



The River's Edge

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>BRTC Announces Staff Updates and Additions</i> | 2 |
| <i>Rice House Reconstruction Bid Awarded</i> | 2 |
| <i>Kids College Huge Success</i> | 3 |
| <i>Two Added to Foundation Board (Continued from Page 1)</i> | 3 |
| <i>Rice House Drawing</i> | 4 |
| <i>From the President's Desk</i> | 4 |

NOW UNDERWAY
Growing Strong
2008
Annual Campaign

Important Dates

July 1
Summer II Classes Begin

July 22
Fall Orientation Paragould

July 23
Fall Orientation Pocahontas

July 31
Foundation Board Meeting

August 7
Board of Trustees Meeting

High Bidders “Fly High” in Stearman

Two local men soared high above their homes and businesses last week when pilot Bryan Hancock of Universal Asset Management took each of them up for the one-hour flights Dwight Ellis and Leo Baltz had ‘won’ as high bidders at the BRTC Foundation Gala held last February. The flights were donated by UAM’s CEO Steve Manley as one of the many items sold during a “live auction” at the Gala. Manley also serves as a member of the BRTC Foundation Board.

Ellis was able to see his Lawrence and Randolph County farmland, while Baltz had a bird’s eye view of Baltz Chevrolet Olds just west of the Black River Bridge. Each was a private passenger in UAM’s World War II vintage open-cockpit Stearman airplane.

When both individuals continued the bidding frenzy for the flight on the evening of the Gala, Manley agreed to provide two flights.

For the next annual BRTC Foundation Gala auction, Manley has announced his company will offer an eight-person dinner flight (to be flown as one flight) in UAM’s 1943 DC-3 Airliner. The flight will be for one hour and will include meal service. The aircraft is currently being fully restored, according to Manley, and will be set up with a First Class interior.

UAM is an international company which buys, sells and manages a wide variety of commercial aviation assets for varied clients, with a plant for disassembly of aircraft located at the Walnut Ridge Air Base, and a Repair Station located in the Pocahontas Industrial Park.

Manley, whose company is a major employer of BRTC’s Aviation program graduates, also established “The River’s End” Incentive Award at BRTC, giving a brand new car annually to an eligible graduating student. (Additional photos on page 2)



Pictured, from left, Bryan Hancock, Vice President and chief pilot for UAM, Dwight Ellis and Leo Baltz.

Two Added to Foundation Board



Davis



Wiznerowicz

The two newest members of the BRTC Foundation Board bring with them a unique set of talents and interests, and will be “great assets,” according to Richard Gaines, BRTC President. They are Keri Wiznerowicz of Memphis, Tennessee, and Melissa Davis of Pocahontas, bringing to 19 the number of volunteers serving on this Board.

An avid pilot in her free time, Wiznerowicz assumed duties as Vice President of Asset Management for Universal Asset Management in 2007, having previously served the company as Project Director. She currently holds a Commercial Pilot’s Certificate and is a Certified Flight

Instructor and Instrument Instructor. When her schedule permits, she is a flight crew-member of the UAM company turbo-prop aircraft.

She earned her BS degree in Professional Flight from Purdue University in May, 2004, and completed her MS degree in International Aviation Operations from Purdue in 2006. While at Purdue, Wiznerowicz flight-instructed part time for five years while also being involved in the development of a Safety Management System for IBM’s corporate flight department. She subsequently worked with the U. S.

(Continued on page 3)

BRTC Announces Staff Updates and Additions



Brandi Chester

Misty Bradley

Amber Sarhan

Brandi Chester of Pocahontas has been named Director of Financial Aid at BRTC. She has worked at BRTC for the past seven and a half years, first as Financial Aid Officer I and then as Financial Aid Officer II. A graduate of Pocahontas High School, she holds a BS in Finance degree from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. She and her husband, Chad, have one son and one daughter.

Misty Bradley of Ravenden has been promoted to Financial Aid Officer II after serving as Financial Aid Officer I for the past year. She is a graduate of Pocahontas High School and earned a BS in Business Administration degree from Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge. She and her husband, Jariod, have two sons. "I am confident both these individuals will work to provide the financial aid services our

students deserve and have come to expect," said Student Services VP Dr. Michael Sullens.

Amber Sarhan of Ravenden Springs has been hired as Secretary for the Office of Development. A graduate of Oak Ridge Central High School, she holds an AA degree from

Black River Technical College and a BA degree in Journalism from Arkansas Tech University in Russellville. She previously worked for several newspapers, including the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and the *Houston Community Newspapers* in Houston, Texas.



Leo Baltz

Dwight Ellis

Rice House Reconstruction Bid Awarded



Reviewing architectural drawings of the Rice house are, standing, left, VP for Finance, Loretta Williams, and members of the Finance Department. Standing, from left, Betty White, Elsie Lewis, Julie Williams, Kim White and Sherry Griggs. Seated, from left, Julie Edington, Glenda Hawkins and Linda Leslie.

The bid for reconstruction of the historic Rice House has been awarded to the low bidder, KMC General Contractors of Jonesboro. The company is headed by Keith Meredith, according to BRTC Vice President for Finance Loretta Williams. KMC's bid was \$384,233 for the work, which is expected to take approximately eight months to com-

plete.

The Rice House has been documented by dendrochronology as being the oldest known existing log structure of its type in Arkansas, with a construction date of 1828. This structure, along with a second log structure, the Looney Tavern/Inn, comprise the central focus of Project

REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage). The Looney Tavern/Inn was constructed only slightly later, in 1833, and is also scheduled for reconstruction.

Work on both projects is funded through consecutive year grants from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resource Council awarded to BRTC. The two structures were built by Reuben Rice and William Looney, pioneering kinsmen who migrated from Tennessee to Arkansas in the pre-statehood era. Looney is believed to have arrived in Randolph County with his African American slaves in 1803, while Rice is believed to have arrived by wagon train with members of the extended family in 1812.

The two structures, located near Dalton on opposite sides of the Eleven Point River, remained in possession of family descendants until they were donated to BRTC for preservation. They will be restored to an 1836 interpretation date. The project to restore the two structures has spawned numerous studies to

date, with extensive additional educational activity anticipated. "We are very excited about the promise of this project to allow many educational opportunities through which we are learning significant pieces of the history of our community and our state," said Dr. Jan Ziegler, Vice President for Development at BRTC. "We know that once they are completed, these two houses will be a destination point for visitors and tourists as well as for students and researchers."

The first actually visible reconstruction work will involve removal of wood items that were not a part of the original building, along with dismantling of the fireplace in preparation for the lifting of the structure for further archeological investigation and foundational work. Meredith's firm has completed other historic preservation projects, including the Northern Ohio School House in Parkin, and the Powhatan Court House interior and exterior restoration projects.

(Drawing shown on page 4)

Kids' College Brings Fun, Learning to Students

From storm tracking to magic, from climbing a "rock wall" to space adventures, from cooking to saving and from martial arts to mobile aquarium, more than 150 area students from grades one to six filled their week with a wide range of fun activities. These activities and more also happened to be centered around learning at the annual BRTC Kids College held on the campuses at Pocahontas and Paragould last week.

Kids College Coordinators Patti Blaxton on the Pocahontas campus and Jacinda Welch on the Paragould campus reported a full slate of activities and classes, and expressed their appreciation to a host of businesses and individuals who volunteered their resources and time to make this event "a huge success."

Participating organizations in the Pocahontas program included Arkansas Game and Fish, the Solar System Ambassador of NASA, Randolph County Cooperative Extension, Pocahontas Kiwanis, Clay County Electric, and the Pocahontas *Star Herald*.

Also, Bancorp South, BRAD Head Start, Randolph County Humane Society, Randolph County Heritage Museum and the Arkansas National Guard, Wal-Mart, Turner

Dairy, Dr. Pepper and Joe Reynolds. Numerous BRTC departments also presented sessions, ranging from crafts to computers to scavenger hunts.

Paragould business and industry participants included Caps Plus, Coca-Cola, Country Mart, Hay's, Michelle's Excavating, Turner Dairy, Wal-Mart, Wonder Bread, Express Personnel, Farm Services, Bibb Chiropractic, ARI, local emergency services agencies, and others.

Among the many volunteers on the Pocahontas campus were Martha Brown, local volunteer; Pat Lambert, Mary Goode, Kay McDonald, Emmy Lambert and Dorothy Rapert of the Pocahontas Woman's Club; Rene Davis, Dana Clay, Beverly Edington, Rhonda Foster, Kay Ellis, Daphne Perkins, Sharon Watson, Julie Edington and Glenda Hawkins, BRTC volunteers; and Whitney Caldwell and Sarah Kirby, BRTC Ambassadors.

"We had numerous people to help, and there is no way it could have run as smoothly as it did without each and every one of them," Blaxton said. "They all did a wonderful job and we hope they all enjoyed it so much that they will look forward to coming again next year."



Two Added to Foundation Board

(Cont'd from Page 1)

Navy to develop an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Flight Test Program in conjunction with her Master's Degree work in International Aviation Operations.

Wiznerowicz, working in concert with UAM CEO Steve Manley, completed her first sale of a Boeing 777-200 aircraft in February of 2007. She is a current member of the Board of Directors for the Air Race Classic, an all women's cross country air race.

Pocahontas native Melissa Davis

moved with her family to Poplar Bluff, Missouri, as a child. She completed a BS degree in Health Information Management at Texas Woman's University, and interned at Parkland and at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas.

Davis is one of fewer than 50,000 individuals in the United States credentialed as a Registered Health Information Administrator. She has worked with a wide range and large number of healthcare professionals during her career, part of which was

spent at Wadley Regional Medical Center in Texarkana, Texas. Her work included consultation and back-up risk management responsibilities in conjunction with the office of the Attorney General in the states of Arkansas and Missouri, as well as assisting the U.S. Attorney General's office in fraud investigations.

Following retirement, she returned with her husband and sons to Pocahontas some eight years ago. Since being here, she has served as an adjunct instructor in Medical Tran-

scription and Medical Coding for BRTC students in the Allied Health programs. Davis has also served on education committees with the local PEO Chapter AR.

"We extend a warm welcome to both Keri and Melissa," said President Gaines. "I know they will play an important role as members of the Foundation Board. It is my hope they will find that being a part of this effort will prove rewarding to them even as they give of their talents and time for the benefit of the college."

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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

No individuals and no organizations are immune from the changes in our world economy. That certainly includes our students and our institution overall here at BRTC. Higher prices for energy and gasoline are a fact of life we all must face. We are closely monitoring how the climbing prices will affect BRTC and those it serves.

We are watching closely, for example, what appears to be a growing demand on the part of our students for online classes, something

that comes as no surprise, given the climbing costs of gasoline. Students here, as at other institutions, have long signaled a preference for attending classes Mondays through Thursdays, and BRTC has responded to accommodate these preferences as much as possible by offering most of our instruction in a four-day format. While that preference may have, in the past, reflected primarily a desire for a longer weekend, this certainly now reflects also students' need to cut back on gasoline expenses.

We are responding also to the changing nature of students' preferred learning methods, realizing that an increasing percentage of college students both prefer and expect to learn with assistance from technology. This means, obviously, that instructors must make appropriate modifications to the way they teach. At the same time, the two-year colleges will for some time continue to serve a significant number of students who are older

and therefore not as technologically advanced as their younger counterparts. We must not ignore their needs and optimum learning styles as well. We believe we must deliver learning opportunities in ways that

make possible the successful completion of degrees for all kinds of students—and that is a challenge we will confront in the weeks and months ahead.



Architectural rendering of the Rice house as it will appear following restoration.