.

As recruiter, Trammel often takes BRTC to the students by visiting area high schools where she and other BRTC staff may speak to high school juniors and seniors. Most sessions, on and off campus, also include informative presentations by Financial Aid personnel and occasionally by various faculty members.

"We want to give them [high school seniors] as much information as possi-

ble so they can make good decisions," Trammel said. "We know some students are ready for a four-year college experience, but the truth is, many, many students will be more likely to succeed by beginning at a two-year college, and either finishing a one-year or a two-year degree and then, depending on their goals, transferring on to a four-year college. That's what I tell them," she added.

"I also tell them that their classes are more likely to be small, and the instructors more likely to get to know them quicker at a college like BRTC, but I stress that wherever they are, they must attend class and do their work. Being at a two-year college is no different in that respect—just that the chances are pretty good that your teachers know you and take time to encourage you to keep caught up."

Trammel said February and March are extremely busy times for campus tours, but interested students and or schools can still schedule a visit by phoning her at 870-248-4000, EXT 4157.



Joniece Trammel, left, and Jim Ulmer, right, pictured with Alton High School students.

Spring 2006 All-Time Record Enrollment of Concurrent Students: 170

"Introduction to Childcare" Class Planned

A three-hour class in Early Childhood Professional Development will be offered on Thursday evening, February 23, from 6-9 p.m., on the campus of BRTC-Paragould.

The free class, "Introduction to Childcare," is being presented by D. NeCol Whitehead and sponsored by University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) Department of Rehabilitation, Human Resources, and Communications Disorders, and BRTC-Paragould. It will be held in Room 107 on the Paragould campus.

Attendees will learn more about these topics: Operation of a Family Child Care Home; Operation of a Child Care Center; and Working in the Field of Child Care.

To register, contact Whitehead at 1-800-632-8754 or 479-575-3762.

Eddie Mae Herron Center and Black River Technical College Announce 4th Annual Black History Celebration February 2006



Demonstrations/Presentations

February 18, Saturday

- Hog Killing
- Lunch - 11:30
- ACT III - Performance of slave dance, song - 1:00 p.m.
-

February 20, 22, & 24, Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- Quilting
- Tours of EMH Center/Museum
-

February 23, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

- Community Potluck
- Panel Discussion
- Documentary: "A Way Out for African Americans"
-



Roland Freeman

February 24, Friday, 7:00 p.m., Randolph County Development Center, BRTC

- "The Mule Train: Documentary Photographs and Reminiscences"
Roland Freeman, Photojournalist, The Group for Cultural Documentation

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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.

On-line Application address:

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

From the President's Desk



One of the crucial issues all of us face—whether in the field of education or not—is the need to increase the percentage of people who hold a degree in higher education. Arkansas trails in this category, a fact definitely linked to the state's economic health. As might be expected, many people have done extensive studies on this issue. One of the more recent ones contains interesting information that may impact future decisions by educators at all levels.

The recently released U.S. Department of Education report concludes that the rigor of a student's

high school curriculum, or the "academic intensity," is the strongest indicator of whether he or she will earn a college degree, regardless of major. This academic intensity plays a greater role than either the students' grades or their academic test scores, according to the report.

Another interesting point, one which observation and experience already confirms for us, is that timing is also significant in the likelihood of students completing college degrees: Students who have not enrolled in college by the January after their high school graduation are far less likely to earn a degree. This statistic is especially important for parents of soon-to-be graduating high school seniors. This statistic also underscores the importance of our staff's recruiting efforts which attempt to persuade and inform prospective students and their parents about the urgency of enrolling immediately in college.

Curtis Joins BRTC Staff



Terri Curtis of Pocahontas has joined the staff of Black River Technical College as a custodial worker. She has worked for the past two years at Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Walnut Ridge, and worked six years for Swanson's vending services prior to that.

Curtis, who earned her GED and completed CNA training, has one daughter and two grandsons.

Dr. Seuss Holocaust Exhibit

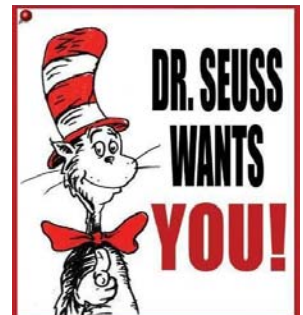
"An original exhibit full of life's lessons
for the entire family"

On display through March 15
In Admin Building

Open to the public

To schedule a group visit, contact
Dina Hufstedler 870-248-4000, EXT 4187

The Center for Holocaust and Humanity
Education
Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati



Funded by BRTC Foundation