

The River's Edge

May 20, 2010

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Important Dates

May 27

Retirement Drop-In
for Jack McCord

Serendipity Banquet

May 31

Memorial Day - BRTC
Campus Closed

June 1

Grainger Scholarship
Deadline

Fondant Decorating
Class Begins

Summer I Classes
Begin

June 9

PTK Blood Drive

Baltz and Cox Named to Board of Trustees

Leo Baltz and Doug Cox, both of Pocahontas, have been appointed by Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe to the BRTC Board of Trustees. Baltz is replacing Frank Bigger, and Cox is replacing Scott Trammel.

Baltz is the principal owner of Baltz Chevrolet and Baltz Equipment in Pocahontas. He is a member of the Randolph County Chamber of Commerce and Pocahontas Rotary Club. In addition, he serves as Vice-Chairman of the Pocahontas Water and Sewer Commission and is President of the St. Paul Catholic School Charitable Trust and is a member of the St. Bernard's Development Foundation Board. He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from Christian Brothers College and an MBA from Columbia University. Prior to joining Baltz Equipment in 1999, Baltz spent ten years in New York as an investment banker. He and his wife Abi have three children, Jack, Nicholas and Anna. They are members of St. Paul's Catholic Church.



Leo Baltz



Doug Cox

"I am honored to have been appointed to this Board," Baltz said. "The prospect of helping guide BRTC as a part of the Board of Trustees is both exciting and challenging. In the 37 years this institution has been in Pocahontas, it seems as though the guiding hand of Richard Gaines and his staff

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River's Incentive: Two Cars to Two Graduates



Belinda Diane Moore, Steve Manley, and Amber Steveson.

The sixth annual "River's End" Incentive Award winners are Belinda Diane Moore of Marmaduke and Amber Steveson of Pocahontas. Moore graduated in December with her Associate of Arts degree and Steveson graduated last week in the May ceremony with her Associate of Applied Science Degree in Business Technology, Microcomputer Business Applications.

Both had their names included in the drawing for a new car presented by Universal Asset Management CEO Steve Manley of Memphis. Manley pledged at the December graduation that in honor of his son, Logan, graduating from BRTC during the graduation, he would award two cars in May. The five names drawn in December would have one winner as the five names drawn in May would have one

winner.

The "River's End" is a unique award program established by Manley as way to encourage BRTC students to complete their programs of study. The names of five eligible finalists had been drawn at the December graduation, with another five names of eligible finalists from the May graduating cohort drawn immediately prior to the ceremony.

Moore, an LPN, is currently in pursuit of her Bachelor in Science Nursing degree from Arkansas Northeastern College in Blytheville. "I've never won anything like this. It's big," she said. She won a 2010 Chevy Cobalt.

Steveson, who won a 2010 Aveo, plans to complete an Associate of Arts degree at BRTC before transferring to ASU. "I didn't expect this," she said. "It put me ahead in life very well and already one year ahead of schedule with getting a new car."

Fun Before Finals is Relaxation for Students/Faculty/Staff



Black River Technical College recently hosted its seventh annual Fun Before Finals event. "Developed seven years ago, the event is designed to provide a day of relaxation for students, faculty, and staff prior to final exams," explained event chair Regina Moore, BRTC's

Blackboard/Distance Education Coordinator. "Everyone enjoyed free food, games, music and door prizes." This year games included Horseshoes, Volleyball, Baggio, Picture Scavenger Hunt, 1.5 Mile Walk, Bingo, Golf (Closest to the Hole), and Free Throw Shootout.



Winners of the games were: **Horseshoes:** 1st place - Derek Weldon and Joseph Throesch; 2nd place - Nick Baker and Les Jackson; and 3rd place - Will Rock and Ronnie Orrick. **Volleyball:** 1st place - "Watchamacallits"; 2nd place - "Ambassadors"; and 3rd place - "Machine Shop Dawgs." **Baggo:** 1st place - Trevor Anderson and Drew Meyer, 2nd place - Angela Forehand and Derek Abbott; and 3rd place - Michael Secrest and Stephen Felts. **Picture Scavenger Hunt:** 1st place: Crystal Baldrige, 2nd place: Cynthia Palmer, and 3rd place: Amber Simington. **1.5 Mile Walk:** 1st place - Amber Simington; 2nd place - Michelle Duran; and 3rd place - Teresa Parker. **Golf** (closest to the hold): 1st place - Mike Witt; 2nd place - Barrett Kelley; and 3rd place - Timmy Bass. **Free Throw Shootout:** 1st place - Beau Sisco; 2nd place - Reagan Martin; and 3rd place - Adam Wheeler. **Bingo:** Crista Costa, Amber Henderson, Natasha Daffron, Rebecca Capps, Pam Freeman, Angela Forehand, Stephen Felts, Elizabeth Kingcade, Eula-

lia Malone, Mary Kercheval, Tracey Lash, Morgan Watson, Brenda Johnson, Courtney Bateman, and Shana Todd.

Thank you to all the donors who made this event a success: Personalities, Hydrotemp, BRTC Law Enforcement Training Academy, McGraw-Hill, Tool Central, Army National Guard, BRTC Office of Development, Subway, Redskin Auto Center, Posey Patch, Pizza Hut, Dail's Body Shop, The Beauty Shop, Diamond State Tool and Die, County Glass & Window Co., Bancorp South, Randolph County Heritage Museum, First National Bank, Wal-Mart, BRTC Bookstore, Pocahontas Glass LLC, City Pharmacy, Med Center Pharmacy, Imperial Theatre, AT&T, Mill Creek Gardens, Burgess Auto Body, Phi Theta Kappa, Bank of Pocahontas, Iberia Bank, JMR Enterprises LLC, Tina Harris, Don Liebhaber, and Price Chopper.



Moore also expressed thanks to the many volunteers that helped with the event.



Paragould Faculty/Staff Become R.A.D. Certified



Several staff and faculty at BRTC-Paragould recently received training and certification in Rape Aggression Defense System (R.A.D.), a self-defense course taught by Sgt. Amber Richbourg, BRTC Police, and Sgt. Jarrod Long. Front row (left to right): Brenda King, Katrina Bozarth, Valerie Dwyer, Kim Grisham, Amber Richbourg. Back (left to right): Crystal Traywick, Pam Williams, Karen Cooper, Crystal Clemmer, Dana Bradford, Sandra Williams, Jarrod Long.

McCord to Retire After 31 Plus Years of Service at BRTC

BRTC President Richard Gaines announced the retirement of Jack McCord, VP for Academics, during the end-of-year potluck held May 12. After 31 plus years of service that began January 1979, McCord will retire effective June 30. He was presented a plaque during the potluck by Board of Trustees Chair Mike Dunn. A retirement reception is planned for Thursday, May 27, 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the Randolph County Development Center.



Mike Dunn and Jack McCord

Milestone awards, recognizing faculty and staff for each five year interval of employment at BRTC, were also presented. Mary Anderson, Patti Blaxton, Mike Greene, Larry Hilburn, Tammie Lemmons, DJ Ross, Donna Utnage and John Wren were each recognized for ten years of service. Kim Adams, Crystal Clemmer, Ramonda Housh, Danny McCandless and Jim Thielemier were each recognized for 5 years of service.

Commencement Recognizes 186 Graduates

The second-largest class ever received diplomas from BRTC Thursday night in commencement exercises in the Randolph County Development Center. According to VP for Student Services Dr.



Michael Sullens, the 186 graduating students missed last year's record by only eleven students.

Black River Technical College hosted its May Commencement last week for the second largest class to graduate from the college.

Degrees conferred and awarded by BRTC President Richard Gaines along with VP for Academics Jack McCord included two-year Associate of Arts and Associate of Applied Science degrees, as well as one-year Certificates and one-semester Certificates of Proficiency.

Trustee Chair Mike Dunn welcomed the guests to the 72nd graduation ceremony to be held at BRTC and noted that nearly 12,000 degrees have been awarded since its inception in 1973. Class spokesperson Jeff Wheelless of the Practical Nursing class, acknowledged the encouragement of his instructors and support of friends and family in the success of the graduates. He had worked at Waterloo Industries for 23 years when the plant closed, and noted the difficulty of returning to school at that point in his life.

Board of Trustee Member Dr. Paul Baltz introduced guest speaker Frank Bigger, former Board Member and retired businessman, who told the graduates that "the road

ahead won't be easy." He encouraged them to continue to persist and persevere to reach their goals.

Departmental awards, presented by McCord and Board Member Ray Noel, went to the following graduates: General Education, English:

Ashley Shimkus; Fine Arts, Drawing II: Ashley Shimkus; and Painting: Candice Anderson; Science, Biological Science: Charles Kaylon Kimble; Physical Science: Charles Kaylon Kimble; and Human Growth and Development: Bernice Esther Shelly.

Technical Education, Auto Collision: Gary Busch; Automotive Service Technology: Corey Bryant; and Aviation Maintenance Technology: Reid Lucy.

Business: Associate of Applied Science Business Technology, Business Administration: Jessica West; Accounting Option: Yanping Ouyang; and Networking: Trey Gleghorn.

Certificate, Industrial Electricity/Electronics: Bruce Smith; Machine Shop: Sean McFadden; and Welding: David Moore.

Certificate of Proficiency, Phlebotomy: Penny Sikes; Practical Nursing: Jeff Wheelless; and Respiratory Therapy: Woodra Reeves.

June 1 is Deadline for Grainger Scholarship

Applications are being accepted through June 1 for the "2010 Grainger Tools for Tomorrow® Scholarship," according to Natasha Rush, BRTC Financial Aid Officer.

To qualify for the \$2,000 scholarship, a student must be entering their final year of a technical education program, be enrolled full time in both the Fall 2010 and Spring 2010 semesters, and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA.

Eligible technical programs include Electricity/Electronics, Automotive/Auto Collision, Welding, or other industrial trades.

Applications can be found on the BRTC website under the Financial Aid link. Applications along with an essay and letter of recommendation should be submitted by the deadline.

For more information, contact Rush at 870-248-4000, ext. 4019.

Baltz and Cox

(Cont'd from page 1)

has consistently put BRTC in a position of strength." On succeeding Frank Bigger, Baltz commented that "Mr. Bigger's experience and expertise simply cannot be replaced. He has been with this college since its inception and has provided years of immeasurable counsel to the administration. I plan to serve the college, the governor and the people of Northeast Arkansas to my best capacity."

Cox is co-owner of both C & C Flying service, Inc. and Carter-Cox Seeds, Inc., in addition to operating a farm growing rice, corn and soybeans along with operating two broiler houses. He is currently serving as commissioner of the Pocahontas Water Works, a member of the Randolph County Farm Bureau Board of Directors where he has served as president, vice-president and secretary, and a member of the Pocahontas Rotary Club where he has served as president and secretary and currently serves on the Board of Directors. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Randolph County Chamber of Commerce. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from the University of Arkansas. He and Cindy, his

wife of 24 years, have three children, Katlyn, Drew and Dillon, and are members of the Pocahontas First United Methodist Church where Cox has served in various leadership positions.

"I am very excited to have the opportunity to serve on the BRTC Board of Trustees and I hope to help continue the past success BRTC has enjoyed well into the future," said Cox. "BRTC has become one of Randolph County's biggest and best assets providing a brighter future for our area. The administration, staff and faculty are top-notch and they are committed to providing a quality environment for every student."

"On behalf of the college, I want to extend a warm welcome to Leo and Doug," said Gaines. "We will greatly miss the service of both Frank and Scott, but I know our two new trustees will give the position the same level of commitment and leadership. I look forward to working with them and know that both will be a valuable asset to the Board."

Continuing Education Upcoming Events

Decorating with Fondant

Tuesday Evenings
June 1, 8, 22 & 29

Kids' College

June 14-17

For more information,
contact the Continuing
Education Office at
(870) 248-4180

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1410 Hwy 304 East
Pocahontas, AR 72455*

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1 Black River Drive
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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 River's Edge Address:

http://www.blackrivertech.org/rivers_edge/

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Campus Commentary



*Brandi Chester
Director of Financial Aid*

“How am I going to pay for my college education?” I think this is a question that many students find themselves asking after deciding to extend their education beyond a high school diploma or a GED. The answer is: “Financial Aid is available!” It may be in the form of grants, scholarships, or student loans, but if a person has a desire to attain higher education there is a way to pay for it and ultimately achieve it!

The initial step is simply to fill out the applications.

Now more than ever, the financial aid opportunities for college students are increasing. As a result of recent regulatory changes, the Federal Pell Grant Program now allows an eligible student to receive a Pell grant “year-round” so that they have the option to attend college full-time all year, even through the summer, and receive a Pell grant. This modification to the grant program is intended to encourage students to utilize the summers for taking classes and essentially help them to graduate in a shorter amount of time by easing their financial burdens.

The Pell grant is a federal program in which eligibility is based on financial need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The maximum eligibility amount for 2010-2011 is \$5,550. Students must renew this application annually at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Other changes include the student loan reform that was enacted by Congress recently. Previously, BRTC like many other colleges, participated in the Federal Family Education Loan Program in which students borrowed loans from private lenders. Colleges who offer student loans are now required to do so through the Federal Direct Loan Program, which will be effective at BRTC as of July 1, 2010.

The primary difference that students will notice with this loan program is that funds will be borrowed “directly” from the federal government and no lenders will be involved. Students who request loans after July 1 will be notified of any additional paperwork that must be completed to receive a Direct Student Loan.

I expect this transition to be a smooth one for our students. More detailed information regarding this change can be found on the Financial Aid Section of BRTC’s website.

Most everyone has likely heard of the “new” Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship program that has now been expanded, in large part, by the state’s lottery proceeds. Eligibility requirements for this scholarship have changed to now enable more students, some who would receive no other source of financial aid, the opportunity for a scholarship to attend college. The scholarship is open to first-time entering students and returning students alike. Award amounts are \$1250/semester for 2-year schools and \$2500/semester for 4-year schools. Students may apply at www.adhe.edu and need to complete the FAFSA. The deadline to apply is June 1.

I hope that students will take advantage of financial aid opportunities that are available to them. The most rewarding part of a Financial Aid Officer’s job is to see students complete their degrees and graduate! Don’t let the financial struggles hinder your education.