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Four PBHS Graduates Receive Dual Degrees and Diplomas

MAY 29TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

Four PBHS Graduates Receive Dual Degrees and Diplomas

*Submitted by
Beth Farrah, SMT Writer*

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Graduating high school is an important milestone; getting one's degree is a major accomplishment. But for four Poplar Bluff students who capped off their high school careers last Thursday, those events won't be years apart. Instead, thanks to a new partnership between PBHS and Three Rivers College, they'll be rewarded for achieving the incredible: obtaining a high school diploma and an associate degree simultaneously.

Adrienne Burfield, Zachary Miller, Vicky Bottorff and Shallyn Ward are all participants in the new College Now program, a groundbreaking partnership between the two institutions. The program, which is an extension of the "dual credit" partnerships Three Rivers maintains with over 40 area high schools, allows qualifying PBHS students to complete their general education requirements during their normal class schedules, and at a vastly discounted rate.

While a total of seven graduates from the PBHS Class of 2013 participated in College Now, only Burfield, Miller, Bottorff and Ward went above and beyond the program's normal requirements to complete full associate degree coursework. In addition to the classwork mandated by College Now, all four grads ended up taking on even heavier course loads in order to meet the 62-credit hour requirement for an associate degree.

“I’ve taken online classes, summer classes, winter classes, Maymester classes... Last semester I took 21 credits,” said Burfield, who will be attending the University of Alabama in the fall to study Pre-Medicine. “My nose has pretty much not left a book.”

In return for their hard work, the College Now graduates will receive a significant leg up on their college careers, shaving one to two years off their time in higher education, for a third of what the same degree would cost outside the program. According to Three Rivers, dual credit courses are becoming an increasingly popular option with college-minded high school students.

“Beyond the educational advantages, students are learning how to survive the real world and transition into becoming a college student,” said Manda Reynolds, Coordinator of Academic and Career Outreach for Three Rivers. “This program attracts a lot of high-achieving students. It’s something that they can take pride in. And we, in turn, are very proud of these graduates.”

While selection for the 2013-2014 College Now program is closed, Reynolds said that registration for dual credit courses is still open at many local high schools. Registration for summer classes also remains open for those wanting to get ahead in college while on break from high school. Registration for Fall 2013 classes is also now available. For more information about dual credit courses or the College Now program, call 573-840-9619 or email mreynolds@trcc.edu.

Three Rivers College is committed to contributing to the quality of life in Southeast Missouri with quality, affordable higher education opportunities and community services that support and encourage the economic, civic, and cultural vitality of the region. For more information about college and workforce programs and upcoming events, visit trcc.edu.

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Three Rivers Celebrates Record Class at Commencement Ceremony

MAY 29TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

Three Rivers Celebrates Record Class at Commencement Ceremony

*Submitted by
Beth Farrah, SMT Writer*

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Three Rivers College packed the Black River Coliseum to celebrate a record-breaking graduating class on Sunday, May 19. The college's Class of 2013 was awarded over 700 degrees and certificates this year, the largest graduating class in the institution's history.

National children's advocate Mark Kennedy Shriver headlined the event, which was the largest commencement ceremony since Three Rivers' inception. Shriver exhorted the graduates to pursue not only career success, but to live out the principles of love, kindness, and generosity in their everyday lives.

"Being good is more important than being great," said Shriver, speaking about the lessons his father, Sargent Shriver, had taught him. "Your families, and the people you know, are more important than money or your career...do the best with what God has given you, to pursue goodness with acts of hope and love."

Local musician Maggie Thorn served as guest musician and performed her song "I Don't Know." Other speakers included Darren Garrison, Chair of the Board of Trustees for

Three Rivers and a Three Rivers alum; Christopher Masingill, Federal Co-Chairman of the Delta Regional Authority; Dr. Marianne Inman, President of Central Methodist University; and Dr. Devin Stephenson, President of Three Rivers College.

“Each candidate today is part of an historic year at Three Rivers, and we say thank you for helping us reach this milestone,” said Stephenson, during the ceremony’s opening remarks. “The experiences that you have had at Three Rivers have enabled you to learn new things, to hone your skills and to enter a job market with great qualities and qualifications.”

Distinguished graduates from the class of 2013 included Adrienne Burfield of Poplar Bluff, who was one of the first four students to graduate with both her associate degree and her high school diploma through the college’s new “College Now” program. Burfield will be starting Pre-Medicine studies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, in preparation for a career as a pediatric physician. Also graduating this year was Ibrahim Djambo of Bamako, Mali, who recently signed to play NCAA basketball with Clemson in the fall of 2013.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the college’s first commencement ceremony since its founding in 1966. Since then, Three Rivers has served over 100,000 students from its degree, transfer, and career development programs. Registration is currently open for Summer and Fall classes at Three Rivers. To learn more about taking classes, or to schedule a registration day, call 573-840-9605.

Three Rivers College is committed to contributing to the quality of life in Southeast Missouri with quality, affordable higher education opportunities and community services that support and encourage the economic, civic, and cultural vitality of the region. For more information about college and workforce programs and upcoming events, visit trcc.edu.

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Show Me Whatcha Got Finalists

MAY 29TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

Show Me Whatcha Got Finalists

*Written by
Beth Farrah, SMT Writer*

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Twelve local entertainment acts will compete in front of a live audience for \$1,000 in cash as Show Me Whatcha Got wraps up its second season at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 1 in the Tinnin Fine Arts Center on Three River's main campus.

The twelve finalists have survived two rounds of auditions beginning only five short months ago in February. The performers have defeated over one hundred other competitors competing for the grand prize.

“I’m amazed by the sheer amount of talent that we’ve found with our Final Twelve,” said Mitch Davis, the show’s creator and a member of the judging panel. “They’ve all given stunning performances so far, and I’m sure they’re bringing their A-games to the final show.”

Kicking off the show will be a performance by Rebekah Northern, a singer-song writer from Bloomfield, Missouri. The twelve performers will follow the opening act and perform one last time for the show. Tanisha Jones, the winner of last year's competition, will return for multiple performances throughout the night.

The official winner of season two will be selected by both the audience and the judge's panel. They will select two finalists who will perform their final song before the official voting via text message begins later that night. The finalist with the most audience votes will receive the grand prize and will be announced at the winner of season two.

Tickets for the show are currently available at the Poplar Bluff Chamber of Commerce from now until May 31st (hours are from 8am to 4pm). Tickets can also be purchased at the Tinnin Center on Three River's Poplar Bluff Campus on June 1st starting at 5pm. For more information on tickets, the show, the contestants, or to see videos, performances, and interviews, visit their facebook page.

Here is the full list of the season two finalists: Rebekah Childress age 18 and a singer from Poplar Bluff; Doug Johnson age 23 and a singer from both Oakland, Indiana and Bernie; Anna Catherine Dehart age 18 and a singer from both Nashville and Sikeston; Lontonio Mathis age 18 and a singer-song writer from Poplar Bluff; Zabre Burns age 13 and a singer from Poplar Bluff; Roy Reynolds age 57 and a singer-dancer from Sikeston; Kayla, Chelsea, Chase, and Clark Chrisman ages 14, 18, 17, and 16 and singer-songwriters from Fisk; Brian Ward age 35 and a singer from Poplar Bluff; Rachel McDowell age 26 and a singer from Risco; Tanner Puckett age 18 and a singer from both Nashville, Tennessee and Poplar Bluff; Caleb Strebler age 17 and a comedic magician from Canalou; Payton Golden age 11 and a singer from Ellsinore.

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Waldner Breaks Two School Track Records

MAY 28TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Waldner Breaks Two School Track Records

*Written by
Dee Loflin SMT Manager/Writer*

Dexter, Missouri – The old adage, "records are made to be broken," is very true. The Dexter high School track team was lucky enough to experience two such records being broken this year.

She's got game, she's got talent and she's a freshman! Miss Makayla Waldner was able to break not one record her freshman year, but two records. The bonus was breaking them at the Missouri State Track Finals this weekend.

While everyone was enjoying their Memorial Day holiday, Makayla was making her way to the top. She was absolutely awesome in the 100 meter hurdles. She now leads the new school record with her time of 15.52 and placed 3rd in the state. Way to go!

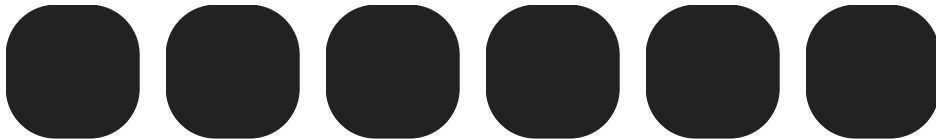
That's not all, Makayla also competed in the 300 meter hurdles placing 8th in the state, but also established a new school record for DHS with a time of 46.36.

"MaKayla's performance was excellent as she placed in both events, while as a freshman competing against all juniors and seniors," stated head track and field coach Greg Lummukka. "Aside from her raw talent, MaKayla's work ethic and humility are the things that set her apart from most other athletes. She has an inner drive to be elite, the things she has accomplished is nothing short of tremendous as she qualified in four events in the Missouri state track meet!"

Congratulations to Makayla! You have a bright future ahead of you!

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SEMO Names Students to Spring Dean's List

MAY 28TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

[SEMO Names Students to Spring Dean's List](#)

*Written by
Dee Loflin SMT Manager/Writer*

Cape Girardeau, Missouri - Shelby Lintz is just one of a few former Dexter High School students who have made the grade and are on Southeast Missouri State University's Dean's List.

The following local students are among the 2,496 students named to the 2013 Spring Dean's List. Each student must earn at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and completed a minimum of 12 degree credit hours during the semester.

Congratulations to:

Angela Alford of Dexter, Jeremy Algood of Bernie, Jennifer Aslin of Dexter, Christine Barnes of Dexter, Hannah Barr of Advance, Daniel Becking of Dexter, Christopher Berry of Dexter, David Blevins of Bernie, William Bowling of Bloomfield, Carla Bradley of Dexter, Christina Brown of Bernie, Hunter Bruce of Dexter, Audrey Camren of Advance, Matthew Cash of Dexter, Abbey Christian of Dexter, Brittney Clark of Dexter, James Cobb of Essex, James Culbertson of Bloomfield, April DeBerry of Dexter, James Deberry IV of Dexter, Brandon Dejournett of Essex, Brianna DeWitt of Dexter, Rhonda Diebold of Dexter, Alexandra Eakin of Bell City, Shanna Gant of Dexter, Rebecca Geuin of Dexter, Betsy Griffin of Dexter, Heather Hann of Dexter, Travis Holland of Dexter, Sara Holloway of Dexter, Karen Holman of Advance, Bethany Holmes of Oran, Bryan Hubrecht of Dexter, Taylor Hueckel of Essex, Emily Hutchcraft of Dexter, Rilee Jones of Dexter, Andrew Kelley of Dexter, Magyn Kennedy of Advance, Sydney Lambert of Bloomfield, Shelby Lintz of Dexter, Taylor Martin of Dexter, Colten Mayberry of Dexter, Kayla McCabe of Advance, Rebekah McGhee of Dexter, Matthew Miller of Dexter, Benjamin Mills of Dexter, Wesley Montgomery of Dexter, Gary Murphy III of Bernie, Miranda Nixon of Advance, Richard Nixon Jr of Advance, Mason Noe of Dexter, Scott Norman of Dexter, Ashley Overstreet of Bloomfield, Reese Palmer of Essex, Taylor Parker of Dexter, Tyler Phelps of Advance, Morgan Riley of Bernie, Matthew Ritch of Dexter, Taylor Robey of Dexter, Marcy Shaffer of Dexter, Gale Slinkard of Dexter, Jessica Snider of Dexter, Virginia Stafford of Dexter, Candice Stepp of Bloomfield, Lindsey Sullinger of Advance, Grace Taylor of Bloomfield, Rebecca Taylor of Bloomfield, Rachel Tiln of Bernie, Terry Tiln of Bernie, Cory Townsend of Dexter, Jake Tropf of Advance, Blake Trover of Bernie, David Vangennip II of Advance, Stephen Willard of Bloomfield, Andreia Wondel of Bloomfield, and Jacob Young of Bloomfield.

The community is proud of your accomplishments and wish you all great success in your future endeavors.

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