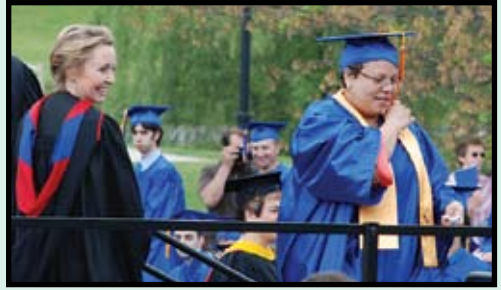


Community Link

Graduation 2008

Over 500 degrees, diplomas and certificates were conferred at BRCC's 40th commencement ceremony on May 10. Megan Beyer, member of the Virginia State Board for Community Colleges and Emmy nominated reporter, delivered the commencement address encouraging graduates to continue to dream and achieve, and ultimately to enjoy the journey. Mrs. Beyer is the wife of former Lt. Governor Donald Beyer.



Spring Fling 2008

With your help, the Fabulous Fifties Spring Fling Auction raised a record \$61,000! Over 200 attendees spent a festive evening bidding and enjoying songs of the '50s



while "Rebel Without a Cause" played on the big screens in the Robert E. Plecker Workforce Center. James Dean was in good company, with greasers Bob Baldygo, John Downey and Jim Perkins in full '50s regalia. This event, held at the Robert E. Plecker Workforce Center on April 11, was sponsored by Crosby Trucking Service, Graves & Light Wealth Management of Wachovia Securities, Harman Construction, and Elliott Chevrolet-Cadillac. The BRCC Educational Foundation thanks all those involved in making this a successful community event.



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Community Link is an official publication of the Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation. It is distributed to friends in the Shenandoah Valley, as well as BRCC faculty and staff, and is published quarterly by the Development Office, Blue Ridge Community College, Weyers Cave, VA 24486. If you have any questions or comments regarding this publication, please contact Angie Glenn, Development Database and Communications Coordinator, at (540) 453-2307 or GlennA@brcc.edu.

REMEMBERING DR. PAUL LEE



On Monday, March 10, Blue Ridge Community College lost a good friend and colleague. For eighteen years, Dr. Paul Lee served BRCC as the college's Dean of Business and Humanities, setting a high standard for students and faculty. Dr. Lee's attention to detail, his dedication to quality improvement, and his support for faculty and staff development have made a lasting difference for BRCC and for the Virginia Community College System. In 2007, Dr. Lee established an endowed scholarship to benefit BRCC Nursing students in memory of his mother. Gifts of remembrance can be made to the BRCC Educational Foundation, Hallie Sayers Lee Endowed Scholarship in Nursing.

Carl Rosberg Receives Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy



Carl Rosberg poses with Virginia Community College System Chancellor Glenn DuBois (left) and the Honorable Anne Holton, First Lady of Virginia (right).

Carl Rosberg, President of nTelos-Wireless and Chair of the BRCC Educational Foundation, was recognized on April 23 as a recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. The program honors an outstanding benefactor from each of Virginia's 23 community colleges. The Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy was created to recognize the important role of community college supporters.

The Honorable Anne Holton, First Lady of Virginia, was the keynote speaker at the luncheon held for honorees. The First Lady, who is focused on improving the lives and futures of foster children in Virginia, spoke about her "Great Expectations" partnership with Virginia's Community Colleges to enhance higher education opportunities for foster children.

Carl expressed his reason for supporting BRCC, "I have a passion for youth. As I got more involved with community colleges, I found that there isn't an area that touches young people and does more good than Blue Ridge Community College."

Help us update our records!

We appreciate your interest in, and support of, Blue Ridge Community College. To keep you informed of our upcoming programs, events, and initiatives we are constantly updating our database to include your most recent contact information. If you need to update or change your contact information, please contact Angie Glenn at (540) 453-2307 or GlennA@brcc.edu, or simply go to www.brcc.edu/EdFound/update and fill out our online update form.

BRCC SIFE TEAM DEFENDS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The BRCC Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team traveled to Chicago in May to defend its National Championship. One of the competition judges commented to BRCC President Jim Perkins that for the first time in SIFE history, all 70 judges voted unanimously...and BRCC SIFE was named the 2008 SIFE USA Two-Year College National Champion! This is BRCC's second national title in two years. SIFE faculty advisor Rebecca Evans commented, "It was a great day for the students, and of course for our school. Without the support and culture of our college and its service area, we could never accomplish what we do."



BRCC SIFE Named to President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

In February, the Corporation for National and Community Service named BRCC SIFE to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to disadvantaged youth. Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement.

"This prestigious award demonstrates the commitment our students and employees have to reach out to those in need in our service area, our Commonwealth, and our country. The community service initiatives performed by BRCC students and employees have positively impacted the lives of so many people. It is our hope that the receipt of this honor prompts even more individuals to consider service opportunities in the community," commented Dr. John Downey, BRCC Vice President for Instruction and Student Services.

BRCC SIFE Recognized with House Joint Resolution

BRCC SIFE was also recognized in March with a House Joint Resolution on the floor of the Virginia House of Delegates, sponsored by Valley legislators Steve Landes, Chris Saxman, Ben Cline, Matt Lohr, Emmett Hanger and Mark Obenshain. The resolution cited BRCC SIFE's dedication to helping others both locally and abroad, through educational programs on finance offered to high school students and senior citizens, to the recent establishment of a rabbit farm cooperative in Haiti (see article on back panel). "The presentation to BRCC was a wonderful opportunity to pause from our legislative duties here at the Capitol and recognize the accomplishments of these outstanding students," commented Hanger.

BRCC SIFE has received tremendous support from our community through the BRCC Educational Foundation, including gifts from BB&T, the Margaret Grattan Weaver Foundation, and the Robert Hopkins Strickler and Lorraine Warren Strickler Endowment.

YOUR SUPPORT IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Women's Resource Center Helps Students in Crisis

BRCC's Women's Resource Center has had a record year of support so far in 2007-2008, providing over \$6,000 in emergency financial assistance to BRCC students. Over 20 students in crisis situations (male and female) received assistance, helping them to pay for textbooks, gasoline, rent and utility payments, giving them the short-term support needed to help them continue—and finish—their education.

Appalachian Music Festival Celebrates Valley's Rich Musical History



BRCC's first Appalachian Music Festival, held on March 29 in BRCC's Fine Arts Center, was a great success. The festival highlighted Appalachian music, its rich history, and how music is played today. Six-time Grammy nominee and world-renowned folk musician, Mike Seeger headlined the event, which also featured Wilbur "Two Gun" Terry, a well-known Harrisonburg musician and teacher, and recent nominee for the prestigious National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship. Organized by BRCC's Cultural Affairs Committee and funded by a grant from the BRCC Educational Foundation, over 110 enthusiastic attendees took part in the festival, including 26 high quality performers who put on a total of 9 workshops, 4 group performances, and an evening concert.

BRCC Graduates Leave a Legacy

The Nursing Class of 2008 wanted to leave a legacy for future BRCC Nursing students, and honor a BRCC administrator that has made a significant impact on the program during the time they have been at Blue Ridge. At their pinning ceremony held the night before graduating, they announced the creation of the John A. Downey Nursing Class of 2008 Scholarship. Dr. Downey is the Vice President for Instruction and Student Services at BRCC. Members of the graduating class collected donations totaling \$2,000 to fund a scholarship for a future Nursing student.



The Veterinary Technology Class of 2008 also wanted to leave a legacy, and chose to do so by collecting contributions that will be used to build an enclosure to help ensure the safety of their canine friends on campus. Over \$500 was collected by Vet Tech grads to assist in funding this project.

Because of your generous support, the BRCC Educational Foundation is able to provide the student scholarships, technological advancements, faculty grants, and program support that help our students succeed and our community thrive. For more information on how you can make a positive difference, please contact Amy Laser Kiger at (540) 453-2211, or KigerA@brcc.edu.

BRCC STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

BRCC's Honor Society Earns Awards



Derick Arbaugh, Alpha Xi Xi Vice President of Leadership, and Phi Theta Kappa "Distinguished Officer" award winner, speaks at the BRCC's 40th commencement ceremony.

At the 90th International Phi Theta Kappa Convention in Philadelphia in April, Blue Ridge's Alpha Xi Xi Chapter was once again named in the top 100 chapters of more than 1,500 chapters worldwide. In addition, the chapter received the coveted Scholarship Hallmark Award. The Hallmark Awards Program is Phi Theta Kappa's competitive awards program that recognizes individuals, chapters and regions for excellence in the Society's Hallmarks of Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Fellowship. BRCC's Alpha Xi Xi was the only chapter in Virginia to receive an award for any of the Society's hallmarks. BRCC student Derick Arbaugh, Vice President of Leadership, received the award for Distinguished Officer, an award given to the top 30 officers in the world.

BRCC Student Designs Billboard



BRCC graphic arts student Susan Peden recently designed two billboards in Staunton and Fishersville discouraging teenagers from drinking alcohol. The Community Alliance for Drug Resistance sponsored the billboards, hoping to make an impact during prom season.

BRCC Students, Faculty and Staff "Pay it Forward"

The Zabricot Rabbit Cooperative broke ground in February, on an island that previously had no viable cooperative ventures, and where residents had never seen a live rabbit. This entrepreneurial venture initiated by BRCC students is the talk of LaGonave, Haiti.

The BRCC SIFE Team partnered with the Haiti Outreach Foundation of Staunton and the Haiti Farmers to Farmers Association to develop and implement this micro lending project—a rabbit farming cooperative on an island where the annual per capita income only averages \$100 USD. The team shipped all building and rabbit care materials to Haiti via cargo container and worked with the students, faculty, and staff of the veterinary technology program and local business, Weaver Rabbit Farm, to create written training guides and videos on cage building, rabbit care, breeding, and meat processing. BRCC Veterinary Technology Club members researched, wrote, and prepared handouts for the Haitian women to help them with proper handling and care of the rabbits. Vet Tech Club co-advisor, Gail Foley, compiled the information, secured animal supplies and significant monetary donations, and traveled to Haiti with the SIFE Team to provide the hands-on instruction. All materials were translated by SIFE members into Haitian Creole for use on the island.

The Zabricot Cooperative offers eight women the opportunity to increase their average income by over 800%. All cooperative members have agreed to "pay it forward" by inviting additional village residents to join the cooperative as the current cooperative develops and grows. This project is designed to create an evolution of change on the island as cooperative members pay it forward in place of repayment of their loan.





Blue Ridge Community College
Educational Foundation, Inc.
P. O. Box 80
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SAVE THE DATE!

35th Annual BRCC Folk Arts Festival

Saturday, September 13, 2008
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 14, 2008,
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

BRCC Educational Foundation Mystery Event

Friday evening, October 3, 2008
Robert E. Plecker Workforce Center