



Joy Ride

It was with great joy that the 2007 Bainbridge College Emergency Medical Technology graduates witnessed presentation of BC's first Emergency Medical Services vehicle that was donated by Decatur County Commission. The truck keys were presented on the day of their graduation Aug. 2. L-R with the vehicle are EMT Instructor/Coordinator Randy Williams and graduates Matt Sheffield, Kyle Brackin, Dennis Perkins, Beth Barden, Melissa Brewer, Derrick Edwards, Jenny Bell, Jeannie Asules, Terrell Mann and Beth Cook; not pictured are graduates Scott Lord and Velvet Mock.

Keys to the Truck

Decatur County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Chief Bill Hogan (center) presents the keys to the EMS truck that Decatur County Commissioners voted unanimously to give to Bainbridge College when it was retired from the EMS fleet in 2007. Receiving the keys for the college is Dr. Rob Gingras, vice president of academic affairs. BC EMT Instructor/Coordinator Randy Williams watches the presentation.



Program Expands to Blakely

12 Graduate EMT Program, BC Receives EMS Vehicle

Bainbridge College Emergency Medical Technology (EMT) program in the Technical Studies Division graduated 12 students after an intensive year of study and training for them to serve as Emergency Medical Technicians-Intermediate. They were among those who saw the presentation on Main Campus of keys to the program's first Emergency Medical Services (EMS) vehicle.

EMT graduates are Melissa Brewer, Derrick Edwards, Terrell Mann and Velvet Mock, all of **Bainbridge**; Scott Lord of **Climax**; Kyle Brackin, Beth Cook, Dennis Perkins and Matt Sheffield, all of **Colquitt**; Jenny Bell of **Edison**, Jeannie Asules of **Iron City** and Beth Barden of **Thomasville**.

After the Aug. 2, 2007, graduation ceremony in the Tech Studies Building complex, Decatur County Commission presented the college an EMS vehicle that had been retired from the fleet and repainted for college use. On behalf of Decatur County Commissioners, who voted unanimously to give the vehicle to the college, EMS Chief Bill Hogan gave the keys to BC Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Rob Gingras. The truck will give EMT students hands-on experience with an emergency vehicle before graduating.

Chief Hogan addressed the graduates, speaking passionately about their mutual work in saving people's lives, putting the person first. "Look at (the patient) as a person first," said Chief Hogan, who began his EMS career in 1978 in Tifton. He has been in EMS 29 years, the last 2½ as Decatur County EMS chief.

EMT Instructor/Coordinator Randy Williams then spoke, noting 80 percent of medicine is compassion. "You are patient advocates. Do what is in the patient's best interest," he reminded his students, praising their dedication and hard work in the intensive training. Like Hogan, he congratulated their families, saying that without their encouragement and support the graduates could not have succeeded in reaching their goals.

As Williams called the names of the graduates, Dr. Gingras gave them their certificates. Williams is full-time EMT instructor and coordinator, expanding the program this fall to Bainbridge College Early County Site in Blakely. Fall term started Aug. 13.

Williams attended EMT school at Albany Technical College, graduating in 2001. After receiving his Georgia license, he worked a year at Miller County EMS. Then he studied at Albany Tech's Paramedic School and tutored EMT students and earned certification as Basic Life Support Instructor. He discovered his passion for teaching while tutoring and teaching CPR.

Graduating with a 3.73 GPA, he was inducted into the National Technical Honors Society. While with Miller County EMS he was awarded several Pre-Hospital Saves from the State of Georgia, which means he saved someone who was near death or in cardiac arrest. His credentials include being nationally registered, licensed in Georgia as a paramedic, as an instructor of EMT, Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, and Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support.