

Blue Ridge Community College

Times-News Column

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Friday evening marked a day of recognition for 136 graduates who received degrees, diplomas, and certificates. It was a packed house at the Conference Hall as family and friends celebrated the accomplishments of their graduate. Ethan Pressley, 2008 graduate of North Henderson High School and 2010 graduate of Blue Ridge Community College, received the prestigious James G. Finch Rotary Scholarship Award awarded by the Rotary Club of Hendersonville. Ethan was recognized for his community service and received a scholarship to further his education. He plans to pursue a bachelor's degree this fall.

Faculty and staff members at Blue Ridge Community College are making final preparations for the start of Summer Semester. Student Services staff are available to answer questions about the application process, financial aid, or any of BRCC's more than 30 areas of study. Registration is Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Flat Rock Campus and the Transylvania County Campus. Classes begin on Wednesday, May 19. For more information about Blue Ridge's many programs and how you can enroll, contact Student Services at (828) 694-1800 or (828) 883-2520 or visit www.blueridge.edu on the Internet. Continuing Education registration will also be open on May 18. For more information, contact Continuing Education at (828) 694-1735 or (828) 883-2520. Remember it is not too early to apply for Fall Semester. Early advising and registration will be held soon.

The Music by the Lake Series for 2010 begins today with a free performance from 5 to 7 p.m. by Mandolin Orange from Carrboro, North Carolina. Mandolin Orange, a duo of Andrew Marlin and Emily Frantz, perform original, lyrical tunes with fiddle, mandolin, acoustic guitar and the occasional electric guitar. Their dichotomous musical approaches seem to fuel the partnership. Marlin learned to play and sing by writing his own tunes on a guitar he bought from a friend when he was fourteen. Frantz on the other hand was classically trained on the violin but switched over to fiddle and played in bluegrass bands during high school. They met in early 2009 and began performing together almost immediately. Since then they have toured along the East Coast and have recently released their debut album 'Quiet Little Room.' The album features twelve original tracks, written by songwriter Marlin, some with simple, sparse instrumentation and others with layers of drums, bass and viola added to the mix, all played by Marlin and Frantz. Everyone is invited to bring a picnic and lawn chairs to enjoy an evening of music beside the college lake. We have just completed many landscaping upgrades to this area. It is a beautiful setting to enjoy an afternoon with family and friends.

Pending approval by the N.C. State Board of Community Colleges, Blue Ridge Community College has been chosen by the North Carolina Community College System to be the lead college in the Code Green Curriculum Improvement Project (CIP) for the Transportation Sector. It will involve the review and reorganization of transportation curricula to determine the best methods to infuse green technologies and sustainability concepts and at the same time streamline the curriculum taxonomy and remove duplication. Project Director Chris English, long-time instructor at Blue Ridge, will assemble a team of experts in their respective program areas from among the 58 community colleges. They will review the transportation programs and curriculum standards and study successful curriculum improvement projects nationwide. Changes to curricula may include streamlining taxonomy, elimination of programs, identification of core concepts, and, if needed, adding new "green" courses.