

THE RIVER'S EDGE

Black River Technical College

Pocahontas · Paragould

Holocaust Survivor Series



BRTC's 12th annual Holocaust Series, in partnership with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, featured Hungarian Holocaust survivor Péter Görög.

Péter was born on March 10, 1941, in Budapest, Hungary. After his father died in a forced labor camp, Péter and his mother were forced from their home and eventually ended up in the Budapest ghetto. Péter grew up in communist Hungary and finally defected to the United States in 1980. He was a computer engineer and worked on several NASA programs including the Hubble space telescope. Péter retired in 2014 at the age of 73 and volunteers at

the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum where he is able to share his family's story with visitors. Péter told his story to almost 1,400 visitors.

I've attended these presentations for three years; they're one of the best things BRTC does.

Thank you to our donors for making this event possible: SEAS Project of the BRTC Foundation; Mike and Barbara Dunn; First National Bank of Walnut Ridge, Hoxie, Pocahontas, and Bono; Brett and Karen Liebhaber; and Integrity First Bank.

iBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament a Success!

The 23rd annual iBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament was held September 30 at the Rolling Hills Country Club in Pocahontas. It raised over \$41,000 for student scholarships and is the largest fundraiser for BRTC scholarships.



More than 80 individuals and organizations donated money, goods, and services. New this year was the Harps Food Pavilion sponsored by Harps Foods. Without these sponsors, the event would not have been possible. More importantly, many students will receive scholarships essential to their education.



Further, the help of volunteers was invaluable including the Foundation Board, RHCC staff and board, faculty and staff, and IBERIABANK, Baltz Chevy-Olds, and Integrity 1st Bank.

"It's always rewarding to see large crowds supporting this event," said Kelly Rose, Foundation Chair and Vice President, Commercial Relationship Manager for Regional Banking of iBERIABANK. "From sponsors to volunteers to participants,

support for the event was remarkable. Thanks to all for making the event successful."



JOIN IT DOWN

November 11
Paragould Blood Drive

November 18
LETA Graduation

November 24-25
BRTC Campuses Closed

December 15
Commencement

December 22-January 2
BRTC Campuses Closed



Mobile Food Bank Visits Once a Month

The Bread of Life Mobile Food Pantry will visit BRTC Pocahontas every 3rd Thursday until 2017 then will visit Pocahontas and Paragould monthly. Students in need are invited to participate in the pantry's services.

The Bread of Life Mobile Food Pantry is a joint project of Harrisburg FUMC's food pantry ministry and the Arkansas State University Wesley Foundation. It is sponsored by the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas and the Northeast District of the United Methodist Church.

BRTC FFA Student Earns Highest Award



BRTC FFA president Jesse DeJournett was awarded FFA's highest honor, the American Farm Degree, on October 22 at the National Future Farmer Convention & Expo in Indianapolis. Fewer than 1% of FFA members receive it.

To be eligible, members must perform 50+ hours of community service. DeJournett helped with the Wounded Warrior Duck Hunt and Randolph County fairground cleanup. He is in his second year at BRTC and is working on his basics. He likes FFA's "character building skills taught through competitions and activities." His brother is BRTC officer Dane Dillion.

PTK Student Wins ATU Scholarship

Audrey Long of Paragould joined Phi Theta Kappa in April of 2016. For the first time, she attended the PTK Regional Honors Institute hosted by Arkansas Tech in Russellville on October 22 and won a 12-credit hour ATU tuition scholarship, valued at \$2,628. Only current or potential PTK members who attend the regional events are eligible for the scholarship.



Audrey plans to attend ATU to major in psychology, minor in Spanish, then attend medical school. She began college at age 31, is married, and has a daughter, 14, and a son, 12. She is a choir student worker.



FOOD BANK

Students in need with current BRTC ID: Fill out an application to receive free food.

Pocahontas
RCDC 100
Tuesday, Thursday
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Paragould
Call Ashley Hall or
Mylea White
(870) 248-4000

BRTC Food Pantry run by nutrition & dietetic students and SGA.

Celebrate Students!

You are invited to attend our graduation celebrations! Come cheer on your favorite student! Join us in Pocahontas in the RCDC auditorium.

- 11/18 Law Enforcement
- 12/12 Respiratory Care
- 12/13 Nursing
- 12/15 Commencement

Choir Christmas Concert

Join the BRTC Kimbrough choir for their Christmas concert on December 6, 7:00, at the Downtown Playhouse!

Important Dates!

- 11/23 Last day to drop fall classes
- 12/1 Financial aid paperwork priority deadline for Spring
- 12/7-13 Final exams

MAKING THEIR MARK



Fall NTHS Induction

Twenty-one new members joined BRTC's National Technical Honor Society on October 27. Students who have completed at least 12 credit hours of course work in a technical field and have a 3.5 GPA are invited to join.

We are proud of our students' hard work and success! Congratulations, students!

Two BRTC Students Honored at Arkansas College Conference

BRTC faculty and staff choose 1 student and 1 alumni as exemplary students who were honored at the Arkansas Community College conference on October 9-11. BRTC Outstanding Alumni is Jessica Alphin and Academic All-Star is Karin Ward.



Jessica Alphin

Jessica Alphin (2003) is BRTC's director of clinical education for respiratory care. She holds a bachelor from Grand Canyon University and is a registered respiratory therapist with 13 years of practice.

She is president-elect of Arkansas Society of Respiratory Care.

Karin Ward is completing her associate degree to transfer to ASU to earn her bachelor in Education. She maintains a 4.0 GPA and was vice president of Phi Theta Kappa.

As All-Star, Karin is eligible for free tuition to any Arkansas 4-year college or university.



Karin Ward

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." ~Benjamin Franklin

Two Employees Honored

BRTC faculty and staff choose 2 peers who they feel have performed exemplary over the year. Winners were announced at last spring's BRTC banquet. They were also honored on October 9-11 with other 2-year college faculty and staff at the Arkansas Community College conference.



BRTC Outstanding Staff is Dana Clay, administrative assistant for nursing and respiratory care. She was chosen for her exceptional customer service, dedication to students, involvement in campus activities, and loyalty to BRTC.



BRTC Outstanding Faculty is Kimberly Adams, instructor of developmental education. Kim has taught at BRTC for 12 years. Colleagues all agree: "Her happy personality is contagious and she always has a smile on her face."

Emerging Leaders



To address Arkansas' dire need of higher education leaders, the Arkansas Community Colleges Leadership Institute was created and is run by Dr. Linda Beene, former director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.



BRTC's 2015-16 graduates are Ramonda Housh, Division Chair of Nursing and Allied Health (top), and Regina Moore, Director of Distance Education and Instructional Technology. They were honored at the ACC Conference.

CAMPUS

CLOSEUP

BRTC Wins Chamber Award

BRTC was named the 2016 Chamber Member of the Year at the 2016 Randolph County Chamber Banquet. We are so grateful! Thank you, friends, for your tremendous support!

Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship

A total of \$7,000 in Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarships (MSSPS) has been awarded to 10 students. Funding for the MSSPS is generated through the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund, United Way of Northeast Arkansas, Energy, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, and BRTC employee contributions and fundraisers.

According to MSSPS chair Janna Guthrey, to qualify for the single parent scholarship, individuals must be single parents with custody of minor children, be enrolled in a program of higher education, meet certain income guidelines, and be residents of Randolph County.

MSSPS United Way Recipient



Recipient: Amanda Barber
Hometown: Imboden
High School: Johnson High School, 2009
Major: AA in General Education
College Attending: BRTC
Award Amount: \$750

MSSPS Entergy Recipient

Recipient: Paula Decker
Hometown: Pocahontas
Major: AA in General Education
Career Plans: Elementary Education
College Attending: BRTC
Award Amount: \$750



MSSPS United Way Recipient



Recipient: Cynthia Nishimura
Hometown: Maynard
High School: Jefferson High School, 2009
Major: Nursing
Award Amount: \$437.50

MSSPS Entergy Recipient

Recipient: Lauren Gettings
Hometown: Pocahontas
High School: Pocahontas High School
Major: EMT-Paramedic
College Attending: BRTC
Award Amount: \$750



MSSPS Recipient



Recipient: Holly Smart
Hometown: Pocahontas
High School: Pocahontas High School, 2015
Major: LPN
College Attending: BRTC
Award Amount: \$750

MSSPS AR Dept. of Higher Education Recipient

Recipient: Amy Ward
Hometown: Warm Springs
High School: Biggers-Reyno High School, 2004
Major: RN
College Attending: BRTC
Award Amount: \$562.50



MSSPS Recipient



Recipient: Valorie Anderson
Hometown: Pocahontas
High School: Oak Ridge Central HS, 2009
Major: RN
College Attending: BRTC
Award Amount: \$750

MSSPS AR Dept. of Higher Education Recipient

Recipient: Angela Vitale
Hometown: Pocahontas
Major: Business
College Attending: Williams Baptist College
Award Amount: \$750



MSSPS Recipient



Recipient: Susan Kercheval
Hometown: Pocahontas
High School: Harlem High School
College Attending: Arkansas State University
Award Amount: \$750

MSSPS Recipient

Recipient: Mikayla Morrow
Hometown: Reyno
High School: Corning High School, 2014
Major: LPN
College Attending: BRTC
Award Amount: \$750



BRTC Foundation Scholarships Provided by Generous Donors

Many generous donors to the BRTC Foundation provide scholarship opportunities to worthy students. These students must meet GPA, academic, and in some cases programmatic standards.

Eddie Mae Herron Scholarship

The Eddie Mae Herron Scholarship is sponsored by the Eddie Mae Herron Center in Pocahontas, Arkansas, and houses more than 200 years worth of African-American history.



Recipient: Rodrick Booker
Hometown: Jonesboro
High School: Jonesboro High School
Major: Industrial Maintenance
Award Amount: \$250

Above and Beyond Scholarship

The Above and Beyond Scholarship is donated by Above and Beyond Healthcare, Inc., which is owned by Gary Johnson, Susan Johnson, and Dr. Roger Johnson.

Recipient: Mikayla Morrow
Hometown: Reyno
High School: Corning High School, 2014
Parents: Ralph and Lisa Morrow of Reyno
Major: LPN
Award Amount: \$750



Sylvia Cagle Single Parent Scholarship

The Sylvia Cagle Single Parent Scholarship is provided by Darrell Cagle in honor of his mother, Sylvia, who raised him while being a single mother. Pictured with the recipient is BRTC's Mike Smith.

Recipient: Stephanie Brech
Hometown: Pocahontas
High School: Maynard High School, 1997
Major: RN
Award Amount: \$500



Legacy Scholarship



BRTC's May 2015 Practical Nursing class saw how many PN students' in the last semester of the PN program struggled to pay for Arkansas State Board of Nursing licensure and NCLEX-PN test fees. They decided to hold fundraisers and created The Legacy Scholarship.

That semester, they awarded five scholarships. Each proceeding class has continued to fundraise to keep the legacy alive.

This semester, ten \$300 scholarships were awarded. Pictured from right to left: LaYonda Bagwell, Amber Nikki Pinkston, Holly Winslow, Kylee Ford, Ashley Sorg, Mikayla Morrow, Katrina Dougan, Larissa Cope, Gretchen Newberry, Elizabeth Groschke.

Florence Nightingale Scholarship

The Florence Nightingale Scholarship is provided by the BRTC Nursing Faculty and Staff to one second semester Practical Nursing student.

Recipient: Katelyn Woodard
Hometown: Pollard
High School: Piggott High School
Major: Practical Nursing
Award Amount: \$500



Recipient: Emma Slusser
Hometown: Walnut Ridge
High School: Hoxie High School
Major: Practical Nursing
Award Amount: \$500

FOUNDATION SNAPSHOTS

Foundation Board Member Stephanie Sutton



January marks Stephanie Sutton's 21st year on the BRTC Foundation board.

She was interested in becoming a Foundation board member because of the college's positive impact on the community. It's her way of paying forward the com-

munity's blessings she and her family have received.

Completing projects such as the golf tournament and gala are very rewarding for Sutton: "I like the sense of accomplishment which comes from helping raise funds for students who need them." However, to her the most rewarding Foundation event is the annual Donors &

Scholars Luncheon: "Hearing students speak to the donors and their heartfelt thank yous make all the time and effort we put into the Foundation worth doing."

Sutton has been actively involved with the Foundation for many years "and during that time," she says, "we have experienced a considerable amount of change and growth."

She considers reaching or exceeding fundraising goals year after year a great achievement: "As a Board we try to develop new and creative ways to fund scholarships and other things for the college. I'm also proud of the fact that we have kept events like the golf tournament and gala fresh for more than 20 years."

Stephanie is married to Keith and they have two sons in college, Bradley at ASU and Parker at University of Arkansas.

I like that we have gem in BRTC right here in Pocahontas, Arkansas.



Dietetics Club president Laura Luster, Jana Caldwell of Carter Realty, Dietetics instructor Christian Derbes

iPad Mini Chances Help Food Drive

Thanks to the generosity of Foundation board member Jana Caldwell, the BRTC Food Pantry is offering chances until November 15 for an iPad Mini in exchange for food donations. Donations will fill shelves in both the Pocahontas and Paragould pantries.

Visit the BRTC website for donation times and locations. The iPad drawing will be November 16. Thank you, Jana, for your support!



Serendipity Enjoys Dinner with Holocaust Survivor Péter Görög

During his visit, Péter Görög gave a special lecture to members of Serendipity, the Board of Trustees, and the Foundation. Péter described his life in communist Hungary and how, though he wanted to be a lawyer, he chose computer engineering. Ultimately, this career choice is what made him successful when he defected to the U.S. in 1980 and later allowed him to write software for NASA's Hubble telescope. Serendipity meets for lunch monthly and discusses literature.

spotlight



MEET BRTC STUDENT RODERICK BOOKER

Rodrick Booker, Eddie Mae Herron Center Scholarship awardee, is the perfect example of a hard-working BRTC student.

Not only does he drive from Jonesboro to Pocahontas every day, he works at Dominos in Jonesboro to pay for his classes.

Rodrick's major is industrial maintenance and he hopes to own his own electrical business. He decided on BRTC because his dad is a BRTC business alum.

Rodrick is grateful for the extra support: "It means a lot that someone else cares to help me get through college when they didn't have to. With the driving I do, it's nice to have the extra gas money."



BAT Mobile Grant Renewed

For the 10th year, the Arkansas State Police's Highway Safety department has renewed the grant which supports BRTC Law Enforcement Academy's Breath Alcohol Testing (BAT) Mobile. It is the only completely self-contained vehicle used for conducting sobriety checkpoints in Arkansas.

Director Ashley Boles travels the state working with law enforcement agencies throughout Arkansas. He also gives tours and demonstrations to community organizations and schools. When you see Ashley, ask him what kindergartners expect when you say "BAT Mobile."

BRTC Adult Ed Students Earn \$8,000+

Forty-five Adult Ed students joined 40,000 students nationwide to participate in an assessment-based field study. Students took from 1 to 3 tests in reading, math, and language. For participating, students earned from \$50-\$260, depending on the level and number of tests taken. Altogether, they



Instructor Cindy Robinett and student Shay Shocklee

took 111 tests and collectively earned \$8,465. The Adult Education Fund in the BRTC Foundation was awarded \$1,865 for their participation.

Adult Ed instructor Cindy Robinett said, "We've never been involved in anything like this before and it was a great experience for our students."

BRTC Wins \$1.18 Million TRIO Grant

BRTC has been awarded its first TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. It will serve students in Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph counties and assist veterans, military-connected families, and ex-offenders.

"We are excited to make education more available to residents of our service area," stated Martha Nelson, VP of Student Affairs. "The EOC will help our adults with education that can change their lives and those of their families."

At Black River Technical College, we are proud of the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff. We are also very thankful for the incredible support of our communities.

The students in this newsletter are excellent examples of the typical BRTC student: hard-working, dedicated to his/her family and future. While we take every opportunity to showcase the talents of our students, we can't tell you enough how proud we are of them.

As Stephanie Sutton said in her feature, BRTC is a gem. We strive to provide the resources and education our students need to be successful. We celebrate our students and their many successes.

Not only does the college work hard to help our students, you, the community and our donors, are integral in their success. The numerous scholarships listed in this newsletter are testimony to your generosity and support.

We couldn't do it without you.

Thank you to our students for their hard work, our faculty and staff for their dedication, and you, our community and supporters, for your help every step of our journey together.



Dr. Eric Turner

P.O. Box 468
1410 Hwy 304 East
Pocahontas, AR 72455
(870) 248-4000

P.O. Box 1565
#1 Black River Drive
Paragould, AR 72450
(870) 239-0969

Visit us on the web at
www.blackrivertech.edu

jessica.bailey@blackrivertech.edu
shawna.lepard@blackrivertech.edu
karenl@blackrivertech.edu
anns@blackrivertech.edu

CONTACT US



Black River Technical College
Institutional Advancement

P.O. Box 468
Pocahontas, AR 72455

BRTC