



# The River's Edge

### Inside this issue:

Employees Earn Degrees	2
Online Tutoring	2
Looney Tavern Progress	2
Tobacco Free (Cont'd)	2
New Employee	2
Business/Technology Day	3
RN Program Reaccredited	3
Ozark Herbal Symposium	3
Campus Commentary	4

## REACH Team Members Honored by Historic Preservation Alliance

Team members of Project REACH were honored Friday night by the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas at the Arkansas Preservation Awards Banquet in Little Rock. The Rice-Upshaw House was selected as recipient of an Honorable Mention award in the category of "Excellence in Preservation through Restoration."

On hand to represent the project and Black River Technical College were Tommy Jameson of Jameson Architects, Ronnie Walker, BRTC Construction Manager, and Dr. Jan Ziegler, BRTC VP for Development and REACH Coordinator.

The awards presentation was preceded by a keynote address by Tom Dillard, Head of Special Collections at the University of Arkansas Libraries in Fayetteville. Dillard is founder of the on-line *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture* and a founding member of



*From left, Ronnie Walker, Tommy Jameson and Dr. Jan Ziegler accept award from John Gill, President of the Alliance. The award recognized the historic preservation of the Rice-Upshaw House. Historic Preservationist and REACH team member Joan Gould was unable to attend the event.*

the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas.

The Alliance has been a presence in the state for nearly thirty years. Its mission is to educate, advocate and assist preservation efforts across the state.

"We are extremely honored to have received this award," said Ziegler.

"It is gratifying to know that the restoration of the Rice-Upshaw House is recognized by this state organization for the quality and value that we have long known it represents.

This award is a credit to the many people who have played a role in REACH, including the family members who made it all possible with their visionary decision to donate the house to BRTC for restoration and for use as an educational tool for generations to come."

## Important Dates

### January 26 & 27

PTK Blood Drive

### January 28

BRTC Ozark Herb Symposium

### February 4

Board of Trustees Mtg.

### February 5

Foundation Board Mtg.

### February 21

College Goal Sunday

### March 9

BRTC Foundation Gala

## 'Beat The Pack' to Assist Transition for Students on a Tobacco Free Campus



*Respiratory student, Rhonda Wilson, hands "No Smoking" materials to fellow student Michael Secrest.*

Due to the recent bill passed by the Arkansas Legislature, The Arkansas Clean Air on Campus Act of 2009, the BRTC Respiratory Care Program will be offering a smoking cessation program, 'Beat the Pack' to all students.

As part of a campaign sponsored by Pfizer, Inc., BRTC will host a four-week program to help students stop smoking, according

to BRTC Clinical Education Coordinator Janet Murrell.

"We just wanted to help the students in any way possible to quit smoking or using any other tobacco products," she said.

As part of the curriculum for the Respiratory Program at BRTC, one of the lectures is

*(Continued on page 2)*

# Employees Earn BA/MS Degrees



*Dina Hufstedler*

Four BRTC staff employees recently completed higher degrees, graduating in the Fall 2009 class from their respective universities.

Dina Hufstedler, Project Specialist for the Office of Development, obtained a Master of Science in Education (Business Technology) from Arkansas State University at Jonesboro. She has been at BRTC since 2003.



*Mary Anderson*

Mary Anderson, Academic Adviser in Student Services, graduated with a Master of Science in Education (College Student Personnel) from Arkansas Tech University at Russellville. She joined BRTC in 1999.



*Regina Moore*

Regina Moore, Blackboard/Distance Education Program Coordinator, obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She has been with BRTC since 2003.



*Shana Akers*

Shana Akers, Registrar Assistant, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She has been with BRTC since 2003.

## Tobacco

(Cont'd from page 3)

"Smoking and Cancer." Smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer.

The 'Beat the Pack' program will have a one 30-minute session each Thursday beginning January 28 at 3:00 p.m. through February 18. In order to offer this program to Monday-Wednesday students as well, the same four-week program will be offered Monday, February 1 at 10:00 a.m. and continue until February 22.

Black River Technical College officially became a Tobacco Free Campus January 1. Off campus facilities such as Fire Science/EMT and Aviation Maintenance are included in this act.

# Online Tutoring Available at BRTC



*Instructor Kim Adams assist a student with Smarthinking in the PLATO lab located in the Education Building.*

Suppose a BRTC student is attempting to complete an algebra assignment around midnight and just can't figure it out. Or what if that chemistry problem just isn't making sense? Contacting the instructor would be out of the question, as would texting a classmate at that hour. Maybe the student's work schedule won't allow him/her to meet with the on-campus tutor before that class meets the next day, when there could be a quiz that could decide the fate of a student's final grade.

Thanks to the free online tutoring service available around-the-clock, that student can access SMARTHINKING, a free real-time service to provide convenient and user-friendly academic assistance to students despite the time of day or their location. A specific schedule of real-time tutoring includes 24/7 math availability, and for most other academic subjects, Sunday through Thursday (9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.), plus Friday-Saturday from noon to 6:00 p.m.

The program is funded jointly by a Carl Perkins Grant and BRTC. Its use is open to students in all programs of study. Subjects for which real-time tutoring assistance is available include mathematics (from basic math to calculus II), economics, statistics, accounting,

chemistry, physics and biology. Tutorial assistance in writing is also available with students submitting papers for review. In this instance, trained tutors will provide feedback on such components as thesis statements and overall organization.

"This is yet another way BRTC hopes to provide students with support services that will help them to persist and succeed," said Regina Moore, Blackboard/Distance Education Program Coordinator and campus contact person for the program.

"We especially wanted to make a tutoring service available for use by the many online students who do not typically have person-to-person access to tutoring," Moore added. "We have purchased a specific amount of tutoring support hours for this academic year, and we will be monitoring to determine student demand as we consider whether this program is one we need to continue."

SMARTHINKING may be accessed by students by logging onto the website, [www.smarthinking.com](http://www.smarthinking.com). A student's username is firstnamemiddleinitial.lastname (johnr.doe). The password is the last four numbers of the student's ID.

For more information, please contact Moore at 870-248-4000, EXT 4049.



# New Employee joins BRTC Family



Amber Richbroug has joined BRTC as a campus police officer on the Paragould campus. She has more than twelve years of experience working as a police officer and spent the last ten years as a police officer for the ASU-Jonesboro campus.

Richbroug, a former Marine, received police training at the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy in Camden and is RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) certified.

She resides in the Paragould area.

# Ozark Herbal Symposium to Host Gardeners, Herbalists

Black River Technical College and Mill Creek Gardens are sponsoring an Ozark Herbal Symposium January 28 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the RCDC building located on the Pocahontas campus.

Master gardeners and noted herbalists from around the state and area will be on-site for presentations. At 9:00 a.m. Tina Wilcox, head gardener and master herbalist at the Heritage Herb Garden, Ozark Folk Center State Park in Mountain View, will present “Creative Herbal Home—Using Herbs 101.”

Janet Carson will present “Herbs in the Landscape,” from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Carson is a con-

sumer horticulture specialist and statewide coordinator of the Arkansas Master Gardener program from the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

Amy Swann of Mill Creek Gardens will be conducting a tour of the nursery during the lunch break from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sasha Daucus, a clinical herbalist and teacher at Golden Light Center in Doniphan and West Plains, MO, will present “Connecting to Your Local Herbs: Edible & Medicinal Plants in the Winter,” from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

From 2:15 - 3:45 p.m., Susan Belsinger, a culi-

nary herbalist and author, will present “Hearty Winter Herbs—Harbingers of Spring.”

At the end of the symposium, registered guests will have a chance to ask questions. There will also be a book signing and herb sale at the end of the program.

The event is free to the public and registration will be from 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. For more information, contact Dr. Gary L. Buxton at 870-248-4000, ext. 4154, [garyb@blackrivertech.edu](mailto:garyb@blackrivertech.edu) or Amy Swann at 870-248-0900 or 870-378-6340, [swannsmillcreek@yahoo.com](mailto:swannsmillcreek@yahoo.com).

## BRTC Hosts Business Students

Black River Technical College recently hosted a Business/Technology Day on the Pocahontas campus.

This event was held in an effort to assist area high school students in preparing them for their upcoming FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) competitions.

Five area high schools attended the event: Hoxie, Marmaduke, Piggott, Rector, and Twin Rivers-Williford Campus.

Testing sessions included Accounting, Marketing, Business Law, and Business Math.

Other sessions in which students had to produce work included Desktop Publishing, Spreadsheet Applications, and Word Processing.

Students were also given the chance

to give a speech or presentation in front of an audience.

“The Business/Technology Department was very pleased with the number of schools and their FBLA members who participated in our first Business/Technology Day,” Business Department Head Debbie Prichard said.

“Since we had such a great response, we plan to make it an annual event. This day gave the students the opportunity to practice their skills for the district FBLA competition in a couple of weeks,” she added.

“It also gave them the opportunity to see our department and to find out what business degree options we have available.”

Bank of Pocahontas furnished the refreshments for the break between testing sessions.



High School students from area schools, Hoxie, Marmaduke, Piggott, Rector, and Twin Rivers-Williford campus, participated in the BRTC Business/Technology Day held January 15.

## BRTC’s PN Program Gains Reaccreditation



Nursing Director Ramonda Housh talks with nursing students about pediatrics and toys commonly played with by children.

The Practical Nursing Program at BRTC has received continued reaccreditation until 2014 from the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN). The full approval of BRTC’s PN program was announced at a January 14 meeting of the Education Committee of the ASBN with Academic VP Jack McCord, Division Chair for Technical Education Angie Caldwell and Nursing Director Ramonda Housh in attendance.

The reaccreditation approval followed a November site visit on the BRTC campus conducted by ASBN Program Coordinator Dr. Calvina Thomas.

“We are extremely proud of the

nursing programs here at BRTC,” said McCord. “Those students work hard, and our instructors do a very good job of preparing them for jobs in the medical field. Nursing is one of our most in-demand degree programs, and that is because the students know that good-paying jobs are waiting for them.”

Demand typically outpaces the available slots in this highly competitive program. Each PN class typically includes 24 students who are selected by objective criteria, including the completion of required prerequisites. More information is available in the online BRTC catalog [www.blackrivertech.org](http://www.blackrivertech.org) or by phoning Dana Clay, Secretary, at 248-4000, EXT 4150.

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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>



## Campus Commentary



*Dr. Roger Johnson*

*General Education Chair*

Today's two-year college student is 29 years old. She (yes, more females attend two-year colleges than males), works part-time and very likely to be a single parent. They pay \$2.50/gallon for gas to commute to school during a depressed economy and poor job market. Daunting obstacles to say the least! Yet, two-year colleges train 80% of the country's police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians and

more than half of its new nurses and health care workers.

Public two-year colleges now enroll almost 7 million full and part-time students in credit classes. This represents close to 50% of all students in public higher education, excluding graduate students. However, their budget represents only about one-sixth of all higher education spending. President Obama has said that community colleges have become the place "for anyone with the desire to take their career to a new level – or start a new career altogether."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that about 45 percent of new jobs in the upcoming years will require more than a high school education but less than a four-year degree. The same report estimates that only about 33% of job openings will require four-year degrees.

While the loss of industry is extremely difficult to a rural commu-

nity, it can be especially devastating to the families affected directly. Recently, many displaced workers from Waterloo Industries took advantage of grants and other aid available for retraining. These represented some of the hardest working students we had seen at BRTC. They embraced the challenge and most of them successfully achieved their goals, as do many students who demonstrate the ability to work hard and take responsibility. In fact, blended within our community are former successful BRTC students who are now bankers, lawyers, nurses, teachers and businesspeople.

Unfortunately, not all students are as successful. Nationally, only 36% of students earn a certificate or an associate's or bachelor's degree within six years after enrolling in a two-year college and only 51% of freshman return for their sophomore year.

With the funding of higher educa-

tion on the decline, BRTC has implemented strategies to improve retention and graduation rates. These include an early alert system for students designated to be falling behind, free tutoring, a mandatory orientation program, and block schedules to encourage study groups among students and frequent contact with student advisors.

We are all excited when a record enrollment has been achieved, but it is the students' successes that should be truly celebrated.



*BRTC students created 'Tobacco Free' signs to be displayed throughout the campus.*