



Inside this issue:

<i>Concert at Celebration to Feature Wil Maring and Robert Bowlin</i>	2
<i>Student Groups Invited to Attend REACH Celebration</i>	2
<i>Pathways (Cont'd from page 1)</i>	2
<i>Special Exhibit to Feature "Ozella" Miller Upshaw</i>	3
<i>Golf Tournament (Cont'd from page 1).</i>	3
<i>Respiratory Care Places Third in Competition</i>	
<i>Campus Commentary - Dr. Wayne Hatcher</i>	4
<i>Shelly is Awarded MSSPS</i>	4

Another Successful IBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament was Held

A total of 63 teams participated in the 18th Annual IBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament held Friday, September 30, at Rolling Hills Country Club in Pocahontas. The tournament is a primary source of scholarship funding and the largest fundraiser of the Foundation, according to Dina Hufstedler, Golf Tournament Chair and BRTC Project Specialist.



Pink Baltz and N. Ray Campbell enjoy playing in the 18th Annual BRTC Golf Tournament.

BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher expressed his appreciation for IBERIABANK and their continued support in sponsoring the tournament each year with a donation of \$10,000. Additional sponsorships are purchased in varying amounts by individuals and businesses. Proceeds from the event are used by the BRTC Foundation to support scholarship programs and other needs of the college.

Kelly Rose, Vice President and Commercial Relations Manager with IBERIABANK, also expressed his appreciation. "Thanks to the participants, sponsors, and supporters for making this a fun and successful event," Rose said. "IBERIABANK could not be more pleased with the outpouring of support for this event and the college. This effort is truly an investment in our future as the college continues to provide opportunities for success."

The tournament consists of morning and afternoon sessions each being independent of the other and each having its own Championship, A, and B Flights, according to Hufstedler. Winners in this year's morning session were: Championship Flight – Brad Snider and Mike Dailey, 1st place; Stan Moleski and Ken House, 2nd place; Kelly Scobey and Kirk Scobey, 3rd place; A Flight – Toney Barnes and Ryan Gibson, 1st place; Tim Ellis

(Continued on pg. 2)

Important Dates

- October 17**
Annual Meeting of the Randolph County Chamber of Commerce
- October 27-29**
REACH Grand Opening/ Public Event
- October 31-November 3**
English Club Book Sale
- November 14-16**
Holocaust Survivor Presentations
- November 18**
LETA Graduation
- November 23-25**
Campus Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

Pathways Lauded by HHS Secretary Sibelius

The United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sibelius, was in Little Rock last week to recognize and acknowledge the successes of Arkansas' Career Pathways Initiative, a program at the state's 22 two-year colleges and three institutes to provide extra support services to eligible students.



Kathleen Sibelius (left), US Secretary of Health and Human Services, speaks to Tom Baker, BRTC Pathways Director, after her address.

Among those on hand for the meeting held at Pulaski Technical College was BRTC's Pathways Director, Tom Baker.

Secretary Sibelius noted that as a former Governor of Kansas, she understands very well the importance of higher education in the 20th Century, and also realizes that "community colleges are the economic engines" of communities where they are located. For this reason, the Secretary said, she had come "to shine a light on a very successful job initiative that is currently underway."

Pathways is a federally funded program that provides assistance with tuition,

(Continued on pg. 2)

Concert at Celebration to Feature Wil Maring and Robert Bowlin, Among Other Local Talents

The Celebration and Grand Opening of the REACH historic sites scheduled for the last weekend in October will include an open-air concert Friday night, October 28, on the grounds at the Rice-Upshaw House near Dalton, according to event organizers. Headlining the concert, which begins at 6:30, are virtuoso guitarist and fiddler

Robert Bowlin and Wil Maring, a duo who have been recently combining talents to create beautiful original acoustic music which "straddles the fence between bluegrass, folk and country music," according to their website. Wil is an award-winning songwriter, while Robert, a Randolph County native, is a two-time National Fingerpicking and Flatpicking Guitar contest winner. He has been a band member with legendary artists Bill Monroe, Kathy Mattea, the Osborne Brothers, and many more.



Robert Bowlin and Wil Maring

with her since fifth grade, used many adjectives including beautiful, soulful, and awesome. She first began playing the piano and later guitar and performs as lead singer with a group from Marilyn's Clogging Company called "Pink Harmony." According to Hogan, Angel's performances have won many awards at various talent shows. Some selections to be performed by Angel are "Wayfaring Stranger," "Amazing Grace," "Down to the River to Pray," and "You Got to Walk that Lonesome Valley."

Also performing at the event are three other groups: Angel Gipson. Angel is a senior at Walnut Ridge High School and the daughter of Vic and Judy Clark. In describing her voice, Angel's teacher and mentor, Marilyn Hogan of Pocahontas, who has been working

A trio from Black River Technical College will do a special performance of "Danny Boy" in honor of those who have left but still yearn for their distant homes, and "Loch Lomond." The trio consists of Joniece Trammel, her daughter Rachel Wise, and Dr. Gary Buxton, accompanying on the fiddle.



Angel Gipson

The St. Louis Metro Singers, an African American acappella group who have performed for local audiences on previous occasions, will also perform at the concert.

"We are very excited about all these performers," said Jessica McFadden of the BRTC Office of Development. "Each group brings something different to the event, and we think our audience will enjoy all of them."

The audience is asked to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets to the event.

Pathways Cont'd from Pg. 1

books, transportation and child care for students who are parents and who meet income guidelines. She noted the impressive statistics Pathways has achieved, including the fact that since 2005, some 18,000 certificates or degrees have been awarded to Pathways participants. She noted that Pathways has proven itself a highly effective job training program to help many people "re-tool skills and succeed in the workplace."

BRTC's Pathways program, which first began serving students in January, 2006, has served a total of 1,492 students, and has awarded a total of 1,051 awards, to include certificates and degrees, during that time period, Baker said.

He said BRTC's Pathways program is currently serving 300 students, providing them childcare and gas assistance.

"We know we make a huge difference to our Pathway students," Baker said. "We see them in our office every week, and we are available not just to provide the financial support, but also to listen and to encourage and assist them in overcoming whatever obstacles they face."

Secretary Sibelius could not confirm continued Pathways funding support, though she told the audience that the federal government is "really looking" at creative and successful programs such as Arkansas CPI, and considering giving the states more flexibility for a long-term training program such as Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative.

Student Groups Invited to Attend REACH Celebration

The three-day Celebration and Open House for Project REACH is full of activities for everyone, according to BRTC Project Specialist Dina Hufstedler. "Student groups are certainly welcome and encouraged to attend any or all of the three days, but groups are welcome to visit the site Thursday morning prior to opening to the public."

Guests will have opportunity to work with a team of oxen and to take part in an authentic archeological screening of excavated dirt in search of genuine artifacts. Visitors will see demonstrations of pioneering building techniques in addition to performances by cloggers and musicians, and displays of work by BRTC students in REACH-related activities, as well as take a tour of the old structures. "The event will not only be fun, but also very educational," Hufstedler said.

Interested student groups can contact Hufstedler at 248-4000, ext. 4187, or Jessica McFadden, ext. 4189, for more information on the event or scheduling school groups.



Special Exhibit to Feature "Ozella" Miller Upshaw

Among the many activities and demonstrations at the REACH Celebration October 27-29 will be a special exhibit of items relating to Melissa Ozella Miller Upshaw. She was, according to family members like granddaughter Ann Gilliam, something of a "Renaissance Woman."

"Cousin 'Zella was charming," says Wanda Lea Vaughn, descendant of Reuben Rice. "A wonderful hostess, and I just thought the world of her. She never had the opportunity to develop her talent, but she was very artistic and she pursued it anyway." Ozella was married to Albert Upshaw. The couple lived for many years in what is today called the Rice-Upshaw House, one of the oldest log structures of its type in the state.

"She could do anything with practically nothing," Gilliam says. "Every Sunday she would take a bouquet of flowers she had gathered to the Eden Church of Christ just across the road from them. I've seen her actually gather Queen Anne's lace



Jessica McFadden with the Office of Development is pictured with the original prints made by Ozella. Reproductions of these prints will be available for purchase at the event, with all proceeds benefitting the REACH project.

from the roadside and color the tiny flower pods."

The small but historically significant log build-

ing was constructed ca. 1828 by Reuben Rice. His granddaughter, Lydia, is the title character of Ozella's book copyrighted in 1976, Lydia of the Valley. Lydia was Ozella's mother-in-law. Ozella was a descendent of William Looney on her mother's side of the family.

In addition to being a writer, Ozella Upshaw was also a poet, a songwriter, and an artist. Samples of all these creative works have been donated to BRTC in conjunction with Project REACH. A variety of select pieces of the donated items will be displayed on site in a special exhibit during the Celebration. The exhibit will include several pieces of her art.

The Kimbrough Choir Singers will perform two of Ozella's original pieces of music, including "My Angel Baby," which, according to Gilliam, her grandmother wrote in memory of a three-year-old son, Perry Lloyd, who had died.

Golf Tournament Cont'd from Pg. 1

and Jeff May, 2nd place; Senator Robert Thompson and Dennis Farmer, 3rd place; B Flight – Daniel Lee and Michael Conaster, 1st place; Marc Phillips and Zack Carter, 2nd place; Eric White and Billy Poe, 3rd place. Closest-to-the-Pin winners were: Lawrence Bergman, Brad Snider, Kelly Scobey and Ryan Gibson.

Winners in the afternoon session were: Championship Flight – Anthony Hausman and Black Prater, 1st place; Stephen Malone and Pete Kilpatrick, 2nd place; Bill Prichard and Mike Prichard, 3rd place; B Flight – Pink Baltz and N. Ray Campbell, 1st place; Bill Allen and Mike Vinson, 2nd place; Paul Carr and Lloyd King, 3rd place; C Flight – Kelly Rose and Eric Sibrava, 1st place; Don Liebhaber and Allen Baltz, 2nd place; Darrell Kelley and Ruth Ann Kelley, 3rd place. Closest-to-the-Pin winners were: Michael Hallmark, Steve Wessell, Johnny Boatner and Lloyd King.



Preparing BBQ for the tournament are Jeanette Durbam, (from left) and Rebecca Smith (behind Durbam), both with IBERLABANK; Shannon Ogen, BRTC Business Instructor; Sandra Tweety, VP IBERLABANK; Carol Belford-Levallen, VP Bank of Pocahontas and BRTC Foundation Board Member; Kim Bigger, BRTC Registrar; and Ruth Ann Ellis, BRTC Foundation Board Chair.

"I want to thank the many individuals and businesses who continue to support this tournament each year with donations and sponsorships," said Hufstedler. "This includes IBERLABANK for their

generous donation to underwrite the event, and Baltz Chevy-Olds for their sponsorship of the Hole-in-One Prizes and Grand Prize of a brand new Chevrolet truck. I also appreciate the new sponsors that joined us this year."

Hufstedler also expressed appreciation for the many volunteers who spent time preparing for and working at the tournament, to include Mike Miller, VP of Bank of Pocahontas and BRTC Foundation Board Member, for his efforts in leading the tournament. "The tournament is a success because of the contributions made by these individuals and businesses."

Proceeds from the tournament are expected to be near \$28,000 when all pledged sponsorship monies are received.



Respiratory Care students, pictured here with instructors Janet Murell (far left) and Suzzette Hicks (second from left) placed third at the Annual Sputum Bowl - an annual competition held in Hot Springs and sponsored by the Arkansas Society for Respiratory Care.



Michael Hallmark (from left), Julie Hill, Brett Crowson, and Melissa McDaniel, from IBERLABANK in Jonesboro, came out to support the tournament.



P.O. Box 468
1410 Hwy 304 East
Pocahontas, AR 72455

Phone: 870-248-4000
Fax: 870-248-4100

P.O. Box 1565
1 Black River Drive
Paragould, AR 72450

Phone: 870-239-0969
Fax: 870-239-2050

www.blackrivertech.edu

On-Line River's Edge Address:
http://www.blackrivertech.org/rivers_edge/

*The River's Edge is produced by the
Office of Development.*

*janz@blackrivertech.org
dina.hufstedler@blackrivertech.org
jessica.mcfadden@blackrivertech.org
rhonda.foster@blackrivertech.org
anns@blackrivertech.org*

BRTC Mission Statement

*Blending tradition, technology and innovation
to educate today's diverse students
for tomorrow's changing world.*

Campus Commentary



*Dr. Wayne Hatcher
President*

There is a picture on the wall in my office that has a quote from Mac Anderson, which is one of my favorites: *Excellence is the result of caring more than others think is wise, risking more than others think is safe, dreaming more than others think is practical, and expecting more than others think is possible.* As I recall how the Career Pathways Initiative started in Arkansas, I can see how this quote symbolizes the dream of its key founders, Drs. Ed Franklin

and Linda Beene-Ballard. These are two people that have spent most of their lives working to make a difference, especially in Arkansas higher education.

In 2005 there was a brief window of opportunity to implement this quote and make a real difference in the lives of thousands of Arkansas single parents who were below and/or near the poverty threshold. Their proposal held political risks at the state and national levels—but they had a dream. They were questioned repeatedly by politicians and government bureaucrats about what these unrealistic expectations.

What these politicians and bureaucrats didn't realize was what Ed and Linda knew—that there were a lot of single parents in Arkansas that just needed a little extra help to have that second chance at life...for themselves, but most of all for the sake of the future of their single parent children.

The result? Since 2005, 18,000 certificates or degrees have been awarded to Pathways participants in Arkansas. Since 2006, BRTC's Pathways program has served al-

Shelly is Awarded MSSPS

Bernice Ester Shelly was awarded the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship (MSSPS) for the Fall 2011 semester. She is the 12th recipient of MSSPS bringing the semester's total award to \$5,880.

Shelly is a graduate of Mountain Pointe High School and is pursuing her nursing degree with plans to graduate Fall 2012 .



Ester Shelly

For more information on MSSPS, contact Financial Aid Officer Natasha Rush at 870-248-4000, ext. 4019, or Janna Guthrey, MSSPS Fund Chair, ext. 4092.

most 1,500 students, resulting in over 1,050 awards, including certificates and degrees. According to MSNBC, the national job placement rate of graduates is between 20-25%. At BRTC, over 80% of the Career Pathways graduates are employed and stay employed for at least a year following completion. Compare that with your favorite state university.

BRTC's Career Pathways program is another of the ways that we are walking the walk of our motto: *Bridging Resources, Technology, and Challenges...One Graduate at a Time.* And as for excellence, BRTC knows no other way. It's what we do...and we do it very, very well.