

Blue Ridge Community College

Times-News Column

Lee Anna Haney, Director of Public Relations

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Friday marks the highlight of the year when celebrate with our graduates and their family and friends. Hilda Pinnix-Ragland, chair of the State Board of Community Colleges, will deliver the keynote address.

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, May 18 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 694-1800 or 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.

If you are interested in alternative transportation fuels and would like to see the different technologies up close, the College is offering a continuing education course on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning May 18. Introduction to Alternative Fuel Vehicles is an overview of alternative fuels in relation to the automotive industry. Topics covered in the course include the exploration of alternative fuels, including compressed natural gas, propane, ethanol, biodiesel, hydrogen, electric, hybrid and fuel cell technologies. Upon completion, students will be able to identify alternative fuel vehicles and the different vehicle components, explain how the different alternative fuel vehicles work, understand safety concerns, and make minor repairs. This course will meet from 6 to 9 p.m. through May 27. The course fee is \$65. For information about alternative fuel vehicle training at Blue Ridge Community College, contact Matt Rieger at (828) 694-1686.

The Music by the Lake Series for 2010 begins on Sunday, May 16 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. For more information, contact Martha Howell at (828) 694-1743 or marthah@blueridge.edu.