

Not enough 'Outstanding Staff' Awards to go around

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS: LOYAL, DEVOTED, HELPFUL, KNOWLEDGEABLE

By definition, "staff" refers to "all the people employed by a particular organization." At least one computer dictionary even goes so far as to single out "the teachers in a school or college: [as adj.] a *staff meeting*."

Herein, Faculty and Staff are treated as separate entities, similar to other references; i.e., Board, Faculty and Staff Dinner; i.e., "Outstanding Faculty" and "Outstanding Staff" awards.

But in deference to the official descriptor, we will bunch them all together momentarily for a few observations . . .

- Fourteen individuals have enjoyed their jobs enough – and started their careers at Rend Lake College at an early enough age – to stick around for 30-plus years.

The illustrious group includes two members who were student-workers on-campus before immediately moving into full-time positions – Student Records Specialist Janice Rombough Dillon (whose 30-year recognition came in 2010) and Shipping/Receiving Clerk Roger Treece (2003).

Circulation Specialist Kim Schram Davis (2010) was even younger – a recent high school graduate – when she began helping students on a daily basis in the Learning Resource Center.

Jerri Ruemmler (2001) took advantage of the college's move next door, driving just a few miles each day from her Ewing home to nearby Ina to serve as Secretary/Executive Assistant to the Dean of Vocational-Technical Education.

Two others were longtime Directors. David Patton (1998) joined the RLC Family in its first year of existence as Audiovisual Director but spent the better part of his career as Director of Learning Resources and Media. Student aid was dispersed through the capable hands of Financial Aid Director Doug Carlson (2010) from 1980 until his retirement in 2012.

- Five others in the 30-Year Club were among those labeled "Faculty" – Charter members of the Liberal Arts/English Department – Dr. Barbara Luchsinger and Georgine Hawley (both 1997); Automotive Technology's Maurice Kirsch (2006); Criminal Justice rep Ed Heischmidt (2007), and Zoology Professor Larry Williams, who doubled as a Department Chair (2011).

- That leaves one more . . . and the only individual to make 35 years . . . President Mark S. Kern, who started his Rend Lake College career in Year Two (1968-69) as an Agriculture Instructor.

- Make that 13 in '13 and 14 in '14. Liberal Arts Division Administrative Assistant Cathy Cross already had announced plans to retire in 2012, after 29 years, but changed her mind before officially doing so and headed into the 2012-13 academic year. She made it a baker's dozen in Year 2013. Math Instructor Diane Metzger joined the exclusive club a year later.

- Similar alliteration, of sorts. Another 25 "staff" members boasted 25-Year Club status for their RLC careers as of 2012, with nine more added as of 2015.

Notice this does not include The Man Who Refused to Retire, Wayne Arnold.

OK, so maybe he did so in 1989. But he was back, albeit part-time, the following year. And he has been with us ever since in a variety of capacities – Department Chair; Health, Physical Education and Recreation Instructor/Professor; Fitness Center Coordinator on-campus and in Mt. Vernon (Good Samaritan and Mt. Vernon Township High School), et al.

The number of hours he has spent at RLC in a part-time role would put comparisons to many full-timers to shame.

So, for the record, he was here 22 years full-time, officially. Let's get real. The total might as well be 48 years – 1967-68 through 2016 (and counting), minus one. Not to mention Mt. Vernon Community College before that; he first signed up for part-time college teaching duties in 1963. Stick around until 2014 – he did, and he still is – and he can celebrate a Golden Anniversary – 50 years – as a Junior/Community College Educator for MVCC/RLC.

Longtime colleague and equally respected English Instructor Luchsinger continued to share her wealth of knowledge beyond her retirement, as long as health permitted.

Later, Faculty members who thought they were ready to retire but realized they were not prepared to quit cold turkey were able to continue teaching part-time with distinguished Emeritus rank.

Count Accounting/Economics Professor

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Grade schoolers need help: RLC volunteers to the rescue

JULY 1997

When Dr. Barbara Luchsinger, a lifelong resident of northern Jefferson County, was made aware of educational needs at nearby Grand Prairie Elementary School, she was concerned enough to take action. Achievement levels were lower than desired. "My experiences let me know test scores do not necessarily reflect the caliber of the school," she said, alluding to "wide ranges in student backgrounds and economics."

The English Instructor addressed the issue with Dr. John Homan, Arts and Communications Chair, who recommended she voice those concerns to an individual with a reputation for problem-solving, Rex Duncan. With administrative approval, soon thereafter it was Duncan & Friends to the rescue. A "College for Kids Road Show" became a reality for eight Grand Prairie students who accepted the offer for free summer school, concentrating on language arts and math skills.

Lyndy Girtten assumed the role of lead teacher for a volunteer group representing four RLC programs. There were two classes per day for five days, with a receptive audience of first- through sixth-graders. Other volunteers were Sandy Shook, Dee Russell, Lisa Price, Barbara Bauernfeind, Joan Long, Jana Groh, Jeanie Mitchell, Julie Mumbower, Cindy Sniderwin and Duncan. Participants received Honorary RLC Student certificates signed by President Mark S. Kern, as well as an improved chance of succeeding the next time testing was scheduled.



LRC's Patton: No one better turning parts into computers

APRIL 1998

Isn't it amazing what you can learn about someone the last few days/weeks you work with them that was information you were not privy to for years and years?

Thanks to last week's going away reception for four retirees and personal insights from some of their closest friends on-campus, we now know this about Director of Learning Resources Dave Patton . . .

Patton, when he departs after 30 years on the scene (he dates back to the old church library in Mt. Vernon), will take with him half the alphabet considering his involvement in SICCM, DYNIX, SIRIN, SILRC and NILRC.

"Nobody," says his friend, Bob Ross, "is better than Dave making (whole) computers out of parts."

Patton will be visiting China for a month soon after his retirement. But will he leave behind that aquarium in his office that is "always full of water but has had nothing else (living) in it for years."

"He will be missed," Ross added. "I really thought he would out last this institution; he is as old as dirt."

On a more serious note, Ross also pointed out many of Patton's accomplishments – writing/receiving the first Distance Learning Grant; implementing telecourses and satellite video-conferences, and helping to develop the first Internet lab on-campus. He was a recent recipient of one of the first Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM) "Pioneer Award."

Larry Sidwell (2003-07) and Welding Technology Professor Dave Smith (2009-present) among those who attained Emeritus rank.

Give them credit for the extra Emeritus years, and you could add two more to the 30-Year Club.

Other staffers are doing the same, with little fanfare, following retirement.

Ed Ruffino wore many hats in a 25-year career – 1984-2009 – entering as part of the Early School Leaver program and departing as Director of the STARS (Student Transfer and Retention Support) program.

After sitting out the required amount of time following his retirement, he returned later in 2009 to familiar surroundings.

Think Rend Lake College is a good place to work?

Ask 1996 "Outstanding Staff" recipient Carl Helverson. He worked as a Custodian from 1970-76, left and returned nine years later, putting in 20 more years between 1985 and his retirement in 2005. He spent more time on the Ina campus than most, considering he also helped on-site during Phase I construction.

Janette Aaron was a beloved Bookkeeper in the Business Office from 1974-81. Six years later, she chose to return as Cooperative Education and Job Placement Secretary.

David Vinyard directed RLC's educational program at Menard Correctional Center in 1988-90, left and then was lured back to perform similar duties at Big Muddy River Correctional Center, 1993-97. His next move was across the street (highway) to become RLC's Director of Counseling.

Three years between college employment likewise was the gap for others, like Pam Allen and Connie Ruffino.

Vocational-Technical Dean Carroll Turner and "Outstanding Staff" honoree Brenda Garvin also come to mind among those who took a brief break before returning.

Nor should we forget Vice President of Finance and Administration Bob Carlock, who a couple of years before earmarked January 2008 as his time to head for greener pastures – golf courses and horse racing tracks – only to be beckoned back by a new President and the Board of Trustees to guide the college through a possible financial minefield in Summer 2010, almost 2 1/2 years later. He remained a key member of the leadership group through yet a third President through Fiscal Year 2013 before exiting for Retirement - The Sequel.

Good enough for one generation good enough for the next? Apparently so.

"Outstanding Staff" designee Betty Herbert, who served the Nursing / Allied Health Department as its Secretary / Administrative Assistant from 1971-95, was known for including Rend Lake College sweatshirts in her holiday giving packages for family members.

Among the recipients: Daughter-in-law and namesake Betty Jo Herbert, a part-time instructor for a number of years before joining the full-time Associate Degree Nursing faculty in 2006.

Kathleen Kelley was called by the first and only Dean (at the time), Dr. Howard Rawlinson, to be his Administrative Assistant and continued in that capacity with Dr. Philip Ward from 1967-76. Son Bob Kelley, a Rend Lake College freshman when the doors first opened in 1967, served as Director of Marketing / Public Information for 27 years, beginning in 1979.

Agriculture, Automotive and Architectural Department Chair Doug Leeck (1975-97) left us way too soon (see the section on RLC tragedies that follows). A tuition waiver was granted for use by his son, Henry "Buster" Leeck. To the delight of everyone, Buster took advantage of that opportunity to graduate from his late father's alma mater and workplace (Class of 2000), then returned to follow in those big footsteps as a full-time Rend Lake College History Instructor (2004-08) and Division Chair / Dean (2008-present).

Both Mother (Sharon LeMay Richardson) and Son (Nicholas LeMay) were employed by the college from 2007-13 and even worked at the same site, the RLC Market-Place in Mt. Vernon. That was when recent graduate LeMay was named Small Business Development Center Assistant Director.

As for Richardson, she was a valued contributor to a myriad of grant-funded programs from 1989-2013. She began as Jobs Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Client Service Center Counselor (through 1998) and concluded as a Subsidized Child Care Specialist with the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) program (since 2011).

In between, she was Teen Parent Services Case Manager (1998-2005; 2006-11); In-Focus Coordinator (2004); Counselor (2005-06), and Upward Bound Advisor (2010-11).

[Fellow JTPA Counselor David Warner might not be able to match her for the number of job titles held during the same stretch,

but he might hold the record for the most number of offices/buildings occupied during his tenure – North Oasis 150, NO 148, South Oasis 113 and Tech 114, all with JTPA; SO 154 as AmeriCorps Member Support Coordinator; back to ATC 114 as Director of IWA Southern Seven AmeriCorps; ATC 109, Student Center 208 and back to ATC 109, all as Director of Land of Lincoln/Southern Seven AmeriCorps.

That is nine different locations, and we may have missed some.]

Beth Mandrell (1999-) and Daughter Kara Mandrell (2000-02) likewise spent time on campus together.

And there have been at least two sets of siblings – the Drone sisters, Julie Oxford (1987-) and Jan Johnston (1996-99), and the Duff girls, Jean Huie (1989-) and Jill Colvin (1978-79, 1980-88) – and sisters-in-law Cynthia Hamilton (1993-98) and Nancy Kinsey (1997-2001).

Staff has experienced and shared tragedy over the years, as one might expect within a large family. To wit:

- Controller Andrea K. (Colp) Boucher (1992-2003) left us way too early, at age 36, when a weekend motorcycle accident brought an abrupt halt to a beautiful life.

The Andrea K. Boucher Memorial Scholarship lives on, endowed by husband David, family, friends and colleagues, making a college education an affordable reality for a Rend Lake College student annually.

In her tribute to Andrea, scholarship contributor Angie Kistner began . . . “I first met Andrea when she came to work at Rend Lake College. In the 11 years we worked together, Andrea was at first a co-worker, then an acquaintance, eventually my supervisor and, most importantly, my friend.

“Like so many other people, I was blessed because Andrea was a part of my life. There are no words I could find to really be able to express to others the many, many ways she touched my life and the lives of so many others.

“In our office, like in so many other work places, we are more like family than friends. We share both the good and bad times in each other’s lives . . .”

- Welding Instructor John Fertaly (1980-95) was forced to give up his position as Faculty Union President the previous fall and eventually his teaching position, but he never gave up his positive, upbeat attitude before succumbing to cancer March 3, 1995 at age 45.

Even while battling the disease that eventually got the best of him, the Vietnam veteran agreed to co-chair the “Generations of Excellence” in-house capital campaign, along with Jim Waugh.

Fighting back his emotions, Fertaly told an In-Service audience of his peers, “A group of people working together can accomplish a whole lot more than talented individuals working alone,” he said then. Outsiders “need to know we are interested in making an investment in ourselves. It is very important that we show that solidarity, that commitment.”

Ninety-eight percent of Rend Lake College’s full-time faculty and staff contributed.

- Two years later, a heart attack snatched another popular, 45-year-old instructor (and AAA Department Chair) from our midst. Following the sudden March 6, 1997 death of Doug Leeck, a crowd estimated at 1,200 came to the funeral home in a show of love and respect for the fun-loving jokester, serious-minded educator.

- Custodian Rose Ann Mick was on her way home from her third-shift custodial job the morning of May 18, 1993 when the 63-year-old employee died in an automobile accident. An oncoming car had struck or forced two other vehicles off the road before hitting Mick, who had pulled to the side of the road in an attempt to avoid being hit.

- Counseling Secretary Paula Tate (1984-94) died December 7, 1994 at age 52, approximately two months after cancer was discovered and began taking her away from the job she loved . . . working with students. Counseling Director and close friend Sara Davenport was responsible for helping start a scholarship in Tate’s honor for possible use by her five grandchildren.

- The youngest daughter of Jim and Lila Waugh, Jane Waugh, died from injuries suffered in a one-car accident within a mile of



Counselor Tomek ready; full-size life raft in office

SPRING 1973

Faculty and staff offices quite often take on a personality of their own. But suffice to say, no one ever had a more unique conversation piece adorning his or her campus space than Counselor Barbara Tomek.

On the top of her bookshelves she kept a full-size life raft.

It seems during Phase II construction on the Ina campus Tomek observed a surveyor placing a mark at the roof level of the Science Building. When she questioned the worker, the RLC Counselor was informed, “This marks the flood level.”

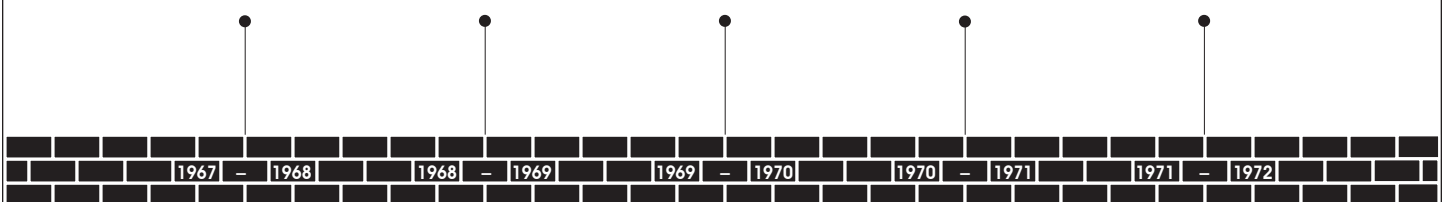
Paranoid of what the worst-case scenario might mean? Or merely as a joke to get visitors’ attention? Perhaps the truth was somewhere in-between.

Nevertheless, a nearby instructor brought a paddle for the lifeboat. He was prepared to accompany her in the escape attempt, if necessary.

If only he had known . . . it was a one-person raft.

[A sidebar to a sidebar:

Tomek never needed to use her lifeboat during her time on-campus (1969-80), but she did spend two months one summer helping save lives by working for a walk-in Methadone withdrawal clinic in Jackson, MI.]





Golliher-Hallam put Fear into state presentation

MARCH 2005

Adult Education and Family Literacy Coordinator Vickie Golliher and Workforce Training Coordinator Yvonne Hallam made a presentation last November at the Southern Illinois Professional Development Group Conference. It went over so well, according to their supervisor, the duo was invited to make an encore performance at an upcoming state conference.

Their next appearance, Director of Adult Education and Family Literacy Jay Brooks indicated, will come at the 26th annual statewide assembly of the Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association March 9-11 in Springfield. This year's theme is "Between the Rivers . . . The Adventures of Illinois Adult Educators."

Golliher and Hallam will present "Fear Factor: Facing Employment Anxiety with Resilience for Job Success," a type of spoof on the television show, Fear Factor. The presentation will be an interactive, hands-on learning activity that will engage participants in a discussion of job fears and anxiety. Topics include how to overcome fears of job interviews, résumé writing, communication/body language, career assessments and more.



Spotanski's retirement produces a hole-in-one

F.Y.I. AUGUST 24, 1998

Retired Physical Plant Director Leroy Spotanski recorded a hole-in-one July 25 at Red Hawk Country Club near Pinckneyville. Spotanski used a five-iron on the 151-yard, par-3 10th hole. It was witnessed by Bill Atcheson and Virgil Robinson.

the Waugh home on Illinois Highway 142.

Jane's son, Dakota, was adopted by the Waugh's other daughter, Cathy and Bryan Sponsler. A memorial scholarship was established in her behalf by the Waughs, Bill and Mary Roe and others.

• Ron Smith, the husband of Dean of Student Services Pam Smith, was killed in a hang-gliding accident September 10, 1992.

• Donna Picklesimer, 28, was on her way to work as Manager of the college's Cafeteria for Martin's Food Service of Benton when she lost control of her car on icy roads on Illinois 37, was thrown from the vehicle into Rend Lake and died the morning of November 7, 1991.

The accident occurred within a mile or two of campus. She was in her second year overseeing the food service operation.

LIBRARY CONFERENCE ▶

Governor-Elect selects Bauernfeind to represent Illinois in White House

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. JANUARY 22-27, 1991

Rend Lake College will have a representative in the White House this summer.

Literacy Project Coordinator Barbara Bauernfeind received her official invitation last week to be one of 24 distinguished delegates to represent Illinois at the White House Conference on Library and Information Services July 9-13 in Washington, DC.

In a letter from Governor-Elect Jim Edgar, in his official capacity as Secretary of State and State Librarian, Bauernfeind was informed, "The White House Conference is a significant event for libraries throughout the country and will focus important national attention on libraries and information services.

"More than 900 voting delegates and non-voting alternates, as well as a number of observers, will convene to discuss future public policies regarding all types of libraries and information services. The conference will also present a challenging opportunity for our state to take a leadership role at the national level and to bring to the forefront the issues and concerns of Illinois."

Continued Edgar in his letter to Bauernfeind: "The Illinois delegation must be committed to improving libraries and information in Illinois; must be articulate about the Illinois information agenda and must be effective in group process techniques and parliamentary procedures.

"You have been selected because of your outstanding qualifications in these areas, as

well as your valuable contributions during the Illinois Pre-White House Conference activities."

Bauernfeind has been Literacy Coordinator at Rend Lake College since August 1988. The following year, she received the Literacy Award from the Southern Illinois Reading Council for "outstanding contributions" to literacy efforts in the area.

DUQUOIN STATE FAIR ▶ Acting naturally: RLC staff deemed 'Friendliest' and 'Most Courteous'

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. SEPTEMBER 14-20, 1998

You are to be commended for just being yourself.

On Thursday (September 10), six days into the DuQuoin State Fair, the volunteers and hard workers whose efforts make the Rend Lake College booth such a huge success each year were rewarded for their efforts by being officially recognized as the "Friendliest" and "Most Courteous" for 1998.

And all we did, as Ringo Starr and the Beatles once urged, was to "Act Naturally."

"We felt we have been (the friendliest and most courteous) the last few years. It is nice to be noticed," commented Rex Duncan, shortly after receiving notification of the award from the RLC Fair Committee supervisor on duty that morning, Jeannie Mitchell.

Mitchell just as quickly got on WQRL Radio, broadcasting nearby, and let others know of the accomplishment.

Coordinator Elaine Johnson and Duncan head up a group which includes approximately 15 committee members and 125-plus willing, smiling (i.e., friendly, courteous) staff volunteers and several other spouses, children, et al.

"The award is a reflection on the quality and character of the staff we have at Rend Lake College, I believe," Duncan said.

"It also is an indication of what students can expect when they come to school at Rend Lake College. The friendliness and courtesy on display at the fair isn't fake. It's real. The award is a tribute to a great staff . . . and well-deserved."

P.S. A quote from a John A. Logan administrator who shall remain anonymous: "You guys are embarrassing us with the number of balloons and fans you are getting in the hands of people."



Rend Lake College administrators hosted a reception Tuesday, September 29, at the Rend Lake Resort Restaurant for those volunteers who helped make the RLC Booth the award-winning "Friendliest" and "Most Courteous" at the recent DuQuoin State Fair.

Elaine Johnson was singled out for her efforts in coordinating the annual 10-day activity which involves well over 100 individuals. She, in turn, passed on the praise to other members of her DuQuoin State Fair Committee.

According to President Mark S. Kern's memo announcing the reception, "The college greatly appreciates the efforts of all the people who were involved in making our exhibit at the DuQuoin State Fair a great success. It takes a lot of hours and effort on the part of many people to be able to have an exhibit at the fair."

[In praising the accomplishment to RLC Trustees at their Board meeting September 15, Kern described the honor as a "pretty good feat that is a credit to our staff."]

GROW-OUR-OWN PILOT PROGRAM ▶ Model Emerging Leaders Institute tells participants 'you are important'

REND LAKE COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY 2007

An idea from Interim Dean of Student Services Mary Bornheimer has reached an amazing plateau. Her pilot leadership program has become a model for other colleges and businesses nationwide.

Select Rend Lake College faculty and staff members participated in a nine-month training program called the RLC Emerging Leaders Institute, which enables participants to collectively consider the concept of leadership and develop individual leadership skills. Presentations, assessments, panel interviews, discussions and book studies on leadership topics were utilized.

The President's Cabinet, consisting of top-level administrators at RLC, selected 14 individuals at the college who they considered to have leadership potential.

RLC President Mark S. Kern indicated one aspect which made the Emerging Leaders Institute a strength for the college was

the quality of those chosen combined with participation from outside sources, including most of Rend Lake College's upper administration.

"I believe when top-level administrators participate we are sending two messages – we think *this* is important and we think *you* are important," Kern said.

Speakers from outside the college were invited to supplement the program, including Leadership Consultant Bill McCoy, Management Speaker (and stand-up comedian) Casey McNeal and State Farm Insurance Executive Robert Bornheimer.

Another group of 10-13 employees will begin a new ELI round in the fall, and the current group will be offered an Advanced Emerging Leaders Institute.

"It is challenging to find leaders for a community college, so we took the approach to grow our own leaders from within," commented Bornheimer. "This way, we know we will have another generation of leaders in the next few years."

"We think the Rend Lake College Emerging Leaders Institute will be used as a model for other community colleges and businesses. It is one of the first of its kind in the nation. We think it has been very successful and we will work to expand on that success."

MINING DEPT. CHAIR ▶ Evilsizer leaves RLC to accept role as State Director of Mines/Minerals

BENTON EVENING NEWS MARCH 29, 1977

Bradley Evilsizer, Chairman of the Department of Mining Technology at Rend Lake College, was named today by Gov. James R. Thompson as the Director of the Department of Mines and Minerals.

Evilsizer, 39, of Christopher, is a former coal miner and has been associated with Rend Lake College since 1974, the Governor's Office said.

From 1964 to 1973 he was employed by the Freeman Coal Mining Corp., in positions ranging from Trainee to Maintenance Instructor.

He also was a former Corrections Officer at Stateville Penitentiary at Joliet.



Minor major achiever: Top 100 National Typist

JULY 1998

Cindy Minor, Assistant to the President, achieved the ranking of Certified Professional Secretary (CPS) by Professional Secretaries International – The Association for Office Professionals. In addition to verification of educational and secretarial employment experience, the rating was attained by passing a demanding, one-day, three-part test of skills.

Minor scored in the 99th percentile of all those taking the exam in the Office Systems and Administration Section.

In April, Minor demonstrated she was one of the Top 100 participants in a National Typing Contest conducted by the OPAC (Office Proficiency Assessment and Certification) System during Professional Secretaries Week. She did so by typing 101 words per minute on the computerized OPAC Skills Testing.

Minor has been Assistant to the President since 1994. She also serves as recording secretary for the RLC Board of Trustees and is responsible for overseeing the 32-person Office Support Staff on-campus and filling the role of Title III Coordinator for a five-year, \$1.6 million Strengthening Institutions Federal Grant project.



Night Custodian Mick struck, killed going home

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. JUNE 1993
Rend Lake College lost one of its highly valued-unsung employees May 18 when Rose Ann Mick, 63, died as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident which occurred as she was returning home from her job as a third-shift custodian.

According to reports, the driver of the other auto either hit or forced two cars off the road before crossing the center line and hitting Mick, who had pulled over in an attempt to avoid the oncoming vehicle.

Mick, who did her job while the majority of those who work on campus slept (11 p.m.-7 a.m.), was responsible for cleaning the Administration Building, among other duties.

Survivors include her husband of 42 years, Wallace Mick, daughters Laura Ellis and Judy Mick and son Larry Mick.



Turner presented Foster Award for Public Service

AUGUST 1990
Vocational-Technical Education Dean Carroll Turner was recipient of the Larry E. Foster Award for Outstanding Public Service, as presented by Gov. James Thompson on behalf of the Rend Lake Conservancy District. RLCD Chief Foster said of Turner, "Carroll is an outstanding citizen of Southern Illinois who always strives for the betterment of the people of the area, often times with little or no recognition."



Custodial employees vote to leave Laborers Union

BOARD MINUTES FEBRUARY 21, 1989
Custodial employees voted February 3 to decertify the Laborers Union as representative for 12 college individuals.

Evilsizer succeeds another Franklin County resident, Russell T. Dawe of Valier, in the \$30,000 yearly position.

When Evilsizer joined the Rend Lake College staff 3 1/2 years ago he was the first, and only, Mining Instructor at the school. Since then he has seen the Mining education program grow from its one classroom to a present program which has an enrollment of nearly 500 full-time Mining Technology students, while more than 3,000 persons have taken part in specialized training programs co-sponsored and co-funded by coal companies.

The appointment of Evilsizer has been expected. He was one of two men, according to the Governor's Office, who were "in the running" for the appointment since Thompson took office.

In a pre-appointment interview, Evilsizer indicated he felt there is a need for a better evaluative procedure for qualifying state Mine Inspectors. He also said there is a need to upgrade teaching techniques for various job classifications such as Mine Examiners and Hoisting Engineers.

Since the appointment is for the less than two years remaining in the Thompson term, Evilsizer said he would attempt to secure a leave of absence from his Rend Lake College post.

Since he has been connected with the college Mining Department from its start, Evilsizer takes pride in its record and declares, "It has yet to reach its peak."

He said the program will grow because of the need for more training and re-training in Mine Technology. He pointed out that more than 90 per cent of the student graduates have been placed in the mining field. The ones who did not take jobs in the coal industry, he said, are generally ones who did not want them because they were self-employed or were students who planned to continue their education.

"With the quality of people I was able to recruit for the teaching," he said, "we've been able to turn out the kind of product that industry wanted."

Evilsizer is a native of Christopher and attended grade and high school there, as well as going to the VTI Division of Southern Illinois University.

His wife, Mary Ann, is a teacher in the Christopher Grade Schools. They have a son, Brian, a high school freshman, and a daughter, Melody, 12.

MAY 1977

Brad Evilsizer was granted a leave of absence without pay from his position as Rend Lake College Mining Technology Department Chair to accept an appointment as the new State Director for the Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals.

Evilsizer worked in the coal-mining industry for 10 years and for a mining service company previously. He also boasts a comparable number of years of experience related to mining technology classroom/lab instruction and administration.

Evilsizer's father worked Franklin County coal seams for 43 years and was injured on the job. The state appointee himself started working the third shift at Freeman No. 4 Mine, later becoming a Mine Examiner, Maintenance Foreman and Electrical Engineer.

TRAINING / DEVELOPMENT ▶ Bauernfeind, B. Davenport, Kuberski meet Leadership Academy standards

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. DECEMBER 20, 1999

Three members of the Rend Lake College administrative team – Interim Dean of Instruction Barbara Bauernfeind and Department Chairs Barb Davenport and Chris Kuberski – have recently completed successfully and met the program competencies of the year-long Academy for Leadership Training and Development.

"The energy, time and commitment demonstrated by these three educators in pursuit of their leadership goals is to be admired and appreciated," said Gary L. Filan, Executive Director for The Academy.

The training program was created in conjunction with the Chair Academy in Mesa, AZ, for the purpose of advancing organizational leadership in community and technical colleges.

The program includes an initial week of on-site, skills-based training; a practicum experience involving implementation of an individualized, professional development plan focusing on the application of skills learned during training and a final week of on-site training consisting of additional leadership issues.

During the practicum experience, leaders from across the country also participated in Reflective Practice and Journaling in order to record their thoughts, insights and reflections of what they were experiencing and learning in relationship to the leadership topics presented during the first week as well as their job overall.

Some of those topics included strategic and scenario planning, diversity, performance evaluation and technology.

"Your people participated in an extensive process to transform their leadership skills," Filan told RLC President Mark S. Kern in a letter of acknowledgment.

Participants must be nominated by their colleges and selected to attend. Participants are eligible to receive professional certification through the Chair Academy.

**'CHAIR ACADEMY' ▶
Billingsley, Dill develop skills, work with mentor during training, internship**

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. AUGUST 26, 2002

Rend Lake College Department Chairs Ed Billingsley and William Dill recently completed the widely recognized Leadership Training and Development program.

Billingsley heads up the RLC Applied Sciences Department, previously known as the AAA Department for Agriculture, Automotive and Architecture, while Dill is responsible for the Advanced Technology Department, formerly Mining and Industrial Technology.

The purpose of the "Chair Academy" is threefold: provide skill training for leaders in community colleges, encourage leaders to work with a mentor during a year-long internship and develop future leaders for community colleges. Designed for employees who are in or aspire to leadership positions in community colleges, the Academy is a two-week program over two years.

According to Billingsley, the two were required to keep a journal and turn in various reports throughout the year.

"The most valuable things we learned were the different leadership and management styles one should consider before making decisions," Billingsley said. It also was helpful to learn how to respond to and how to work with the various types of personalities, he added.

During the first week of the Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP), participants reflect on the information presented and consider how to apply the knowledge to their individual position

and responsibilities. For each module, participants establish specific objectives for an IPDP.

During the one-year practicum which follows, participants practice, reflect and record interpersonal behaviors and interactions to foster an awareness of their chosen objectives and their progress in meeting them.

The leadership program also capitalizes on the use of mentors. The mentor's role includes understanding individual objectives, suggesting strategies for successful attainment of them and providing resources and opportunities for professional growth. The mentor should also give honest praise and advice, being confidential and accessible and removing obstacles to success, if possible.

Dr. Homer Cissell, former Dean of Instruction, served as the mentor for both Billingsley and Dill. Cissell recently left to accept the President's position at Lassen Community College in Susanville, CA.

Selection of a mentor is entirely up to the individual. It is important participants select a colleague who they believe can best fill the role of mentor during the practicum.

The Academy uses two pre- and post-assessments to measure changes in leadership behavior over the year. The Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire (Bass and Avolio, 1991) is designed to measure transformational leadership traits, while the Leadership Skills Perception Survey assesses the program competencies as perceived by the participant and four colleagues. Participants will submit mid-year and final reflection reports documenting their application of the skills and principles learned throughout the year-long practicum.

Nine hours of graduate credit towards a Masters or a Doctoral program is available to participants who have completed the Academy.

**ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT ▶
Nevious: From humble and hard beginnings to leadership position**

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN MAY 19, 2002
STEVE BINDER, REPORTER

When he should have been in kindergar-



Beasley addresses nursing shortage at Hospital Forum

MARCH 2005

Dr. Sharon Beasley, RLC Allied Health Division Chair, spoke March 4 at the Illinois Hospital Association Regions 4-5 Healthcare Workforce Forum for Southern Illinois regarding educational aspects of the nation's nursing shortage. "The biggest shortage is nursing faculty . . . the nurses who teach nurses," Beasley said. She explained nurses must have a Master's Degree in order to teach.

The forum identified challenges to healthcare occupation education in Southern Illinois and enhanced partnerships between colleges, hospitals, clinical settings and government entities.

According to her research, Bachelor's Degree and graduate programs turned away 15,944 nursing applicants nationwide in 2003-04 due to a lack of faculty, clinical sites, classroom space, clinical preceptors and budget restraints. Nurses qualified to teach are often lured away by the clinical sector. The average national salary for a Nurse Practitioner is \$80,000; \$93,000 for a Director. Assistant Professors of Nursing average \$55,000.



Secretarial, Clerical staff salary schedule created

BOARD MINUTES MAY 1969

A Secretarial and Clerical Employee Salary Schedule was established, based on number of years of experience. The range was set at \$3,150 to \$7,087.50.

OUTSTANDING STAFF

BETTY HERBERT
Allied Health
"Outstanding Staff" / '81

ROSEMARY CARNES
Business Office
"Outstanding Staff" / '82

1977 - 1978

1978 - 1979

1979 - 1980

1980 - 1981

1981 - 1982



Jones one of three to get Minority 'Service Award'

FEBRUARY 1998

Project First Class Coordinator Camille Jones was one of three persons saluted when the Mt. Vernon Minority Affairs and Human Relations Committee presented its first Black History Month "Service Awards."

The plaque, embellished by the official city seal, states: "The Minority Affairs and Human Relations Commission, in conjunction with Black History Month, proudly presents this Community Service Award to Ms. Camille Jones. This award acknowledges your outstanding leadership and commitment in fostering and promoting an appreciation of minority achievements and contributions to the betterment of our community and society." It was signed by Mayor Mark Terry and the Rev. Hubie Downey, MAHRC Chair.

Recognized along with Jones February 26 during ceremonies in the Mt. Vernon Township High School Auditorium were Cleo Holt, District 80 Head Start Superintendent, and Volunteer A. P. Petties.

Jones had other reasons to be proud. Some of her "Project First Class" students – Jenise Green, Larry Holt, Jillian Mays, D.J. Spells and Nicole Washington – claimed the Theme Award for their contribution, "Let Us Grow and Be Strong Together." The theme will help guide the work of the commission throughout the year.



Jones, who has directed the successful Project First Class grant program since 1989, also was honored as "Outstanding Educational Leader" by the African-American community and Lively Stone Apostolic Church on February 22.

ten, William "Butch" Nevious was propped on a bar stool. His alcoholic father used Butch, and his knack for solving math problems, to win free beer from bartenders.

When he should have been in the first grade, Butch stood inside an empty funeral home – alone, except for his dead mother. His father dropped him off, and showed up hours later drunk.

When he should have been entering the fourth grade, Butch instead was placed into an orphanage in Williamson County.

No family, little hope. That was Butch's start.

Today, he's a college President in New Hampshire.

How did he get there? Perseverance.

This is the story of a man who never gave up, even after several missteps.

He went from being a hobo as a young child, living in an orphanage, flunking out of college on his first try. He's divorced, now remarried. He went from playing drums in a popular band that almost rivaled the Beatles, to building washing machines, to taking pictures for a newspaper, to running his own marketing company, to teaching college students.

Now he's a President.

For this, he credits Fred and Ruth Cooper, the Christopher couple who became his foster parents.

Butch returned recently to Southern Illinois and revisited many of the places that made up his childhood. His adopted parents' home. The orphanage where he was abandoned.

As he returned to that orphanage, he came to grips with his past, using his time here to know his doors will never close again.

The path to a presidency . . .

He sits at the head of the table, or rather, a group of folding tables pushed together to form a makeshift conference setting.

It is the second floor of the White Pines College administration building in Chester, NH, formerly a home that dates back to the early 1800s.

William "Butch" Nevious, dressed in a dark blue suit coat, gray V-neck sweater and yellow bow tie, calls the meeting to order. It is one of his first for the college's cabinet of top administrators. Nevious oversees them all.

He's President William Nevious, and he looks the part.

But how he got to this point in his life

befuddles even him at times. To a stranger, it is mind-boggling.

His most recent barrier: Kidney cancer in May 2001, followed by surgery, followed three months later by gall bladder failure that shut down his remaining kidney. His second surgery started about the time the second plane slammed into the World Trade Center on September 11.

He feels healthy now, and he awaits a battery of follow-up tests to see if he remains cancer-free one year later.

This is vintage Butch.

Physically, he's a mere 5 feet 4. But you don't have to be a giant to have spirit and perseverance. His life will fill a book someday, because of the roads he has traveled, and how he traveled them.

There have been dead ends. Twists and turns. Uphill climbs. He has handled them all, with some help, and his life now is centered squarely on family and helping others reach their potential.

The road to hell

Butch Nevious' first strike against him likely came before he was born on July 8, 1947.

His father, Bill, was stationed in the Philippines in World War II, and when he was sent back injured he met his wife, Lillian Campilli, at a USO in California.

Lillian Campilli volunteered and served food and drinks to soldiers. Bill Nevious originally was from Southern Illinois, and the couple moved back to the area before Butch was born.

Butch's memory of his early years is sketchy, recalling that the family moved a couple of times, including to Peoria. He adored his mother. He wasn't as close to his father, Butch says.

He knew enough to know that the war took its toll on his father, and his dad became an alcoholic. His mother, meanwhile, developed unusual health problems, excessive coughing and vomiting.

She died when Butch was 5.

It crushed him.

"I loved my mother, I know that," he said in his temporary residence earlier this year in New Hampshire. He was fighting back tears, telling his life story to a reporter he has known only hours and a photographer he has known for years.

"There's no doubt that I was convinced from the very first moment that he was responsible for my mother dying.

"I remember in the funeral home, I was

5, almost 6, I was sitting there for anyone to show up for visitation the night before she was buried. These are all visions I have, and he wasn't there. My mother's dead, and he's not there," Butch recalled.

"Then I remember him coming through the door of the funeral home, and he was drunk. Staggering across the room, yelling and screaming, 'She's not dead, son, she's going to get up real soon here.' That was an event I never got out of my mind," he continued. "From that point on I was absolutely convinced that she died because it was his fault. That's as clear as yesterday is."

A clear future

As members of his White Pines College cabinet discuss plans for the upcoming academic year, Butch looks content. He smiles often and jokes with his fellow administrators that *The Southern* is doing a story about his life, and that they should watch some of their word choices.

He took over as President of this private New Hampshire fine arts college with 150 students in January.

It is nestled among towering hardwoods and homes that line the area's two-lane roads; some of the colonial-style residences date back to the late 1700s.

Butch agreed to be interviewed for this newspaper project, in part because he recognized it afforded him the chance to reflect on his life in more detail. At the urging of his wife, Kristen, he began jotting down notes about his life. He keeps them locked in a safe in his home, and she hasn't seen them yet.

He has told only his wife some of the most sensitive memories; not even his oldest daughter, Christina, was aware of some aspects of her father's early life.

"Kristen is the only one in the world who knows all of these things. If anything, this whole process will be a form of therapy for me."

As his seven colleagues talk about the coming semester's catalogue, Butch skillfully navigates the group past a potential roadblock. He gets two administrators talking about a problem, how to solve it, and the

group moves on.

It isn't his first presidency. Nevios came to White Pines after leading Reinhardt College in Waleska, GA, outside Atlanta, for about two years.

Jean Servello, one of White Pines' administrators and a member of the search team to hire a new president, says Butch stood out.

"Right away, he just opened up about his health. And I said, this man is honest, absolutely honest. Then when he got on the phone, the way he handled himself, he just rose like cream to the top.

"He has the energy, he has the background, he knows how to go from nothing to 100 in one fell swoop. He knew exactly what he wanted to do with our college and how to get there. You don't get sidetracked with him, the minute you get sidetracked, he whips in and makes a decision."

Hitting the streets

After his mother died, Butch and his father became hobos. For four years his father didn't work, and they hitched rides on anything from freight trains to trucks to cars.

They crisscrossed the country.

It became a road to hatred for Butch, hatred for his father.

"He was a sick man. I do recall a couple of times later that he would get mad when I brought his drinking up. I do recall family members, including his own mother, saying he tried to check into a VA Hospital on a couple of occasions for his alcoholism," Butch said. "He'd be fine for a month, then next thing you know he's back down that same road again."

It wasn't until years later that Butch learned his father was wounded in the war. He took shrapnel in the back. Letters he wrote, saved by his grandmother, included references of him hoping he never had to come back to a place like the Philippines and war.

"I don't know for sure what he went through," Butch said. "My father may have turned to alcohol because he never could deal with his experience in the war.

"I can honestly tell you that I hated him,



Heritage Award for activism to Project First Class leader

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. JUNE 2000

"Project First Class" Coordinator Camille Jones of Rend Lake College was one of six area residents recognized Saturday, June 10, by the Jefferson County African American Heritage Committee at its Second Annual Gala Dinner.

"Remembering the Past and Shaping the Future" was the theme for the event, held at the Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn.

The honorees, who come from all different walks of life, were presented with Heritage Awards based on their community activism . . . "being a dedicated community member and for making a difference in the community."

They are "just people making a difference," Committee Member Albert Cain told a reporter for the *Morning Sentinel*. Whether they are educators, business people or involved community members, they all can be described as "people doing a good job," Cain added.

Jones has directed the HECA Grant project in Mt. Vernon since 1989. It encourages and provides support for students – minorities, in particular – to stay in school, do well and continue through college.

Also saluted were Mary Ellen Futransky, Director of the Mt. Vernon Convention and Visitor's Bureau; businessman John Kendrick; A.P. Petties, longtime Mt. Vernon resident devoted to improving the community; Tena Mitchell, very involved in youth activities, and Rev. James Gordon.

OUTSTANDING STAFF

JERRI RUEMLER
Vocational-Technical
"Outstanding Staff" / '83

JEAN ESTES
President's Secretary
"Outstanding Staff" / '84

JIM PEEPLES
Maintenance
"Outstanding Staff" / '85

JILL COLVIN
Business Department
"Outstanding Staff" / '86

SHERRY SOMERS
Business Office
"Outstanding Staff" / '87

1982 - 1983

1983 - 1984

1984 - 1985

1985 - 1986

1986 - 1987



Assistant Carnes worked with five Business bosses

SEPTEMBER 1994

President Mark S. Kern emphasized her penchant for accuracy in praising retiring Bookstore Assistant Rosemary Carnes at a reception in her honor.

Kern noted "her tremendous service to the college over a long period of time (26 years)" and pointed out she had broken in four previous Business Managers – Paul Fitch, Skip Witunski, Bob Spuhler and Ron Appuhn. (She also worked under current Dean for Finance and Administration Bob Carlock in the Business Resource and Assistance Center.)

Her last official date of service was October 31, 1994.



Rend Lake College ... Not for everyone?

Rend Lake College has had its share of 20-, 25- and 30-year employees. Even a 35-year honoree (Ag Instructor-Department Chair-Dean-President Mark S. Kern) and a loyal, 35-year Trustee (Marvin W. Scott). But is it possible Rend Lake College is not for everyone? Consider former Pentagon employee Gerald H. Buchanan.

He spent 12 years in government Public Relations, the last five at the Pentagon under the Secretary of the Army as General Manager for 323 Army newspapers worldwide. The University of Mississippi graduate was only a dissertation away from earning his Master's Degree from American University in Washington, D.C.

Named RLC Public Information Officer in January 1979, the friend of Vince Cain did not come on board until after the February Board meeting, and his resignation was accepted at the May 15 meeting.

not only because of what he was doing to me, but because it became a way of life," he continued. "I also remember sitting in bars. And I'm not sure exactly how this happened, but apparently even at that early age I was very good at math. So we'd be sitting at the bar, and he would run out of money, and he would bet somebody at the bar that, 'Hey, my little kid here can do a math problem.' I'd always get it right and he'd win a free beer."

This went on until Butch was 9. He never went to school. He didn't know how to read. And although he disliked his father, Butch says he knew he probably made a commitment to his mother.

"I remember he would leave me a few times with the owners of a tavern for a few weeks, but he came back to pick me up. He could have just left me and never come back. There must have been something, maybe a promise to my mother, I just don't know, that no matter what, he would watch out for me," Butch said. "She was sick for a long time, and I think she knew that she was going to die. My only thought is that at some point in his mind he made a promise to my mom to try to care for me, to always watch out for me.

"One thing about my dad, no matter how many places we traveled and caught the freights, we always ended up back in Southern Illinois, because West Frankfort was his hometown," he continued. "We'd find ourselves in Arizona, in Alabama once and we even picked cotton, which was an awful experience. We did wind up in Southern Illinois one year during picking season for peaches and apples. And in Anna, there is a platform there for migrant workers and I remember sleeping many times on that platform, then getting up in the morning and going in trucks to the fields."

His father dropped Butch off for good with his grandparents, Effie and Orville, in Southern Illinois when he was 9. A short time later, Butch was moving again.

"She told me, and I'll never forget it, that 'You're going to hate me for doing this, but in an hour, social workers will be coming to get you.' What a horrible feeling."

Now a team player

Despite Butch's mistreatment by others as a young boy, today he is a master relationship-builder with great people skills.

When he first arrived in New Hampshire with a plan to grow the college modestly, he quickly befriended people he knew shared

a love for the college.

It has been less than four months since Butch arrived at White Pines and contributions to the school's foundation have gone up by more than 10 per cent. Some \$350,000 in gifts have been made in 2002, bringing the total to about \$4 million.

He feels as comfortable around students as he does Elias E. Ashooh, an investment advisor in nearby Manchester, NH, and Digital computer executive Jim Bennett.

Bennett was chairman of the search to find Butch.

"Talking with him over the phone, right away, I could tell he cared," Bennett said. "We sent all of the finalists an information package about the college, and William asked significant questions related to the documentation we sent him. We had others who received the same material, but none were as insightful as William.

"He understood what we were trying to do with a small college, and we are now in the mode of moving from a two-year to a four-year accredited school and that we are in a growth period," he continued. "He has a great sense of humor, and he'll lead this school's faculty and kids in such a way that they'll have fun and move forward in such a positive way."

Life as an orphan

Just south of Illinois 149, between Hurst and Bush in Williamson County, sits a vacant, two-story brick building constructed in 1950 as a YMCA. Two years later it became the Southern Illinois Children's Service Center, and from late 1957 to early 1961 Butch called it his home most of the time.

He shared a bedroom with another orphan on the second floor. It was a facility run by Homer and Irene Farmer, and it offered Butch refuge from street life.

It also offered him no family, and little hope.

Revisiting that building recently was gut-wrenching and cathartic for Butch. As he moved his way through the orphanage, he paused several times and stared. It was as if he was reliving part of his childhood.

"This is weird, very weird. And it's hard. There's still some things I can't talk about, terrible things. When I write about them, I'll be able to talk about them."

The facility has been vacant since 1987, when it was last used as a Christians in Action Fellowship hall; the orphanage closed in 1982.

As Butch walked upstairs to the second

floor and down the narrow hallway, he went directly to the fourth room on the left. This was his bedroom, now riddled with peeling paint and a falling-apart ceiling.

To say the room is sparse is kind. The 10-by-12-foot space included a metal set of bunk beds against one wall and a small dresser against another, Butch said.

One window, the smallest of any in the 16 bedrooms, offers a view of Illinois 149, the nearby railroad tracks and a Hurst water tower with spots of rust peppering its light blue paint job.

"I always remember looking out that window and wondering whether I'd ever ride down that road with a family and never come back here," Butch said. "For me, this place was better than being out on the street. Here, I had a place to sleep and some food to eat. For most of the other kids, though, this place was not somewhere they wanted to be. They hadn't lived on the street. They had families who placed them here."

It was in the orphanage where Butch first learned to read, some 45 years ago. He found some of the same books he used then, stacked on one of the shelves under windows in a classroom on the first floor.

"I remember you even actually had to sign out the books when you wanted one," said Butch, holding one of the moldy, fragile titles in his palms.

He certainly wasn't the perfect child. After bedtime, several of the boys would get up and play their version of bucking authority. With a blanket as their magic carpet, one boy would sit and two others would pull the blanket down the hallway and past the entrance to the house parents' room. It then became a race to see if the boys could get back to their rooms before one of the parents got up to see who the troublemakers were.

"You didn't want to be caught because that meant extra duties. Extra kitchen duty, and that was something you didn't want," Butch said. "It was something I got a few times."

A pile of brush now covers part of the old basketball court next to the orphanage. Faint yellow lines mark the court's boundaries, and scattered throughout the asphalt top are cracks where weeds have taken hold.

Next to this court was the "special" attraction for boys and girls, a Ferris wheel that would be used on days such as Easter and other holidays.

"Only for special events would we get a chance to ride that Ferris wheel," Butch recalled. "You had to wear helmets, and it was something everyone looked forward to."

Polite and personable

When he headed to a meeting at the Citizens Bank building in downtown Manchester recently, Butch walked through the two glass doors. He was near the elevator when an elderly woman got off and headed for the glass doors.

Butch, already running a minute late for an appointment, walked over and opened and held the doors for the woman.

While he ate lunch at Warren's Lobster House in Kittery, ME – about an hour drive from Chester, NH – Butch made a point of talking with the waitress about White Pines College.

"Relationships can start anywhere, anytime," he said later.

On the right road

Shortly before he turned 12, Butch's life took a turn for the best – he met Ruth and Fred Cooper.

The Christopher couple's only son, Eddie, died in a freak accident in school. He hit his head on a desk, fell into a coma and never awakened. He died when he was 16. The Coopers wanted to adopt a boy, and they chose Butch.

Revisiting the small, one-story home where he lived with the Coopers, Butch walks straight to the front porch and recalled the conversation that led to the trio's lifetime bond.

"She had some Coke and cookies she brought out, and we sat right here and talked for about, oh, nearly an hour. And we agreed to give it a try, for 60 days, and I really didn't know if it was going to work out," Butch said. "Thankfully, for all of us, it did."

Butch's story couldn't be told without noting the influence the Coopers had on his



Nevious one of buyers of Village Publications

CHRISTOPHER PROGRESS JUNE 1976
Village Publications, a group of newspapers based in Atwood, IL, has been sold to four young publishers from Southern Illinois.

Mary Ann Dunscomb, owner and publisher of the newspapers, has sold the group to Gary and Shirley Blackburn of Carbondale and Butch and Venita Nevious of Carterville.

The property consists of two weeklies, the *Atwood Herald* and *The Newman Independent*, and a bi-weekly farm paper, *The Mid-State Agriscopes*.

Nevious is a native of Christopher and obtained a B.S. in Photography and is completing an M.S. degree in Education at SIUC. Besides freelance work, he has been a photographer at *The Southern Illinoisan*, Administrative Assistant to the President at Rend Lake College in Ina and Executive Promotional Director at Mark Twain Enterprises, a boat manufacturer. A former partner in an advertising agency, he was an award-winner in the Associated Press' feature photography category in 1972.

Venita was reared in Zeigler and has experience in office management and bookkeeping. She also holds certificates in cosmetology and dental technology.

They have two children, Christina, 6, and William, 2.

Official take-over of the publication is set for July 14.

OUTSTANDING STAFF

JUNE SANDERS
Counseling Support
"Outstanding Staff" / '88

ROGER TREECE
Shipping
"Outstanding Staff" / '89

CONNIE SAMPLE
Office Support
"Outstanding Staff" / '90

CONETTA SWIFT
Housekeeper
"Outstanding Staff" / '91

PAUL OSSIG
Custodian
"Outstanding Staff" / '92

1987 - 1988

1988 - 1989

1989 - 1990

1990 - 1991

1991 - 1992



L. Johnson 'Athlete of Year' for River to River Runners

JANUARY 2005

Laura Johnston knows all about staying in shape. When she is not leading a "Water Aerobics" class in the RLC Aquatics Center, she likely is running, either for fun or the competition.

Her efforts have been rewarded by the River to River Running Club, which selected Johnston as its "Female Athlete of the Year." The Aquatics Center Coordinator received her award January 22 at the club's annual banquet at the Carbondale Civic Center.

According to Jay Brooks, RLC Adult Ed Director and one of Johnston's running partners, the honor was well-deserved. Johnston had multiple first-place finishes in the past year: 5K Runs – First with Brooks at Springout Couples Race, first overall in two events and first in age group in three other events; 4-Mile – First at Superman Road Run; 10K – First at HerrinFest; 10-Mile – First at Tunnel Hill; Fifth in age group, 31st overall in Boston-qualifying time of 3:33:50 at St. Jude Memphis Marathon.



'Buster' no bust: a big hit with choking victim Cross

R.L.C. QUARTERLY AUGUST 2011

At about 10:20 a.m. on July 22, Liberal Arts Division Chair Henry "Buster" Leeck performed the Heimlich maneuver on Administrative Assistant Cathy Cross.

Cross gave a statement to the Security Department: "I was choking on a piece of toast and could not get air in or out. I ran to Buster's office and he performed the Heimlich maneuver and it worked! So, I'm fine and thank you, Buster."

life. They provided him not only physical necessities, they taught him life lessons he has used to get where he is now.

"You couldn't find two better people," said Jim Barclay, once the Christopher Police Chief. He and his wife, Margene, now live in the Coopers' old home at 601 S. Jesse St. in Christopher. "They would do anything for you, and if you returned the favor, they insisted on giving you something."

Fred Cooper was active in a variety of community groups, and for more than two decades operated Fred's Men's Shop in downtown Christopher. When Ruth died April 21, 1983, Butch had finished his Master's Degree at SIUC and was on his way toward completing his Ph.D.

Fred died December 23, 1996. It was the last time Butch was in Southern Illinois before his visit earlier this month.

Ruth was always "the type of person who didn't want any public display of affection. I mean, she was a prim and proper type of person," Butch said.

Butch took to playing the drums, and the Coopers bought him his first set. Within months, he was making his own money playing with a new, popular band called the Egyptian Combo. He was barely a teenager.

"Ruth was very strict. She knew exactly how long it would take to get from Christopher to Carbondale to play a job, tear down the equipment, and get back. I would always know that when we drove up to drop me off, if the lights inside the house were off, she was sitting in the chair and I was in trouble. If the lights are on, she would be in bed and I was home on time," Butch recalled.

"I remember one time we had a flat tire on the truck, and we didn't have a tire to change on the truck, and I was at least an hour late. She was beside herself; and she grounded me from everything but the band. She figured out ways to take privileges away from me, but she never did it with the band."

Butch remembered that while with his dad, he would steal regularly. He'd steal food and other items from stores. With the Coopers, Butch says he could not steal.

"I may have been tempted once, at the old five-and-dime store, but I didn't do it," Butch said. "Ruth made it clear that church was very important to them, that I would go to church on Wednesdays, on Sunday mornings, on Sunday nights. She said, 'We are very proud of our position in this town, and with our church, and you are part of us now and anything you do will reflect on us.'

That stuck with me."

Butch found himself wanting to do well for the Coopers.

"I know I worked harder to do even better no matter what I was doing, because I wanted them to be proud of me," he said. "I wanted, for the first time, to have someone say they were really proud of me."

Butch has talked about his childhood for several hours, but when he's asked to describe when he realized he had the drive to do well for himself, and not strictly for the Coopers, he perked up.

He was playing the drums in the West Frankfort Park band shell along with his new Egyptian Combo band mates.

"I'm doing this drum solo and I meet these other guys, and the crowd's out there. It was my first experience of receiving a round of applause for something that I did, and it was a very exciting feeling for me," Butch said. "But even Ruth and Fred were out there, and in my mind, I'm thinking I'm doing this for them, right? But, at that moment, now that I reflect upon it, at that moment, I said, 'This is kind of fun doing this for myself, too. So I can be proud of myself, and not be embarrassed.' I remember so many times being embarrassed, living on the streets and having to beg for food."

Years later, before Ruth died, she told Butch she was convinced that they found him to adopt to replace Eddie.

"When I came to my senses and realized what they had done for me, later on, I said, 'I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate what you've done for me' and she said, 'No, no, no. It's what you did for us.'"

Like father-mother, like son

The closeness with which Ruth and Fred raised Butch seems to show readily in the way he lives with his own children and wife. Christina, 32, and Will, 28, were Butch's children with his first wife, Venita, who still lives near Zeigler.

Matthew, 12, and Benjamin, 5, were still in Georgia with mom, Kristen, awaiting the move to New Hampshire when Butch started his position with White Pines.

Butch spoke with both boys every day by phone, and several times with Kristen. Matthew loves to in-line skate, and he and Butch have a father-and-son movie review routine they use on every show they see.

Just as the Coopers did with Butch, the boys have allowances for chores completed. "It teaches them the value of money, something I learned."

An invaluable Combo

From 1961 through his first year in Vietnam, Butch hooked up with Doug Linton, Rick Linton and Lloyd Rainey and formed the band The Egyptian Combo.

It was a band that mixed rock, blues and a little jazz to create its own sound, one that took off around Southern Illinois and the St. Louis area.

Its most popular tune, "Gale Winds," reached Billboard's Top 10 and won them an appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show. But they were bumped by another up-and-coming band, The Rolling Stones, at the last minute.

They were told they'd appear a few weeks later, but by then "Gale Winds" started its slide down the charts. Ed Sullivan passed.

The group played often at venues throughout the Southern Illinois region, and it once had a request from George Harrison to sit in with the Combo and play guitar. Harrison's sister, Louise, lived in Benton.

The group said "No."

"We had a policy that we didn't let anyone sit in and play with the band. That was just our rule," Butch said.

In hindsight, it may have been the band's biggest blunder – from a popularity standpoint. One twist of fate, or a better agent, and the Combo may have been one of the country's top bands, Butch said.

But it wouldn't have mattered, Doug Linton said recently when the four members reunited. "We probably would not have remained the friends we are today if we had become that famous."

"When I stop and think of it, the recognition was unbelievable. I mean every place we went, it didn't make a difference where we were, someone recognized us. It didn't matter if we were in St. Louis, or wherever," Butch said.

The band cleared about \$500 on an average night playing at the Benton Lake pavilion, one of the group's favorite locations.

"That was a lot of money in the early '60s," Rick Linton said. "When we would

play a song like 'Shout,' the place literally shook from people jumping up and down."

"Carmi was special because we would play for the moms and dads at the VFW and we played for the kids at Teen Town," Lloyd Rainey said. "It was special because it was far enough away. It felt like we were out of town, and they treated us like stars there."

The band plays again May 25 at HerriFesta Italiana, with electronically added drums and without Butch.

Band members chose to enlist in the U.S. Army, and as part of an early group sent to Vietnam, they had to load crates of weapons and ammunition. They stuffed band equipment in crates as well and smuggled them to Vietnam. When they got there, they performed daily at spots all over Vietnam.

"There were times when we'd be in the copter with all of our equipment, trying to keep them from falling out, and we'd be zipping along near the ground because we were in a shelling pattern," Rick Linton said.

"Yeah, shells would be going over us," Butch added.

"We were just young enough, and stupid enough, and had no fear then," Rainey said.

During a poker game, Butch won a Minolta camera. It led him eventually on a path toward a new career as a newspaper photographer. He spent three tenures as a photographer at *The Southern*, and his Ph.D. dissertation was titled, "A phenomenological explication of the photographer's 'decisive moment.'"

That dissertation was dedicated to his two mothers.

"Experiencing the lived-world without the love and human kindness of these two beautiful women would have made life's journey a vacuous one. Having two mothers gave me the courage to continue when being-in-the-world had no meaning. My love for each shall never die."

Butch's photo career eventually led him to teaching, and into college administration.

Life is good now

It's a bit windy, but it doesn't matter to Butch as he takes his first walk as a New



Colleagues save two lives by performing Heimlich

Two RLC employees credited colleagues for saving their lives within a 16-month period.

RLC F.Y.I. DECEMBER 1995

Bookstore Manager Dorothy Feira was eating lunch in her office August 28 when a piece of food lodged in her windpipe, preventing her from being able to breathe. Fortunately, Chief Jerry Bate was in his Security Office just across the hallway at the time. Application of the Heimlich maneuver by the quick-thinking Bate removed the blockage and made him an instant hero in the eyes of the victim. "Words can't express what you feel about somebody who has saved your life," Feira told a Southern Illinois audience in mid-December on a segment of WSIL-TV Ch. 3. She was referring to her "Unsung Hero," Bate, who was recognized for his efforts. "We both got lucky," Bate said. "Besides, we're family."

F.Y.I. FEBRUARY 24, 1997

Near the end of a recent eight-hour shift, Night Custodian Brenda Moore choked first on her coffee, then on her gum. Fortunately for her, colleague Norm Hopkins quickly realized Moore "was turning blue and she was in trouble." Hopkins applied the Heimlich maneuver to clear her breathing passage and get her breathing again. The victim recalled, "I had the worst headache of my life the rest of the day, but it was still nice to be alive."

OUTSTANDING STAFF

● DENNIS CARNES
Maintenance
"Outstanding Staff" / '93

● GLENDA ATKINS
Housekeeper

● MARY ANN LEWIS
Admissions/Records
● JANE SPENCER
Receptionist
"Outstanding Staff" / '94

● DAVID DAVIS
Maintenance
● JULIE OXFORD
Health / Athletics
"Outstanding Staff" / '95

● CATHY CROSS
Liberal Arts Dept.

● CARL HELVERSON
Custodian
● JEAN HUIE
AAA Department
"Outstanding Staff" / '96

● JANICE DILLON
Admissions / Records
● RON SOMERS
Maintenance
"Outstanding Staff" / '97

1992 - 1993

1993 - 1994

1994 - 1995

1995 - 1996

1996 - 1997



Vacationer on a mission: Cross helps in Honduras

R.L.C. TIMES MAY 2000

Cathy Cross is more than the Administrative Assistant for the Liberal Arts Department. She is a missionary.

Cross recently went on a mission trip to Honduras with her church, First General Baptist in McLeansboro.

Cross and 22 others ranging from eighth-graders to those in their mid-60s, including her husband and daughter, took food to the General Baptist Association's orphanage and repaired a roof on a duplex at the facility. They took \$700 of cereal and other foods to feed poor children in public schools. The orphanage has 11 children, a family of five and two families of three. The General Baptist Association is hoping to have 100 children. They plan on building a school. Their purpose is not to adopt children but to help them become good Hondurans – through Christ and education – so in the future they will make Honduras a better place.

"It was a humbling experience. The people I saw didn't seem unhappy because they were poor, since that is the way they have been their whole lives," said Cross.

The flight was 4 1/2 hours. Cross & Friends stayed at the mission, located outside of San Pedro Sula, the fast-growing city in Honduras. They cooked their own food and had to drink bottled water. They stayed one week, "but I was glad to get back," Cross admitted.

"I think if the opportunity came up again, we would go back. We enjoyed helping the people and we had a great time."

"It was kind of like a church camp," Cross noted. She also enjoyed the tropical weather.

– Pat Hungate

Hampshire resident along the sand of Hampton Beach. The 16-mile coastline is but a 30-minute drive from his Chester home now, and he says he wishes his wife and two sons were with him.

He tosses a few rocks into the Atlantic waves as they roll in.

"This is so beautiful," he says. "It would be nice to find a place we could rent for the summer, or maybe buy, so that we could spend time right on the beach."

Money is not a concern to Butch these days. He says he's not a millionaire, but his salaries as president of White Pines and Reinhardt have left him "financially comfortable," he said.

A key life lesson for him occurred when he was 10. In and out of foster homes, once he stayed with an aunt and uncle near Benton.

"It does all go back to making money, and saving money, and having things I never could have before. There's no doubt that's a part of it. When I lived with my aunt and uncle in Southern Illinois, I would get up early and sell Sunday papers. I eventually saved \$12.35. I put it in the one drawer that I had in this house," Butch recalled.

"One day I went there to check that money, and it was gone. My aunt said they're taking that money, and that I needed to earn it for all of us, because they were putting food on the table," he continued. "I remember how much I hated that feeling of them taking that \$12.35 I had worked so hard for while they were in bed asleep. I resented that. I never, ever have forgotten that. I know that I had so much hatred in my body at that point."

No more closed doors

When he came back to Southern Illinois earlier this month, Butch did so at his wife's urging – not only to help tell his story, but to help him reflect on his past. He was brought to tears several times, talking about Ruth and Fred Cooper; talking about Gene Helfrich, his math teacher in middle school and part-time track coach; talking about Dick Carter, former photo editor of *The Southern Illinoisian* who hired him three times to take pictures for the paper.

"I've never seen someone else with as much desire to work," Carter said. "He loved what he did."

Butch fell in love with photography. He still calls it his true calling. He won several state and regional awards.

After flunking out the first time, Butch went on to obtain his bachelor's, master's

and Ph.D. from SIUC, a school with people he credits for furthering his career – people such as former professor Tom Pace and administrator Keith Sanders, who recently retired as Executive Director of the Illinois State Board of Higher Education.

Butch has been a newspaper owner, a frame-shop owner, a marketing professional, a washing-machine maker, a cashier.

"There isn't too much the boy hasn't tried," Helfrich said. "He was in the framing business, he's a photographer, but he's where he should be right now. And I knew he'd get there."

"That's because of people like you, Gene," Butch responded. "Without your help and guidance, I wouldn't have done it."

Helfrich said the Coopers were key for Butch, who agreed. "They were good people, and they raised you well. Doing right was instilled in you."

When he stood inside his bedroom in the Hurst orphanage this month, Butch paused and looked outside the small window. He still keeps private some painful parts of his past, but he doesn't forget. He'll never forget.

And as he left the orphanage, Butch took the bedroom door with him. He had the pins knocked off, and he'll have that door shipped back to New Hampshire, refurbished and used in some way.

As a kid, his doors were closed.

As he leaves Southern Illinois again, he knows his doors never will close again.

EVENING ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE ▶ **Longtime part-time employee Wiggins utilizes talents to spruce up Library**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 2004

Randy Wiggins enjoys the atmosphere at Rend Lake College's Learning Resource Center. Even so, he often uses his artistic talents to spruce up the place for special occasions.

Wiggins has worked part-time in the RLC Library since August 1983. He retired from teaching art at area community colleges after more than a decade and also retired as a telecommunications officer in Benton after nearly 23 years.

Wiggins was ready for a change. "I like library work," he said, "but I didn't even know about the art part of it until I started."

The evening employee often creates artistic displays on the Learning Resource Center bulletin boards to commemorate holidays, seasons or special occasions. His material

of choice generally is construction paper, which he cuts and trims into the forms and shapes he needs. A splash of color here and there, and these raw materials turn a bulletin board into a mural.

Although many of Wiggins' displays are created with construction paper, he said he prefers drawing. "It's more portable; you can draw anywhere. You just need a pencil or a pen and a piece of paper," he said.

In what may be the most impressive creation for the library, Wiggins brought to life a condensed rendering of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" on five whiteboard panels. Each panel tells a portion of the story with detailed ink drawings. Wiggins said he used Art Nouveau techniques to tie together the various elements in each panel.

In contrast to other artwork which Wiggins has put up and taken down at the library over the years, his "Christmas Carol" creations have withstood the ravages of time. Jacob Marley's ghost, Tiny Tim and the three Ghosts of Christmas still dominate the canvas.

"It may be the only time I've done something this detailed," Wiggins admitted. "It took awhile to get the research done for it, but it was fun."

Certain times of the year lend themselves to displays, such as Christmas, Halloween, Thanksgiving, autumn and spring," Wiggins said. He has created representations of gardening, the underwater ocean world and The Twelve Days of Christmas, among numerous others.

Wiggins first taught art to grade school students, but his school scaled back its art program due to financial difficulties, which resulted in Wiggins teaching all subjects in sixth grade. At that point, Wiggins changed careers, becoming a telecommunicator in Benton. He continued teaching art, but at the community college level. He said he particularly enjoyed working with adults.

While much has changed at the RLC Learning Resource Center over the years, Wiggins did not hesitate to say the most dramatic difference today is the proliferation

of computers. He said looking up research materials used to involve a considerable amount of running back and forth to the reference area.

Now, most research is done on computers, he noted. But Wiggins said he does not think computers have had a negative impact on the library because all the information students need is right at their fingertips.

"I like books, working with them. My mother taught me to enjoy books when I was very young. I still do and always have." Wiggins said. He has tried to instill that passion in his own children and grandchildren.

Wiggins is a former employee at Morris Library on the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale campus.

Wiggins and his wife, Brenda, have a daughter, Christi, who is a graduate of the RLC Associate Degree Nursing program. They also have two grandsons, and Wiggins said one of them has taken his lifelong love of books to heart and is considering becoming a Literature Teacher.

DONNA PICKLESIMER ▶ Life of Cafeteria Food Service chief cut short by early morning icy roads

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. NOVEMBER 1991

[Donna Picklesimer was not a Rend Lake College employee, technically speaking. She had worked on-campus for just over a year as an employee of Martin's Food Service. As such, however, the personable young lady was just as much a part of the RLC "family" as anyone else.]

Icy roads Thursday morning (November 7) left a Benton woman dead, several people in hospitals and many vehicles in ditches and fields as Southern Illinoisans got their first taste of snow.

Donna Picklesimer, 28, died after being thrown from her car's rear view window into Rend Lake as she headed for her job as Manager of the college's Cafeteria for Martin's Food Service.

The accident occurred within a mile or two of the campus.

The rural Benton resident was pronounced dead at the scene at 7:45 a.m. by Franklin County Coroner Dennis Miller, who said Mrs. Picklesimer lost control of her car as she headed north along Illinois



Yunkun world-traveler, 'companion' to the stars

OCTOBER 1975

New Audio-Visual Secretary Dawn Yunkun is not your typical 24-year-old employee.

After all, how many people of any age have visited several countries in Europe and Africa, dined with Omar Sharif and had other encounters with the likes of Bill Cosby, Vincent Price and Joan Rivers?

Yunkun was an airline stewardess for 2 1/2 years prior to her marriage seven months ago to Chris Yunkun, who is employed by Joy Manufacturing in Mt. Vernon.

During her days in the friendly skies, she also mingled with Actor Bill Bixby and Singer Paul Anka, along with Actor Price and Comedians Cosby and Rivers. Anka and Rivers were not among her favorite passengers to deal with, she admits.

It was on a safari in Africa with three girlfriends that Movie Star Sharif became an unexpected dinner "date." Their guide made Dawn and friends aware they were on the grounds of an estate owned by Sharif. But they never dreamed dinner afterward would have them sharing their table with the superstar. "It is only because we were the only ones to talk to him," explained the young blonde, failing to recognize the obvious fact her foursome also provided the best-looking company of any of the participants in the wildlife adventure.

OUTSTANDING STAFF

● **DANNY BROY**
Groundskeeper

BECKY WILLIAMSON
V-P Administrative Asst.
"Outstanding Staff" / '98

● **PHYLLIS RICE**
Physical Plant

GIB SINK
Maintenance
"Outstanding Staff" / '99

● **SHARI CARPENTER**
Title III

MIKE SEVENSKI
Custodian
"Outstanding Staff" / '00

● **KIM DAVIS**
LRC Circulation

DENNIS RICHARDSON
Maintenance
"Outstanding Staff" / '01

● **FRANK HUGHEY**
Physical Plant / Painting

SUE SCATTONE
Business Office
"Outstanding Staff" / '02

1997 - 1998

1998 - 1999

1999 - 2000

2000 - 2001

2001 - 2002



Smile! K. Davis will help you find LRC information

R.L.C. TIMES FEBRUARY 2000

Have you ever seen someone whose smile seems to radiate from deep inside?

If you have not yet met Kim Davis in the Rend Lake College Learning Resource Center, then you are in for a treat. Davis will make you feel so welcome you will feel like you have known her from some other time.

Davis has been working at the library for almost 20 years now. Her official title is Circulation Specialist. She checks books in and out, as you would expect, but that's just the beginning of what she can do to help you. She will show you how to use the computers, get you started in the video viewing room, track down the book you are searching for or help you operate the various machines throughout the library.

"The most important aspect of my job," said Davis, "is to help students find the information they need." She has a special concern for those students who wander in, lost and confused.

"Sometimes, people just need someone to point them in the right direction."

Davis began working in the LRC just after graduating from high school.

"When I first took the position, I thought maybe I would eventually get bored in the library," said Davis, "but I didn't realize how interesting a library could be. There is always something going on in here."

With an ever-changing flow of students needing her help, innovations bringing new ways to do things, the wonderful student-workers who assist her and the constant change, Davis has not had a chance

(Continued at far right on next page)

37, lined on each side with guard rails.

Her car was sliding into the other lane of traffic when an oncoming vehicle hit its passenger side and spun it into a guard rail. The impact threw the victim through the rear window.

The driver of the other car, James Atchison, 53, of Ina, was treated for minor injuries at Franklin Hospital in Benton and released. State police said Atchison was wearing a seat belt, but Mrs. Picklesimer was not.

Visitation was Saturday in Ina. Services were held before an overflow crowd Sunday afternoon at Whittington Baptist Church, with burial in Shiloh Cemetery.

Mrs. Picklesimer is survived by her husband of 10 years, Ward "Pick" Picklesimer, parents Ronald and Evelyn Newcomb of Benton, three brothers, one sister and three grandparents.

Mrs. Picklesimer had worked for Owner Bob Martin as Rend Lake College Food Service Manager since the beginning of the 1990-91 academic year.

- Information compiled from The Southern Illinoisan and other area newspapers

SMOKING THE COMPETITION Hot Lips and more . . . Novice RLC BBQers claim Championship trophies

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. OCTOBER 30, 2000

Rend Lake College already has a College Bowl state championship in academic competition to its credit, having captured the first "Academic Olympics" conducted in 1993. It has finished second in the nation in Men's Golf (1995), and its student-athletes have garnered numerous All-America and Academic All-America honors recently.

Now comes perhaps the most unlikely championship of all.

At the 13th Annual Apple City Barbecue Championship in Murphysboro, which also served this year for the first time as the Illinois State Barbecue Championship, a novice group of Rend Lake College representatives smoked the competition in two arenas:

- "Best Booth"
- "Showmanship"

While the property of one of the group's coordinators was being rearranged somewhat by a tornado elsewhere in Southern Illinois, the Rend Lake College M*A*S*H 521 Unit blew into Murphysboro for a first-ever appearance and wowed the judges and thousands of others who enjoyed the festivities. The newcomers left with a matching pair of 3-foot trophies and new-found re-

spect for the local community college based an hour up the road in Ina.

Rules this year dictated a military theme for all participants. So while many of the seasoned veterans rolled into town in their fancy, \$40,000 rigs and \$12,000 smokers reeking of confidence, the ragtag RLC M*A*S*H 521 Unit (for Community College District 521), otherwise known as "Homer's Heroes," set up its tent in "The Swamp."

The contingent included . . .

- B.J. Hunnicutt, alias Ag, Auto and Architecture (AAA) Department Chair Ed Billingsley, who brought with him his secret barbecue recipe and 20 years of experience cooking for enjoyment, family outings and Goreville's annual Fourth of July celebration. But it was the first competition for Billingsley, who dealt with tornado residue after returning home with his cooking equipment in tow.

- Allied Health Department Chair Wilanna Kiefer, better known on this weekend as Margaret "Hot Lips" Houlihan. Or as the individual supplying the lip-smacking sauce used as the "rub" for the ribs and the IVs and other nursing supplies used to save lives on the battlefield.

"I had the equipment, so I got to play, too," smiled Hot Lips.

- Music Instructor Julie Wilkerson, the best-looking, most talented Radar O'Reilly ever seen in movie theaters, on television or on videotape at Murphysboro was "perfect" in her role in spite of outward appearances. It was her original music and her writing, directing, taping and editing of the script that is generally credited for the "Showmanship" acclaim.

- Dr. Homer Cissell, Dean of Instruction and a relative newcomer to the Rend Lake College unit as well, was Henry Blake, the leader of the RLC M*A*S*H 521 Unit.

- And Ag Instructor Terry Wilkerson was the irrepressible Hawkeye Pierce, the real leader of the M*A*S*H pack.

The show could not have gone on without the help of many others, however. Billingsley's AAA Department also contributed Automotive Professor Maurice Kirsch, part-time Ag Instructor Marc Lamczyk and Ag/Auto Lab Assistant Mike Burris, along with Mrs. Lamczyk and Mrs. Burris, Melissa and Tina, respectively. Part-time Maintenance employee Chris Maxwell helped set up the tent, and Billingsley's father-in-law provided the motor home.

"Without the whole Burris family and

everybody else, we could not have done what we did. If we do it again, we need to get more people involved," Billingsley said.

The Rend Lake College entry began taking shape at a faculty get-together last spring. A casual comment by Computer Professor Janet Miller sparked the notion. "This is really good," she told Chefs Billingsley and Cissell. "You ought to enter the competition next summer."

It did not hurt matters any that Miller knows her stuff. She and her husband, former RLC Instructor Norm Miller, have long been barbecue judges at competitions in the Midwest. They were two of 138 judges from all over the U.S. in Murphysboro, according to Billingsley.

The Apple City event, according to a feature article in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, is "one of the nation's more prestigious barbecue contests . . . an important stop in the barbecuing circuit," with winners in the cooking competition advancing automatically to the grand-daddy of them all, Memphis in May.

"Our whole idea for entering was to help promote Rend Lake College, and we were confident we could be competitive without embarrassing the school," commented Billingsley. (Rumor has it the only other Southern Illinois community college entered hired outside help to do its cooking and came up empty-handed.)

"I think everybody would tell you we really entertained people. We bowled 'em over with our skit, which we decided to tape Thursday morning at the college before classes began.

"A lot of work went into the weekend; there was a lot of lost sleep. But I think we did a good job getting Rend Lake College's name out there. There probably were 10,000 people who enjoyed the festivities that weekend."

In comparison to the kitchen-on-wheels, fiberglass surroundings and wrought-iron fences the RLC booth was up against, "We were complimented all weekend long on our creativity. Everybody also bragged on our friendliness and openness. We were totally 'green' at what we were doing, but

everything went great," added Billingsley.

"And I know for a fact we definitely recruited at least one Ag student for the program while we were there. That alone made it worthwhile."

The RLC gang was forewarned competition was stiff on the national barbecue circuit, where teams must pay their dues before realizing much success in this serious business.

That proved true. About 30 entries, including those from many southern states as far away as Georgia and the victorious "Flyin' Pigs" out of Evansville, IN, were well done (not rare?). Three of the top 10 teams judged best in the "world" were there. RLC entered only the "Ribs" category of the cookoff, not as confident at judging time its "Shoulder" or "Whole Hog" entries were quite done in time for "Overall" consideration.

But do not stick a fork in the M*A*S*H 521 gang yet. As much fun as they had and as successful as they were, they may not be done with barbecue championships.

DISTANCE LEARNING

Five Pioneer, two New Horizon Awards for RLC reps at first SICCM Reception

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MARCH 1998

Five individuals from Rend Lake College will receive Pioneer Awards and two others will be recipients of New Horizon Awards Tuesday, April 14, at the first Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market Recognition Reception.

The ceremonies are scheduled for 4:30 p.m. in the George T. Dennis Visual and Performing Arts Center at Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg.

Honorees from SICCM members will include Rend Lake College's Pioneer Award-winners David Brown, Barb Davenport, Steve Kennett, Rob Little and Dave Patton and New Horizon Award-winners David Wicks and Terry Wilkerson.

As of early this week, there was still a possibility former RLC Dean Dr. Phil Ward

* - * - *

Smile! (cont.)

to get bored. She enjoys the library so much she is not worried about getting a better job. In her opinion, "There could be no better job."

Davis is so upbeat and has such a great outlook on life, there must be more to the librarian than her work. She lives in Christopher with her husband, Dan, and their 12-year-old son, Tyler. A hobby she enjoys is creating photo scrapbooks. But Davis is not a stay-at-home person. The Davis' own a cabin on Isaac Walton Lake, near Christopher, and spend time there as often as possible.

"One of our favorite things is to get the four-wheeler and go mudding," says Davis. "We have a boat and enjoy fishing and all kinds of outdoor activities.

Now we know at least part of the reason Kim Davis is always smiling. Stop by the Learning Resource Center sometime soon and check out one of Rend Lake College's best resources. Introduce yourself to Kim or just smile as you walk by. Either way, you are sure to receive one of her "so nice to see you" smiles.

- Dede Haselton

OUTSTANDING STAFF

● **LORI RAGLAND**
RLC Foundation Asst.
RANDALL SHIVELY
Director, Physical Plant
"Outstanding Staff" / '03

● **DOROTHY FEIRA**
Bookstore Manager
DAWN GIBSON
Director, Community Ed
"Outstanding Staff" / '04

● **BOB KELLEY**
Director, Marketing
BETH MANDRELL
Reference Librarian
"Outstanding Staff" / '05

● **KELLY DOWNES**
Asst. to V-P, Info Tech
TRUDEE WYNN
Resource Development
"Outstanding Staff" / '06

● **BRENT MCLAIN**
Asst. to President, Athletics
LISA PRICE
Director, Counseling
"Outstanding Staff" / '07

2002 - 2003

2003 - 2004

2004 - 2005

2005 - 2006

2006 - 2007



FFA roots kept her grounded despite two deaths of friends

NEWS RELEASE JUNE 2007

Dr. Sarah Bond's involvement with Future Farmers of America at a young age grew into a lifelong, deep-rooted affinity for agriculture.

And when the death of two close friends sent her running away from FFA, it was her passion for the field that withstood a tragic test in adversity.

She received an Honorary State FFA Degree at the organization's annual convention June 14 at Prairie State Convention Center in Springfield.

Her agricultural upbringing began at a very young age. In fact, she was born during a FFA event and was actively involved in 4-H. She earned her State FFA Degree in 1989, her American FFA Degree in 1990 and won two state proficiency awards while in high school.

Bond became FFA Section 20 President after filling a vacancy left by her best friend, who was killed in an auto accident soon after graduating high school.

"That was tough for a 17-year-old to step up to the plate and say I would do it," she said. "But, I did it because I told her I would help her be successful as Section President."

After high school, Bond enrolled at Western Illinois University and was elected FFA State Secretary-Treasurer after her first year. She later ran for a national office and transferred to SIU-Carbondale.

While pursuing Bachelor, Master and Doctorate degrees at SIUC, she learned of another good friend dying from a car wreck. The news of his death was overwhelming. In her grief, Bond ran away from anything that had to do with FFA.

"My heart was broken," she revealed. "Two of my dear,

(Continued at far right on next page)

might be presented a Founder's Award, although his availability was still uncertain.

A special Friend of Education Award will be presented to former U.S. Senator Paul Simon, who also will be the guest speaker.

Also expected, among dignitaries from each of the SICCM institutions, the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board, is ICCB Chief Executive Officer Joseph Cipfl.

"At this reception, explained SICCM Director Jack Hill, "it will be our privilege to honor faculty and staff from all SICCM institutions who have pioneered the use of our new joint Distance Learning system (Pioneer Award). We also will recognize selected first-year faculty and staff (New Horizon Award).

"Moreover, in recognition of SICCM's 25th anniversary, we will be presenting special recognition awards to the original Presidents and Academic Deans who comprised the first SICCM Board of Directors," Hill commented.

SICCM was founded in 1973. Member schools are RLC, John A. Logan College (Carterville), Shawnee Community College (Ullin), Southeastern Illinois College (Harrisburg), Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and SIU-Edwardsville.

RLC honorees . . .

- Patton is Director of the Learning Resource Center
- Brown is the Audio-Visual Technician
- Davenport is an Anatomy-Physiology and Microbiology Instructor
- Kennett is a Psychology/Philosophy Instructor
- Little is an English Instructor
- Wicks is the Title III Educational Technology Specialist
- Wilkerson is an Agriculture Instructor

'MASTER' TEACHERS X 3 Children's Center Leadership May, Crouse and Rancuret march together

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 17, 2013

At its best, education starts early and never stops. At the Rend Lake College Foundation Children's Center, three employees recently proved it by completing their Master's Degrees, and they are ready to put their enhanced abilities to work for area preschoolers.

Brooke May, Director of the Children's Center, along with Lead Pre-K Teacher Rene Crouse and Lead Preschool Teacher Emily Rancuret, graduated in May from Southern

Illinois University-Carbondale with Master of Science Degrees in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in Teacher Leadership.

"This degree helps us improve the quality of teaching at the Children's Center," said May. "It was a very long road to get here, but our degrees tie in nicely with the work we do. We all started in Fall 2011 and graduated in May 2013. We walked together at our graduation ceremony and it was great to get to do this together."

May also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education with specialization in Child and Family Services. Crouse and Rancuret also hold Bachelor's Degrees in Early Childhood Education with specialization in Preschool/Primary with Type 04 Certificates, which allow them to teach in classrooms with children from birth up to age 8.

With their new degrees, May said the trio is looking to start off the fall with full classrooms. Anyone interested is encouraged to register early, before the rooms fill.

The Children's Center is open to anyone in the general public, from RLC students and staff to the local community. It is the only facility in Franklin, Jefferson and Hamilton counties accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

There are two classrooms for children ages 3-5. The free Pre-K classroom requires children to meet eligibility requirements, including a checklist and a screening for the child, all of which May said takes approximately 20 minutes.

"This classroom is absolutely free, Monday through Friday, throughout the school year from 8-11:30 a.m." said May.

The second classroom does not have any requirement to enroll and the schedule is flexible, allowing parents to choose the days of care needed. There is a daily cost for enrolling in this classroom. Both classrooms offer high quality care and will develop the child's learning experience.

"We do a lot of field trips, special activities and parent-child events throughout the school year. For example, we go to the pumpkin patch every year, and it's all free," May said.

CARLSON & FRIENDS Rain or shine ... River to River Relay counts on Running Warriors at finish

Answers: Rain or shine, the U.S. Mail. Maytag washing machines. Lucy pulling

the football away just as Charlie Brown gets ready to kick it. Doug Carlson and the RLC Road Warriors.

Question: What things have you learned you can depend on year after year?

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. APRIL 9, 1990

Rend Lake College enters into a new realm of athletic competition Saturday, April 21, when the RLC Joggers make their debut in the River-to-River Relay.

The annual 80-mile road run through the Shawnee National Forest is expected to attract 165 teams and 1,320 competitors from across the United States and Canada.

Sharing the fun for the RLC Joggers, in the order they are scheduled to run, will be part-time GED Instructor Robert Brown, recently resigned Director of Cooperative Education and Job Placement Sandy Rhoads, Automotive Instructor Sam McCowen, Community Services Director Dana Hils, Welding Instructor John Fertaly, Jerry McDonald, Associate Dean Pam Smith and Financial Aid Director Doug Carlson.

Alternates are Barry Jackson, Brenda Thurman and (if worse comes to worst) Dean of Vocational Technical Education Carroll Turner.

Each runner will compete in three different sections ranging in distance from 2.5 to 3.8 miles. The course starts at Pine Hills Bluff, overlooking the Mississippi River, and finishes along the Ohio River in Golconda.

Predicted time for the RLC Joggers, based on the best recent 5K showings of the participants, is just over 12 hours.

Rend Lake College is one of 19 entries in the Corporate-Handicapped Division. Other entries in that division include General Tire of Mt. Vernon, SIUC Law School, St. Louis Community College at Meramec-Faculty and six other St. Louis teams.

According to Smith, the RLC Joggers team manager, "Eighty percent of the road's surface on the course is asphalt, with the remainder gravel. One or two small creeks must be forded, depending on recent rainfall. A few sections are quite flat, but most are hilly. Some are real challenges."

The RLC gang is scheduled to start at 6 a.m.

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. APRIL 1993

The Sixth Annual River-to-River event marked the fourth appearance by a Rend Lake College team, represented by full-time staff members Doug Carlson, Dana Hils, Sam McCowen and Pam Smith, along with former "Alumnus of the Year" and part-time instructor Robert Brown.

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. APRIL 28, 1997

"Student Worker Appreciation Week" may be planned for this coming week, but it was "Student Trustee Appreciation Day" last weekend.

RLC employees Doug Carlson and Salah Shakir were very happy to have newly elected Board of Trustees Student Representative Russell Jay join them for the annual Illinois River to River Relay.

Jay was a last-minute replacement for veteran participant Robert Brown, a part-time GED Instructor and former "Alumnus of the Year." Brown was unavailable due to the recent death of his brother.

"He was by far our fastest guy. It was great to have him along," said Carlson, team captain and an original team member competing for the eighth time. "He did a really good job."

Shakir was competing on the RC team for the first time, although he has been a River to River participant many times in the past.

Also joining in for the eighth time was Dana (Hils) Frazier, who is nearing completion of her law degree. Others representing RLC were Brad McCormick, Director of Financial Aid at Southeastern Illinois College; Rick Steudel, husband of former Librarian Connie Steudel, in his seventh year; Doug Clark, son of SIUC Financial Aid Director Pam Britton, and Larry Johnson of Marion Children and Family Services.

RLC's time for the 80-mile trek over the hills of Southern Illinois was 11 hours 17 minutes. The college competes in the Handicap Division (based on the fact the majority of its runners are age 26-plus).

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. APRIL 20, 1998

With veterans Doug Carlson and Dana

* - * - *

FFA roots (cont.)

dear friends had been killed so tragically."

For nearly four years, she worked as an administrator in an unrelated field. In contrast to her success, there was always something missing.

Agriculture had been a part of her life for so many years. The void would have to be filled. So, she accepted a position in the SIUC Agriculture program. She joined RLC in May 2004.

"I missed agriculture and my roots," she said. "The position at SIU brought me back home. Since that time, there have been several students who I have worked with that have faced situations similar to what I went through. I believe it is because of my experiences that I was able to help them."

"If it was not for my participation and commitment to FFA, I do not think I would be where I am today." FFA "has already given me so much," she added.

* - * - *

Have Counselor, Will Travel . . . Yusko goes on the road

SEPTEMBER 1993

The Rend Lake College Counseling Center will take its show on the road following a recent agreement between President Mark S. Kern and new Benton Consolidated H.S. Superintendent Dr. Walt Montgomery.

Counselor Matt Yusko will divide his time between the Ina campus three days a week and BCHS on Mondays, as well as Waltonville on Fridays. The shared arrangement should benefit all parties involved.

OUTSTANDING STAFF

● **CHERI RUSHING**
Financial Aid Advisor
"Outstanding Staff" / '08

● **CHAD COPPLE**
Director, Marketing/Info
● **ED RUFFINO**
Director, STARS
"Outstanding Staff" / '09

● **BRENDA GARVIN**
Asst. to V-P, Info Tech
"Outstanding Staff" / '10

ANGIE KISTNER
Controller
● **STEPHANIE McKINNEY**
Subsidized Child Care
● **DONNIE MILLENBINE**
Grounds Supervisor
"Outstanding Staff" / '11

● **BRIAN CLARK**
Programmer / Analyst
● **KRISTINA SHELTON**
Community Ed / Perkins
"Outstanding Staff" / '12

2007 - 2008

2008 - 2009

2009 - 2010

2010 - 2011

2011 - 2012



Arnold part of statewide 'Key-Community Colleges'

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE MAY 15, '14
Anyone who knows Wayne Arnold knows how much he loves to talk about Rend Lake College.

And who better? Next year, the 82-year-old mainstay on campus will have worked for the district as many years part-time as he did full-time. He officially retired in 1989.

"Anytime I can talk about Rend Lake, I am ready to do it." That is what Arnold told Phil Pogue, a former Greenville School District superintendent, who spent a year gathering interviews for his project, "Education is Key – Community Colleges."

Arnold is one of 62 interviews by Pogue on the topic and published on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library website . . . tinyurl.com/CollegeOralHistory. It is the most recent addition to the library's oral history program, which now has collected nearly 500 interviews on topics ranging from immigrants and veterans to families and Springfield's African American history, according to the *Springfield Illinois State Journal-Register*.

Pogue interviewed teachers, administrators, trustees and others involved with the state's 39 community college districts. The collection covers the period from 1901, when Joliet Jr. College was founded as the country's first public community college, to the present, according to the *Journal-Register*. The statewide system will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year.

"Community colleges, when I did research, seemed to be underrepresented in what I could find," Pogue told *Journal-Register* writer Dan Petrella.

(Continued at far right on next page)

(Hils) Frazier leading the way and some fresh legs providing more spark, Rend Lake College was well-represented for the ninth year in a row in Saturday's 11th Annual River-to-River Relay.

The RLC Running Warriors took off at 6:15 a.m. and crossed the finish line around 5:30 p.m. in Open Handicap competition. The day was not perfect for spectators but was ideal for runners – cool and cloudy as they attacked the hilly, demanding 80-mile layout.

Participants for the RLC contingent included Carlson, who organizes the Ina gang, and AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois Coordinator Jeannie Mitchell, a first-time member, plus Frazier, the former Community Services Coordinator-turned-attorney.

Others who ran for RLC: student Tony Jenkins, Dr. Ed Ronat and Michael Pierceall, Mt. Vernon Economic Commission Executive Director, all of Mt. Vernon; and two with financial aid ties, Brad McCormick (Southeastern Illinois College) and Doug Clark (Carbondale).

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. APRIL 1999

The RLC Running Warriors were at their competitive best when they ran the race in 10 hours 50 minutes, placing 169th out of 237 teams even before handicapping took in consideration for ages, etc. Ironically, the best time also came during the coldest event ever. Constants for the Running Warriors – Doug Carlson and Robert Brown.

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. MAY 1, 2000

Thanks to some young blood, Rend Lake College representatives in Saturday's River-to-River Relay finished 131st overall out of 222 entries, their best finish ever.

The RLC Road Warriors finished in 10 hours 44 minutes 59 seconds.

Late replacements included DuQuoin High School Senior Jeff Long, Field Grade School eighth-grader Scott Carlson and former RLC student Jim Johnson, who turned 21 the next day.

Long, who will compete next fall for RLC's first cross-country squad, is the youngest son of Title III Curriculum-Evaluation Specialist Joan Long. Carlson, son of longtime Coach/Runner Doug Carlson, "was probably our third-best runner," behind Long and Johnson, despite his age. He competes in both cross-country and track and field for Field, among other sports.

Other members were alums Bob Brown and Mike Hayes, plus Rick Steudel, all of whom have run with Doug Carlson for a

number of years, and Darrell Younkins, a Carlson neighbor and a Real Estate student.

RUSHING SUCCEEDS CARLSON Passionate about financial aid, RLC, impact it can have on students' lives

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 12, 2012

Cheri Rushing, of Pinckneyville, was hired by the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees Tuesday night to replace retiring Director of Financial Aid Doug Carlson in July.

Carlson, of Mount Vernon, will serve the final day of his 32-year career on June 30. He was hired as RLC Director of Financial Aid in 1980. He previously was employed as the Assistant Director of Housing at South Georgia College in Douglas.

He and Bev Carlson have been married for more than 30 years. Their sons, Scott and John, are both graduates of RLC.

The retiring Director twice served as Vice President for the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and is a longtime member of the Illinois MAP Formula Committee. He has served on countless on-campus committees over the years, including the interview committee for his successor.

He said Rushing is "a true financial aid professional who is able to balance helping students obtain the funding they need with making sure the college stays in compliance with all federal and state regulations."

Rushing has worked as a Financial Aid Advisor at Rend Lake College since 1999. In 2008, she received the "Outstanding Staff" Award from the RLC Foundation.

She is a graduate of Central Missouri State University, now known as the University of Central Missouri, in Warrensburg. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree.

The native of Iberia, MO, grew up on a turkey and cattle farm. She and her husband, Pinckneyville native and RLC graduate Chad Rushing, have two children, Kenzie and Callie.

Rushing said she applied for the position to help make a difference in the lives of students and the success of the college.

"I am passionate about financial aid, Rend Lake College and the impact it can have on students' lives. I take pride in being a part of that. It's gratifying. It's one reason I enjoy coming to work."

She has been active on campus – serving as Phi Theta Kappa Advisor for seven years,

a dozen years as a member of the college's Orientation Committee, and as a member of the Academic Council Committee, Higher Learning Commission Committee, Emerging Leadership Institute, Branding Committee and Enterprise Resource Planning Committee.

On the state and national levels, Rushing has served as a member of the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (ILASFAA) and National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). Additionally, she has served for years as the college's Veterans Affairs Certifying Official and is a member of the Association of Veterans Education Certifying Officials.

She said her focus as the new Director will be on students and making sure the office is centered on customer service.

"This department is here to help students overcome financial barriers in their pursuit of education," she added. "Rend Lake College and Southern Illinois have been like my family and my home away from home. I have been presented with many opportunities to be involved on campus, and grow as an individual and as a professional for the betterment of the college."

"I have tried to seize every opportunity. The position, I feel, will be quite challenging, especially with the budget issues and taking over in the middle of a computer conversion." The college is implementing a massive technology overhaul that will streamline all college functions.

"I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for Rend Lake College."

'DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH' Maintenance Men: Davis, Holman, Hopkins, Hughey, Richards and Sink

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 2005

Rend Lake College is becoming better known not only for its quality and innovation in education, but also for the campus itself and facilities.

A decade ago, much of the work of renovating and upgrading the buildings on campus was postponed awaiting funds, but several talented people have managed to

save the college time and money by putting their abilities to use in-house.

Randall Shively, Physical Plant Director, said when he began working for RLC in 1995, the talents of the Maintenance staff were "like a campus secret. As we planned and proceeded with our campus revision program, we realized there were 'diamonds in the rough' that had never been fully discovered."

Today, those gems include Carpenter Dennis Richards, Painter Frank Hughey, Electrician Gib Sink, Welder Clay Holman, Preventive Maintenance Specialist Norman Hopkins and Supervisor Dave Davis.

According to Shively, 10 years ago the maintenance staff began the planning of going through every building on campus, upgrading and updating the appearance and space in each. That process has been completed, and in the past year, the staff has begun the process of going through each building again, updating them with new and improved ideas beyond what was done over the past decade.

"As we have learned to work together and have added staff to the Maintenance Department, the planning and execution of projects has become not only simpler, but the quality has increasingly improved in recent years," Shively said.

"With the improvements in ceramic tile, the addition of windows in specific areas, ceiling grids and improved lighting, the campus is beginning to be a standout. The appearance of our campus is as great as any community college around," he added.

The Maintenance crew also does its part to relieve the burden from taxpayers. "By doing as many in-house projects as this staff can handle, we have not only been able to save a considerable amount of money on renovation costs, but we have also increased the pride and positive attitude of employees and students at the college," Shively said.

"With the talents of one carpenter, one electrician, one painter, one welder and a few others who complement the staff, we have been able to accomplish nearly any renovation the administration has requested," said Shively.

* - * - *

Arnold: 'Key-C.C.' (cont.)

"(Pogue) sent me the video a while back. We talked about all the changes that have occurred - from the beginning when I came to (Mt. Vernon Community College) in '63 and there were a little more than 300 students, to now."

Arnold earned an Associate Degree from Centralia Junior College and a B.S. and two M.S. degrees from Southern Illinois University.

He taught at Dahlgren High School before joining the faculty of Mt. Vernon H.S., which operated MVCC. When Rend Lake College came into existence, he joined the staff as a Health and Physical Education instructor.

In honor of his many years of service, the Fitness Center at RLC is now named after him.

Arnold thinks the most significant changes at RLC over the years have been to the versatility in programming and the variety of students.

"There is a much larger curriculum now. In the early days, when the college needed a new course, we just met and decided as a group we needed a new course. Bob Darnes at the Illinois Community College Board was the king; he made the final decision. What it takes now to get a course approved . . . it's better.

"And so many students from different areas go there now, compared to what it was like before. At MVCC, the majority of students were from Mt. Vernon, Bluford, Waltonville

(Continued on next page)

JOY FITTS
Ad. Asst. / Applied Science

KENT MCKOWN
Network Specialist
RONALD MURRAY
Information Systems
"Outstanding Staff" / '16

BETH STEVENS
Ad. Asst., Allied Health
"Outstanding Staff" / '13

RACHEL SVEDA
F.A./Admissions Coord.
"Outstanding Staff" / '14

NATHAN WHEELER
Marketing Specialist
"Outstanding Staff" / '15

2012 - 2013

2013 - 2014

2014 - 2015

2015 - 2016

2016 - 2017



B. Mandrell 'Immersed' in information literacy at ISU

NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 2007

Rend Lake College Reference Librarian Beth Mandrell was one of 66 professionals across the country chosen to participate in the Association of College and Research Libraries Immersion Program.

The program was July 13-18 on the Illinois State University campus in Normal. According to the Institute for Information Literacy website, "Immersion" provides instructional librarians with the opportunity to work intensively on all aspects of information literacy.

Mandrell explained her four-plus days were spent learning more about how library instruction has changed, how to better define information literacy, different ways people learn and how to use voice, body language and attitude to become an authentic teacher.

Also: how outcomes can improve student learning, incorporating information literacy assessments into course assignments, learning styles and student-centered learning.

"I came away with a better understanding of teaching how to find information, evaluate it and use it," Mandrell said.



Arnold: 'Key-C.C.' (cont.)

and Sesser – places like that. Now they are from all over the area."

Karen Anderson, Executive Director of the ICCB, told the *Journal-Register* interviews show the important role community colleges have played and continue to play throughout the state. "We are vital parts of our communities, and we are vital parts of the economic engine of Illinois, and our history certainly reflects that," Anderson said.

Examples of recent in-house work by the Maintenance staff include work on the interior of The Hitting Zone, all improvements to the Advanced Technology Center, improvements in the North Oasis, expansion of the Fitness Center and renovation of the first floor of the Academic Building, which now houses the Learning Enhancement Center and Campus Bookstore.

Future plans for in-house renovation include installation of restrooms at the One-Room Independence Schoolhouse, an additional locker room on the east side of the Gymnasium, ceramic tile improvements on the second floor of the Academic Building and completion of the North Oasis and Advanced Technology Center.

ONE OF TWO FROM S. ILLINOIS ▶ Hutcheson selected for Excellence Academy by Adult Ed partnership

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE NOVEMBER 2010

Christina Hutcheson is one of 15 Adult Education program administrators across the state to be selected for the new Leadership Excellence Academy through the partnership of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium (NAEPDC).

Hutcheson has been the Director of Rend Lake College's Adult Education and Family Literacy program since 2008.

She applied for the LEA in late October, one of more than 30 applicants. She is one of only two selectees from Southern Illinois – Region IV – which includes 20 members consisting of colleges to regional offices of education, secondary school districts and the Illinois Department of Corrections. The other downstate representative is Vicki Hinkle from Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey.

Hutcheson is considering the pursuit of her doctorate and applied because it was an opportunity for not only program improvement but professional development as well.

"We want to make our program all that it can be and I think the Academy has the potential to be an avenue that helps us get there," she commented.

The Leadership Academy is designed to help build the skills of Illinois Adult Education Administrators through professional development activities based upon a foundation of research, theory, professional wisdom and practices.

She has already been given her first

homework assignment, due at the first meeting on Monday. It is one of three face-to-face workshops she will attend in the first of her two-year commitment. Over that time, Hutcheson will train on at least six topics identified by the LEA. Those include assessment, research, using data, strategies for motivation and retention, leadership approaches and working with instructors.

Her "homework" for the first year will involve three training modules targeted at assessing strengths, identifying needs and following through on program improvements. According to the LEA, with the enactment of the 1998 Workforce Investment Act (WIA), adult education shifted from a regulatory program to a continuous improvement program.

The RLC program always has met its requirements, Hutcheson pointed out.

One thing she would like to learn during her time in the LEA is how to reach more adults in a rural area like RLC's district, she indicated. The RLC Adult Education and Family Literacy program is a comprehensive educational program that offers Adult Basic Education (ABE), General Educational Development (GED), English as a Second Language (ESL), Job Skills and Parenting. The program serves students 16 years and older who are not enrolled in high school and who lack basic math and reading skills. All Adult Education and Family Literacy classes are offered free of charge to eligible adult students.

"I'm very excited about participating in the Leadership Excellence Academy and discovering how it can help our program better serve those who need us in this area," Hutcheson said. "These hard economic times are pushing those without a high school diploma or GED into further economic poverty and hardship."

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU ▶ Alum of Year Dame can't say it enough while paying tribute to RLC educators

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. DECEMBER 12, 2003

Donald Dame, Vice President of Human Resources and Government Relations for Freeman United Coal Mining Company, was chosen as the 2003 Rend Lake College Foundation Alumnus of the Year. In accepting the award during the RLCF Annual Dinner on December 4, Dame attributed his success to the efforts of RLC educators. Here are his remarks.

I certainly appreciate the honor you have bestowed upon me this evening.

Thank you, President Kern and Presi-

dent Bonan. I also wish to thank everyone involved in the decision. Mark, I especially appreciate you hiding my transcript.

My remarks here this evening remind me of the opening passages from Mark Twain's book, **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**. In the opening passages of that book, he refers to a previous book he had written, **Tom Sawyer**.

And I quote, "That book was written by Mr. Mark Twain, and he told the truth . . . mainly. There were things that he stretched, but mainly he told the truth."

Well, mainly I tell the truth here tonight just as Mr. Mark Twain did . . . a few things may be stretched, but mainly it is the truth.

I have been asked three questions repeatedly this evening and I thought I would answer them now and maybe I won't have to repeat them.

- Yes, I did have longer hair – and even more of it – in 1970.
- Yes, I did wear bell-bottoms.
- And yes, unfortunately, I did own several leisure suits.

When asked to accept the award, I was asked to make some remarks about what Rend Lake College has meant to me. I must first tell you what I have enjoyed most in life is the care and concern of a loving wife and soul mate of over 31 years, Tresa. Only by her love and support have I been allowed to do anything. She got the hard job in life and I got the easy one. By the way, she also is an alum of RLC.

Additionally, I am fortunate that my father and family are here this evening. That is where the foundation of my life began and I am extremely grateful.

I was very fortunate growing up; I had everything I needed and even a good part of what I wanted. But most of all, I had and continue to have a caring and loving family. Such things provide a good leg up in life.

When I first came to RLC, it was 1970. There were four buildings and one of those, the gymnasium, was not finished. What vision and foresight it must have taken to believe that from those beanfields, RLC could become a reality.

I would like to pay tribute to people like Dr. James Snyder, the first President of Rend Lake College, Dean of Instruction Howard Rawlinson and the faculty and staff for their foresight and innovation, which were integral parts of the establishment of RLC. For their dedication and foresight, I say on behalf of all the RLC alumni, thank you.

In the last few days, I have reflected back upon what Rend Lake College meant to me and how it has helped me in life. You do not want me to tell you that story because it is far too long. But the foundations of an educational experience were put in place at RLC. That experience has helped me throughout my life and I did not realize then how helpful it would be.

Being able to write a decent essay seemed less than exciting in 1970 but has proved invaluable in getting a point across in the business world. I have not had the opportunity to tell Professor Thomas Burke that his English classes really did make a difference in someone's life, but in fact they did.

I will never forget Professor Vincent Cain. He didn't just teach History, he lived and communicated it with a passion that has stayed with me for over 30 years. I learned from such people that passion, drive and a never-ending focus are invaluable tools.

And then there were people like Brad Evilsizer who taught me skills that would prove invaluable to me as I pursued a career in the mining industry.

For the efforts of these people and many more who remain unnamed, because of time and a less-than-perfect memory, I say thank you.

As I think back upon these people, I am reminded of a quote from Oscar Wilde – "A dreamer is one who can only find his way by moonlight, and his punishment is that he sees the dawn before the rest of the world."

The hard work and dedication of the faculty and staff at RLC made them dreamers and they inspired thousands of others to dream for a better life through an education at Rend Lake College.

Many life lessons were learned at RLC along with excellent academic skills. The professional educators at RLC have been involved in what is the most important activity in this nation or any nation – developing the productive citizens of the future.

It seems trite just to say "thank you" and I struggled with an appropriate way to say it. Then I remembered a quote from another professional educator that seemed to do it better than I ever could. It is actually an epitaph. This individual put these words on his tombstone for all the world to see, for it is how he most wanted to be remembered.

"Here was buried Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom and Father of the University of Virginia.



Grant-writing certificate earned by RLC's Wynn

AUGUST 2005

Trudee Wynn, RLC Resource Development Specialist, recently participated in a national training program through The Grantsmanship Center, earning the most prestigious and highly regarded certificate among grant-writing professionals.

First offered in 1972, this program began a new era in training for nonprofit agencies. More than 100,000 nonprofit and government agency staff have attended this intensive, five-day workshop.

Workshops are designed for both novice and experienced grant-seekers. They cover all aspects of searching for grants, writing grant proposals and negotiating with funding sources. The program utilizes TGCI's proposal writing format, the mostly widely used in the world.

Wynn said the training was exceptional, including hands-on exercises in small groups. The program also up new grant networking opportunities with people from other community colleges across the state, Wynn indicated.

"We went over the different sections of grants in detail, finding the relevant statistics," she added. "They taught us to try to 'think outside the box' when it comes to locating funding sources."

In FY2005, Rend Lake College is administering 49 grants and contracts which total \$5.3 million, an increase of \$828,055 (18.5 percent) from FY2003.



Student-athletes return in staff coaching posts

Warrior and Lady Warrior coaching staffs have benefited greatly over the years from former student-athletes who have chosen to return after their playing days were over.

Among them, 11 who headed programs: Men's Basketball Coach (1992-2010) and Athletic Director Tim Wills; Women's Basketball Coach Glenn Box (2005-08); Volleyball and Softball Coach John Kretz (1977-79); Men's Golf Coach Lucas Cromeenes (2011-13); Volleyball Coach Brian Laur (1997-2000); Women's Golf Coach Craig Zinzilieta (2005-06); Cross-Country and Track and Field Coach Eric Alberter (2009-12), and Track and Field Coach Jason Craig (2012-14). Also, Cheerleader Coach Lisa (Van Horn) Moore (1978-82), Cheerleader Coach Randie Marie Galloway (1994-96) and Dance Team Coach Lyndsey Moore (2005-07).

Other players who have come back in Assistant Coach roles (not necessarily in the same sport) include Tommy Holder, Darin Lee, Jeff Morris, Steve Stewart, Brian Gamber, Chuck Doty, Bryant Lowe and Chuck Still (Men's Basketball); Cheryl Weis, Anna (Banks) Wilson and Tommy Hayes (Women's Basketball).

Also, Shanna (Tolbert) O'Bright, Jessica (Hunter) Salina and Jessica Barth (Softball); Kelly Mumbower, Craig Sands, Mike Joseph, Ron Hoerner and John Weimer (Baseball); Danielle Kaufman, Elizabeth Kasey and Jordan Hatch (Women's Golf); John Singleton (Men's Golf); Sarah Bogacki and Hayes (Volleyball); Roger Smith (Cross-Country) and Ben Kirkpatrick (Track and Field).

Because by these, as testimonials that I have lived, I wish most to be remembered."

He did not mention that he was President of the United States for he wanted to be remembered for the things he thought important in this life, being the founder of the University of Virginia.

Many of the people in this room have similarly dedicated their lives to educating the past and future generations. Their accomplishments, while not as well known, are no less important. For that dedication, passion and hard work, I say thank you. Your efforts have affected not only my life, but thousands of lives.

You have a special place in the world and a most important purpose. It reminds me of the starfish story. While a man was laying on a beach in Florida, sipping margaritas and watching senioritas, he noticed that thousands of starfish had been washed ashore. A young boy was throwing them back into the sea one by one. The man approached the boy and said, "Don't you know what you are doing is a waste of time, a futile activity, an impossible task? Who cares if you throw a starfish back in the sea?"

The little boy held high the starfish he had just picked up and said, "This one."

The man wandered off, muttering to himself about how silly the boy must be. Some time later that evening it was reported on the local news that a boy and a middle-aged man were standing on the ocean shore throwing starfish into the sea.

Like the young boy, the people in this room can and do make a difference. They have a purpose that cannot be measured in dollars or scales of any type. It is far too valuable for such a mere measurement. I am here to tell you that your work is invaluable and I implore you to keep throwing the starfish back in the sea, even if you have to do so one at a time.

Again, I most sincerely and with great appreciation accept this honor as a tribute to those who created and continue to move Rend Lake College forward.

AWARD-WINNING COACH GIBSON **Night-shift Custodian told by peers he should keep his day job as well**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 2004

By night, Rend Lake College's Brian Gibson can be found cleaning campus buildings, making sure everything is ready to go for another day of college life. But during the afternoons and evenings, Gibson calls

the shots on the basketball court, baseball diamond and football grid for junior high athletes.

Gibson's efforts and successes have been recognized. He recently was named the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association District 21 Girls Junior High Coach of the Year.

The Sesser native is in his second year of coaching the junior high girls team at Sesser-Valier schools. He also has coached football there for 12 years and has coached the baseball team, which is a co-op program with Waltonville Schools, for five years.

This year, Gibson's junior high girls took second-place in the Class "M" State Tournament, which was held at Rend Lake College. The team went 21-5.

Gibson, a night-shift custodian for RLC, gets off work at 7:30 a.m., sleeps for a few hours and is up by 1:30 p.m. to get to practice or a game. However, he said he does not mind the constant grind.

"My adrenaline gets going, so it's not like I'm tired all the time," he said.

His wife, Lori (a Home Economics Teacher at Sesser-Valier), according to Gibson, has made his situation easier by supporting him every step of the way. While he is coaching, Lori makes sure to be present at as many games as possible for their three children – Valerie, Jennifer and Kendall. Valerie and Jennifer are involved in high school sports, while Kendall now plays junior high basketball.

Gibson said he was nominated for the Coach of the Year award by other coaches in Southern Illinois. "That's what makes it so nice. A couple of guys I really respect voted for me, and that meant a lot," he said.

Gibson said he began coaching to continue the spirit of competition he had experienced during his own school sports days. He was quarterback for the Pana High School football team, where he still holds a few records.

"I could pass the ball, and we were fortunate enough to have some players who could catch the ball, so that worked out pretty well," Gibson joked.

Gibson also played college football and baseball at Lakeland College in Sheboygan, WI.

"You are influencing a kid's life," Gibson said of the coach's role. "You have to balance discipline with rewards, or the kids don't get anything out of the experience.

"I'm pretty fortunate," Gibson said. "I've just had some awesome kids. If you can get a kid to play hard, you have done your job."

A HIDDEN GEM ▶

Learning Resource Center (and staff) the true 'Oasis' of college campus?

RLC CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE APRIL 3, 2014

The North Oasis and South Oasis both contain the title of 'Oasis' in their building name.

But for many, the Learning Resource Center – or LRC – is the true 'Oasis' of Rend Lake College. The entire space has an inviting atmosphere that makes it an excellent choice for both study projects and general recreational reading.

The Learning Resource Center is much more than just a library. It is a fully integrated learning center featuring a top-shelf staff to serve the educational needs of any student and teacher seeking to use its services.

Beth Mandrell has worked at the LRC for more than 15 years.

As the Reference Librarian, her "duties include collection development and maintenance of reference materials, electronic resources and periodicals. I am also a research instructor, archivist and children's librarian," Mandrell said.

She shared some interesting facts about how the LRC stacks up in terms of sheer resources. There are more than 21,000 traditional books, 2,100 electronic books, 105 magazine titles and 18 newspapers (including this one).

There are also many often overlooked features such as the 451 DVDs, including many educational programs as well as classic and newer movies. Then there is a wide selection of music in CD form as well as a sampling of audio books.

"Help is available through research workshops as well as one-on-one research and computer instruction," said Mandrell.

"Learn to use library resources in a small library and you will be more confident when you go to a larger library," she advised. "Also, using the library resources will save you time and provide scholarly information to use in research or completing assignments. Using the library will also help you build a set of skills that will help you leave RLC information literate. . . . You will know what information you need, know how to find and evaluate it and how to use it ethically."

Kim Davis is the LRC Circulation Specialist. She has been a staple at RLC for 34 years. "Our mission is to help students, staff and community users find informa-

tion and materials for personal use and educational purposes," Davis said.

In her long tenure at the LRC, the best piece of advice she has for students on how to use the LRC is to "not wait until the last minute" to start their projects.

Sandy West has worked at the LRC for more than 12 years. West is the Coordinator of Technical Services and Collection Management.

"I purchase all the library material housed within the LRC. [I also] process purchased material to ensure they are shelf-ready, assist faculty with purchase selections, assist circulation staff and assist students in the open computer lab. I also maintain the library budgets," West said.

The LRC offers two separate downloadable book services — SHARE 3M and RLC Axis 360. SHARE 3M contains both fiction and nonfiction material ranging from juvenile to adult. RLC Axis 360 contains fiction material for young adult through adults, according to West.

The Electronic Library was mentioned by everyone interviewed for this story. The Electronic Library is a catalog that gives students access to the resources of more than 400 libraries through an interlibrary loan system, as well as 40 separate electronic databases. Students can access the Electronic Library on any one of the 50 open computers in the LRC Computer Lab.

For those with mobile devices such as phones, tablets and laptops, access to the Internet is free through RLC's public WiFi. Register a username and password at the reference desk to get WiFi access. Students never have to worry about a quiet study space at the LRC. In addition to the computer lab, the Learning Resource Center has a 92-seat study area, along with a children's library.

When asked about upcoming events at the LRC, Mandrell mentioned the Student Art Show, featured in the last edition of the *Clocktower Chronicle*. It is currently on display in the LRC.

National Library Week is April 14-18. To celebrate, students from Studio RLC will be in the LRC giving hand and arm massages on April 17. Mandrell invites every one to stop by for a massage and check out a book, DVD or some music.

The LRC is open 7:45 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays. It is closed on the weekend. Exceptions include holidays and



Kinsey Kaskaskia V-P – Administrative Services

THE SHOPPERS WEEKLY SPRING 2011

Nancy Kinsey was recently promoted to Interim Vice President of Administrative Services for Kaskaskia College.

Kinsey brings a wealth of knowledge and 15 years of administrative experience in the Illinois Community College System to the position. She has worked extensively with faculty, staff and administrators as well as personnel from the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of North Central Association (NCA) during 10 years at KC. Kinsey worked at Southeastern Illinois College from 1993-97 and at Rend Lake College from 1997-2001.

The newest Vice President joined KC in 2001 as Director of Institutional Research and Planning; she was promoted to Associate Dean of Planning, Grants, Institutional Research and Assessment in 2007; and prior to this promotion she held the title of Dean of Institutional Effectiveness from 2009.

Her keen knowledge of Administrative and Fiscal Rules for Illinois Community Colleges and reporting experience in maximizing state funding resources will be extremely valuable as Kaskaskia College faces future funding challenges. She played a key role in KC's accreditation process with the Higher Learning Commission the past six years since KC became an AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Program) institution.

Kinsey "has prepared herself for this role and she has demonstrated the skills and knowledge along with the leadership qualities to be an effective Vice President," stated KC President Dr. Jim Underwood.



Hang-gliding accident takes Ron Smith's life

RLC F.Y.I. SEPTEMBER 1992

Members of the college community are in mourning along with their friend and colleague, Dean of Student Services Pam Smith, due to the sudden death of her husband Thursday evening (September 10).

Ron Smith, a free-spirit who rarely confronted a challenge he dared not accept, was killed on the family farm near Akin in a hang-gliding accident.

The 58-year-old Smith, a retired grade school principal in West Frankfort, was a great believer in physical fitness. He worked out often in the RLC Fitness Center and participated in many past Foundation Open Golf Tournaments.

Hang-gliding was just one of his adventure-filled avocations. In the previous week, for example, Smith tried bungee-jumping at the DuQuoin State Fair and competed, along with his wife, in a road run in St. Louis. He ran in the Boston Marathon at age 53 and bicycled across the country in recent years.

Carbondale's Russell Clover, a former student, co-worker and close friend, told *The Southern Illinoisan*, "I don't know of any man who lived life more fully than Ron Smith. He would face any odds, take any challenge – physically, emotionally or intellectually." He was "a special guy" who age-wise was "forever 30."

In addition to his wife, Smith is survived by four grown children from a previous marriage and four grandchildren.

breaks listed on the academic calendar.

"Visit the LRC and learn what the library can offer you," said West. "We are a hidden gem on the college campus."

~ Billy McPherson

MEDICAL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ▶ From Russia with love: Goloubeva finds her calling teaching in Midwest

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 2015

Living away from home can be tough, especially when that home is 6,000 miles away. It is a familiar experience for Dr. Nina Goloubeva of Tomsk, Siberia, Russia, who was recently appointed Medical Assistant Program Director at Rend Lake College.

Goloubeva came to RLC from California, where she has been living and working since 2002. She began working as a Medical Assistant Instructor at Bryman College in San Jose, CA, and moved on to teaching at Heald College in San Francisco in 2005, where she was later promoted to the Director of Healthcare programs.

Moving from Russia to California was not an easy transition for Goloubeva, who did not start learning English until later in life. Now she says she is experiencing yet another new world – the Midwest.

"I decided to make a change in my life many years ago, so I started learning English around 45 years old," said Goloubeva. "When I moved to California in 2002, that was my first culture shock. Now I'm in my second. The people here are very nice, and very different from those in California."

Goloubeva, who is certified in Medical Assisting by the National Healthcareer Association, initially started her career as a practicing physician in Russia, where she specialized in Pulmonology for more than 20 years at the Siberian State Medical University in Tomsk. She graduated with a first professional degree in medicine from Siberian State Medical University in 1978.

It was not until she moved stateside that she began teaching, and now she says she will never go back.

"When I immigrated to the United States, I entered into the field of medical education and found I was able to transfer my love of medicine to my students. This academic pleasure of transferring my knowledge to students has given me enormous satisfaction," said Goloubeva. "My teaching and management have been appreciated by students with many different cultural backgrounds."

At RLC, Goloubeva says she has found a community she likes, and is constantly impressed with the students, faculty and staff.

"I found the teaching philosophy of the college is the same with mine. I am also impressed with the wonderful people at the college who care about each other and students," said Goloubeva.

"I like college very much, and I was very impressed in the interview with Rend Lake and the team here. The college isn't very big, but it is big enough, and everyone cares about each other and supports each other."

Now a resident of O'Fallon, Goloubeva came to Illinois with her husband for a change in scenery. She has found the fast-paced environment that was California is much different than her life in Southern Illinois. The students, she says, are also very different.

"My students . . . I call them my angels, because they are so different from students in California," said Goloubeva. "Many of them come from challenging backgrounds and they are trying to change their life. That is something I understand and respect. I work my best to help them. They value their time, and my time and they are always taking notes – every word I say. It is very different."

This year, her goal is not only to inspire students, but also to help them grow and continue on after graduating from RLC.

"I enjoy the interaction with students, the challenge of being an effective communicator, and the sense of responsibility toward the student's education," said Goloubeva. "The goal of my teaching is not only to deliver knowledge to students, but also to create in my students an enthusiasm and curiosity toward the love of learning."

25 YEARS AND COUNTING ▶ RLC's Institutional Effectiveness V-P knows System like back of her hand

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE NOVEMBER 10, 2015

Andrea Witthoft, Rend Lake College Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness, has had her hands in almost every aspect of the Illinois Community College System. Over the last 25 years, Witthoft has served as an Administrative Assistant, Instructor, Distance Learning and Media Technician and now Vice President, with one goal in mind: helping local students.

Witthoft, a resident of Anna, landed a

job at Shawnee Community College (SCC) in November 1990 as an Administrative Assistant for its new TRIO Student Support Services grant, and it was just the first step of many on her way up. In addition to moving up the employment chain, she also worked her way up the educational ladder as a non-traditional student, graduating with an Associate in Applied Science Degree from SCC, a Bachelor of Science Degree from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and a Master of Science Degree from the University of Illinois.

Since the early 1990s, Witthoft has helped write, co-author and manage numerous grants and contracts, both at SCC and eventually at RLC. In addition to the TRIO Grant, she worked with Higher Education Consortium Act grants, one Title III Strengthening Institutions grant and the first USDA/RUS Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant awarded in Illinois, all at SCC. Witthoft also got into the classroom to teach career development classes.

After her transition to RLC as the Distance Learning and Media Technician in January 1999, Witthoft continued her work successfully aiding the college in securing grants and contracts that have continued to help students to this day. She worked on additional grants with the Higher Education Consortium Act and served as Coordinator for Title III Strengthening Institutions grants at RLC. She also added other projects to her plate in the form of Illinois State Library grants, Illinois Department of Corrections contracts and Adult Education and Family Literacy grants.

Witthoft also was instrumental in the development of the Southern Illinois Telecommunications Network, which today includes more than 44 videoconferencing classrooms in Southern Illinois. She was a major contributor to RLC's 2008 Higher Learning Commission Self-Study and accreditation process.

In addition, she has helped RLC revise its program review process; initiate a telecourse rental program; manage program review, progress reporting and strategic planning processes, and lead efforts to select and implement a new ERP system.

As if her hands were not full enough, Witthoft also has served as Chair for the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators (ICCCA) Learning Resources Commission, Secretary of the ICCCA, on the Shawnee Library System Board and as a

member of the transition team for the formation of the Illinois Heartland Library System. Witthoft will retire from Rend Lake College in January 2017, shortly after finishing her 17th year with the college.

"As a community college graduate, I believe in the system and the variety of quality educational programs it offers for all students in Illinois," said Witthoft. "I've been truly blessed to start out as an Administrative Assistant and finish my career as a Vice President. Working in the Illinois Community College System has been a very rewarding career."

WYNN ON EXHILARATING ROLL ▶ Grant-writer asks, 'How is college going to benefit from this project?'

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE 2003

For almost two years now, Trudee Wynn has been bringing in the dough at Rend Lake College. It is not the baking kind, nor is she amassing a personal fortune. She is writing grant proposals for the public, two-year community college and doing so quite successfully.

Technically, Wynn is the RLC Resource Development Specialist, reporting to the Executive Director of the Rend Lake College Foundation, Pat Mitchell.

She emphasized, however, the distinction between the two functions. Grant writing is not fund-raising, which is more like what the Foundation does.

So what exactly is a grant? A grant is a monetary award given by a funder. Wynn does the legwork and completes the grant paperwork, either in the form of an application or a proposal, which is a written request asking for money from entities such as a government agency, a foundation or a corporation.

There are several sources to look for these type of funds, such as Federal and State governments, private and corporate foundations, local organizations and private businesses.

According to Wynn, the grant request may be submitted in the form of an application or a proposal. The difference? An application is supplied by the funder, whereas a proposal is more of a free-flowing grant request.

Next, the grant-writer takes a closer look at the organization. What programs are strong? What new programs need funding? Who can be our new funding partners?

"We really look at 'How is the college



Caldwell unique, but that is not always a good trait

RLC F.Y.I. NOVEMBER 2008

Those who find RLC Math Professor Cindy Caldwell to be an extremely unique individual now have documented proof. Caldwell suffers from xerostomia, otherwise known as chronic dry mouth.

Millions of people have it, but her case happens to be among only two percent of those for which specialists cannot pinpoint a cause.

Taking her battle one step further, Caldwell has enlisted in a case study with Dr. Juan Yepes at University of Kentucky to try to find why her body isn't producing enough saliva and hopefully reverse that misfortune forever.

"I am going to be a human 'guinea pig!'" she stated. "I have had this since the beginning of December 2007. Yes, almost a year. The dry mouth is 24-7. Some days are better than others, but it definitely makes life miserable. I do take medication but the side effects are not good."

Impressions of her upper and lower teeth were taken and shipped to Israel. Specialists will use them to fit her for a noninvasive device (Saliwell GenNarino), designed to stimulate salivary production.

She will keep a diary for doctors to study. Tests have shown Caldwell only produces about one-fifth the spit of a normal person. Even drinking liquids brings mixed results.

"It feels like someone has come in with cotton and taken the saliva out. My lips are dry all the time. I'm constantly putting ChapStick® on."

The study provides hope. "I'm very optimistic that it will work. At least, I'm praying to God that it will."



'Social Worker' McKinney So. District Citizen of Year

NEWS RELEASE MARCH 10, 2015

Rend Lake College's Stephanie McKinney of Dahlgren, now a Wayne City resident, has been named Illinois Southern District Public Citizen of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers. McKinney works for Project CHILD as a Child Care Assistance Program Specialist. The Public Citizen of the Year award honors an outstanding community member whose accomplishments exemplify the values and mission of professional social work. According to NASW, those chosen make significant contributions to areas or populations of concern to the social work profession, specifically to those at-risk or vulnerable. They act with courage, demonstrate outstanding leadership and exemplify social work values and ethics.

Though McKinney is not a social worker in title, her daily work for Project CHILD is very similar to that of social work: helping others. She was nominated by former Project CHILD student-worker Lamanda Bean, and says part of the nomination was due to her ability to empathize and effectively communicate with frustrated clients.

"I started using Project CHILD while I was working, finishing school and taking care of my children, so I know first-hand what it feels like to be the parent," she said.

"I enjoy my job so much because I feel like a bridge. I know both sides, and it's the most rewarding part for me to be able to relate and help a parent. I know when Lamanda was here, she worked next to me, and she would send me clients who were frustrated or upset and I would work with them to figure out what the core problem was and go from there."

going to benefit from this project?" she said.

At the present time, for example, Wynn is working to find matching funds for a new Applied Science building on-campus. The state has earmarked funds for 75 percent of the project, leaving RLC to provide the remaining 25 percent.

She also is searching for money to construct a track for the two-time National Championship RLC Cross-Country team.

"There's not a lot of grant money out there for that sort of thing," she admitted. "But they really deserve to have their own track after bringing the young program to such national prominence after only three years in existence."

The challenge, she said, is trying to find the right grant to fit the need and then making the necessary adjustments to make it fit. Another invaluable tool in the grant writing community is the use of networking - the web and several list-services, as well as others in similar positions at community colleges.

"Sometimes, I get hung up and I'll call my counterparts, tell them what I'm trying to do and, hopefully, they can lead me in the right direction," she stated.

The college also has great relationships with the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM) and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, partnering with them on several grants. There is a lot of cooperation with high schools in RLC's eight-county, 13-school district.

Political connections at both the State and Federal levels are important, also. For example, Wynn indicated, a local representative may serve on a subcommittee integral to a project. He/she can let the right people know what is going on and that the project is coming through the pipeline.

Rend Lake College has a long history of grants, including programs such as Ameri-Corps, Upward Bound and Child Care Resource and Referral. And Wynn has a well-qualified cast of supporting players, who are intimately involved with those programs and know the script.

"For FY03, total grant funding at Rend Lake College will exceed \$4.5 million," she said. "We have many grants which roll over but you still have to do the paperwork."

With belts tightening everywhere, and taking into account Illinois' budgetary shortfalls, competition is likely to get tougher. Many sources have reduced the amount of money they are granting. That means

Wynn has to work even harder at getting new grants or renewing old ones.

One of the hardest aspects of being in the grant business is the personnel involved. Many people's jobs hang in the balance when you are talking about grant-funded programs.

"If the grant does not get renewed, these folks are out of jobs," she said. Because of that, the waiting game is one of the biggest stressors for her.

Likewise, there is an upside to writing grants. "I tell Pat [Mitchell], being in this position, you really have your hand on the pulse of the college and the direction in which it is going," said Wynn.

"It's exhilarating!" she added, citing specifically, the big projects in the works and new curriculum coming to RLC.

Wynn gets the opportunity to meet and work with many different people. The job requires much teamwork, because she has to get those involved who know the programs and their needs.

She lauded those faculty members who continually are looking for ways in which to improve the quality of education students receive at Rend Lake College through the use of grants for new equipment and opportunities for field study.

Wynn, whose background is in accounting, said no one really goes into grant writing. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

REND LAKE COLLEGE STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Accomplishments / Milestones Year-by-Year

1967-68

■ IMOGENE I. BOOK

The Rend Lake College Librarian will preside over a session on "Building Planning - Design for Unique and Innovative Centers" at the Third Annual Conference on Junior College Libraries March 29-30. / March '68

■ BETTY ANN WARD

"The 1967-68 TARN Yearbook staff is proud to dedicate Volume I of its annual to a greatly devoted friend and Counselor, Betty Ann Ward. We firmly believe that Miss Ward should be credited with much of the unity and development of the faculty, the students and the community of Rend Lake College. No matter how minute or involved the problems may be, Miss Ward always finds it to be a self-imperative need to help the college's students to become better citizens in their country and their community." / Spring '68

1974-75

■ SKIP WITUNSKI

"In what may be the shortest run for the office of Mayor in the history of local government," according to the West Frankfort *Daily American* on January 3, "Skip Witunski withdrew Thursday the petition he filed Saturday to seek the city's highest job." Witunski told the local media the reasons for his withdrawal were "many and complex" without going into more detail. / January '75

1975-76

■ KEITH DRAYTON JOANN RAUBACK

Two RLC staff members will be featured as soloists during West Frankfort's annual presentation of Handel's "Messiah" at 2 p.m. Sunday, December 7, in the high school auditorium.

Music Instructor Drayton will perform the bass arias. Rauback, a resident of West Frankfort and Executive Secretary to the President at Rend Lake College, will sing a soprano solo, just as she did in last year's "Messiah" performance.

Drayton conducts the RLC Concert Band and Stage Band, as well as the Rend Lake Civic Symphony.

Rauback won the Talent Competition en route to her title as Miss Southern Illinois. She majored in voice while attending Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. / November '75

1976-77

■ IMOGENE BOOK

While attending the week-long conven-

tion of the American Library Association in Washington, D.C., the RLC Learning Resource Center Director benefited as usual from the various library meetings, talks and workshop sessions.

But a highlight for Book was her visits with Congressman Paul Simon.

"I was amazed at the amount of work on the part of the Congressmen. They really do their homework . . . and the efficiency of his office staff was equally impressive.

"Congressman Simon was very gracious. We talked two or three times the day I was there," said Book, the Vice President/President-Elect nominee of the Community and Junior College Library Section of the Association of College Research Libraries. / February '77

■ PART-TIME NURSES HIRED

Doris Simmons (Mt. Vernon) and Judy Skelton (Bonnie) have been hired as part-time nurses to supervise the newly established RLC Health Services Center.

The facility, located in the Student Center, was approved by the Board of Trustees in February. It will be open between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday-Friday and 6-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

Health personnel will be responsible for handling any emergency health problems and services. The center has first aid equipment, a hospital bed and oxygen equipment. It also will serve as an information office and counseling center.

Skelton is a graduate of the Practical Nursing School at Mt. Vernon Community College ('63) and is currently enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing program. Simmons graduated from the RLC Practical Nursing program in 1968 and the ADN program in 1976. / March '77

1977-78

■ HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS

A photo opportunity showed five of the participants who attended the Rend Lake College Workshop for High School Counselors, all of whom are RLC / Mt. Vernon Community College graduates. Shown with longtime Rend Lake College Counselor Betty Ann Ward were Jay Lewis of Woodlawn Community H.S., Richard Cole of Benton Consolidated H.S. and Robert Brown, Ron Harper and Ron Wilson, all of Mt. Vernon Township H.S.

Brown was named the second "Alumnus of the Year" in 1983 by the RLC Foundation. Cole joined the college's Counseling Center staff in 1994 and Lewis was named RLC Director of Counseling in 1996. / Fall '77

1978-79

■ GRAHAM ACTING INSTRUCTION DEAN

Robert Graham was named Acting Dean of Instruction July 14 at a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Four nights later, Trustees learned there were 84 applicants for the Dean's position, including three in-house candidates. / July '78

■ Dr. WILLIAM "BILL" HUDSON

The Department Chair for AAA and Interior Design received his Ph.D. Degree from Texas A & M University. Both his B.S. and M.S. degrees are from Ohio State University. Hudson was a member of the faculty at New Mexico State University before joining RLC as Department Chair in June 1977. / December '78

■ SUSAN KOLOJESKI

The Art Instructor claimed a Merit Award for her quilt, "Wrappers," in the Illinois State Museum craft competition.

The same quilt also has been selected to appear in *Stitchery '79*, one of the largest and best-known needlework exhibitions in the United States, sponsored by the Embroiderers Guild of Pittsburgh, PA. / February '79

■ IMOGENE BOOK

RLC Librarian served as chairperson for the Community and Junior College Libraries Section, a part of the American Library Association. As such, she was responsible for organizing the CJCLS program at the national convention in Dallas June 23-27 with over 1,000 members in attendance. / June '79

1979-80

■ Dr. EVELYN CLAXTON

The Arts and Communications Department Chair was a nominee for the second annual Governor's Award for the Arts sponsored by the Illinois Arts Council. Dr. Claxton was nominated for her "positive influence in this area" and her "encouragement to the arts, particularly writing, in the college and the wider community that Rend Lake College serves," said Community Services Dean Cheryl Foley.

A committee will select 10 award-winners from a total of 235 statewide nominees, including individuals, communities, organizations and corporations. She is one of five individuals nominated from Southern Illinois, along with the Mitchell Foundation-Museum in Mt. Vernon and the Marion Cultural and Civic Center.

Dr. Claxton recently was named winner of the Poet's Laurel Award-winner by the Mt. Vernon Writers.

Another college employee, Art Instructor Susan Kolojeski, and Mt. Vernon's Dr. Carl L. Schweinfurth were Governor's Awards nominees a year ago. / August '79

■ SUE UPCHURCH

The Rend Lake College Assistant Registrar will be among the participants October 24-26 at the 57th annual meeting of the Illinois Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers at Nordic Hills in Itasca.

Upchurch and panelists from three other institutions will present a session on "Academic Probation and Dismissal." Stressed will be the relationship of policies and procedures for academic probation and dismissal to the mission of the institution, the problems and the solutions.

Also represented will be Northwestern University, Southern Illinois U.-Carbondale and Sangamon State. / October '79

■ ARDELL KIMMEL

The former Vocational-Technical Dean who is in charge of career placement was honored recently at the annual meeting of the Illinois Council of Local Administrators in Springfield. Kimmel attended the fall meeting of Illinois vocational education administrators and advisory council members and was presented a special plaque as the group's outgoing president. / November '79

■ Dr. HARRY BRAUN

The Rend Lake College President was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors for Southern Illinois Incorporated, a non-profit organization dedicated to the coordinated economic development of the area. /

■ MIKE McCLURE

Warrior Baseball Coach was named a Committee Chairman for 1980 by the Baseball Coaches Association, an affiliate of the National Junior College Athletic Association. /

■ MYRON FOLEY

The Business Department Chair has been appointed Chair of the Small Business Education Seminars Committee for the Greater Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce. / March '80

■ THREE ON D.A.V.T.E. TEAM

Three members of the Rend Lake College staff - Vocational-Technical Dean Ardell Kimmel, Business, Math and Social Science Department Chair Myron Foley and Mining Technology Department Chair Gary Wade - served on the Department of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education (DAVTE) Evaluation Team which checked out programs at Illinois Eastern Community Colleges during the

month of March. Illinois Eastern includes Frontier Community College in Fairfield, Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, Olney Central College and Wabash Valley College in Mt. Carmel. / April '80

■ IMOGENE BOOK

Librarian was elected to the 10-member Executive Board of the Association of College and Research Libraries, the largest division of the American Library Association. Her two-year term begins immediately following the group's annual convention, which she will attend June 26-July 4 in New York City. Book will be the only board member representing junior and community college librarians across the nation. / June '80

1980-81

■ BOB SPUHLER

The recently named Dean of Student Services is not wasting any time promoting Rend Lake College. Spuhler was one of the featured speakers July 10-11 at a workshop concerned with "Research for the Community/Junior College of the Eighties" on the campus of Ohio State University in Columbus.

His round-table discussion, "Retention Research: The Cornerstone to an Institutional Marketing Plan," was part of the annual meeting of the North Central Region's American Educational Research Association - Special Interest Group for Community/Junior College Research.

He led a discussion on the importance of retention research in the process of developing such institutional marketing plans. Before coming to RLC earlier this month, Spuhler was Director of Advising and Student Development at Indiana University-Richmond and served on a marketing and recruitment committee which conducted surveys of both current and former students. / July '80

■ SARA DAVENPORT

The RLC Information and Referral Counselor in the Developmental Skills Center was a guest speaker at the Title XX Special Projects Workshop in Springfield. She detailed the success story of the Adult Education programs at the workshop sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education. In the first year of Davenport's employment, Rend Lake College retained 83 percent of its Title XX students (public aid recipients), well above the state goal of 65 percent. Meanwhile, enrollment more than doubled in General Educational Development (GED), Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. / September '80

■ SUE UPCHURCH

Rend Lake College's Acting Registrar

was voted Chair-Elect of the Southern District at the 58th annual meeting of the Illinois Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers in Peoria. Upchurch will serve as chair over representatives of 18 institutions in the bottom third of the state for 1981-82. / October '80

■ SHIRLEY McHANEY

The Chair of RLC's Allied Health Department served on the vocational education evaluation team which visited Cairo Community Unit #1.

A letter from Southeastern Illinois Career Center Team Leader James F. Henry noted her "valuable assistance." McHaney's "experience and knowledge of the current state of art in Health Occupations education was especially valuable," Henry added. / October '80

■ BARBARA K. LILES

The Affirmative Action Officer is one of 66 top women in management from a national pool of over 400 to be selected to participate in a leadership training program through a \$60,000 grant from the Fund for Improvement of Postsecondary Education. "Leadership for the '80s" is designed to assist community college women to assume major policy-making positions during the next decade.

Participants will be paired with mentors to work on a research project that will aid their institution, participate in special regional workshops and national conferences and become involved with other women in administration positions.

Her six-month research project will focus on helping her mentor, Business Manager B.J. "Skip" Witunski, collect and evaluate salary survey data, update job descriptions and develop orientation and training materials.

The project is sponsored by the League for Innovation in Community Colleges, a consortium of 17 community college districts nationwide, and by the American Association of Women in Community and Junior Colleges. / January '81

■ B.J. "SKIP" WITUNSKI

Business Manager/Treasurer elected as the at-large representative to the Board of Directors for the statewide Illinois Association of Community College Business Administrators. The five-member board includes representatives from the southern, central and northern districts, as well as from the city schools of Chicago and one at-large representative, all of whom are elected by their peers to three-year terms. The IACCBA is comprised of 40 chief financial officers; its primary function is to review and suggest financial funding and business policies concerning Illinois community colleges. / February '81

1981-82

■ RON SANDERSON

Mining Technology Department Chair elected to serve as the Region VI Board Director for the Illinois Council of Local Administrators. /

1982-83

■ Dr. ROBERT SPUHLER Dr. RICHARD HEATON

Two members of the college staff, the Dean of Administrative and Student Services (Spuhler) and a Science Instructor (Heaton), recently completed requirements for doctorate degrees.

Dr. Spuhler, 36, successfully defended his dissertation on "Retention of College Students" in late February to earn a Doctor of Education Degree (Ed.D.) in higher education from the University of Southern California.

Dr. Heaton, 50, has been a faculty member since 1971. He became the sixth faculty member currently on the RLC staff to achieve similar status when he passed his orals at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. His Ph.D. Degree in Higher Education involved a dissertation on a "Follow-Up Study of All Community College Mining Technology Graduates, 1974-80." / March '83

1983-84

■ RON SANDERSON Dr. RICHARD HEATON

Mining Technology Department Chair elected President of the Tri-State Association of Mining Educators (TAME) at a recent meeting which also featured RLC Science Instructor Dr. Richard Heaton as its guest speaker.

Heaton's audience on the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale campus included about 40 members of TAME and the Mine Trainers Association. The organizations include representatives from Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky.

Heaton shared findings of his "Follow-Up Study of All Community College Mining Technology Graduates, 1974-80," which concluded better than 85 percent of graduates from RLC, Southeastern Illinois and Wabash Valley were either "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the education they received and the instructors, equipment and facilities prepared them well.

His study revealed a similar percentage of students indicated their instructors were well prepared to teach the subject matter and facilities/equipment available satisfactorily prepared them for mining careers. / August '83

■ PAM LUTTMERS SANDY RHOADS

The Director of Advising (Luttmers)

and Director of Cooperative Education and Job Placement (Rhoads) have been accepted as participants in "Leaders for the '80s," a national administrative leadership program which will provide a week of intensive training in community college administration and time to develop a project which helps them gain administrative skills and benefit the campus.

The program is sponsored by the Institute for Leadership Development.

Luttmers will work on orientation programs for specific incoming students. Rhoads will study the feasibility of having a day care center on-campus. / January '84

■ MARK S. KERN

The RLC Board of Trustees was informed the Dean of Instruction has been appointed Vice President of the Illinois Community College Administrators Association (ICCAA). / January '84

■ CHERYL FOLEY

The Dean of Community Services, who was granted a leave of absence at her request the previous March, had her resignation accepted at the February 21 Board of Trustees meeting. / February '84

1984-85

■ LARRY RICHMOND

Larry Richmond has submitted his resignation after three years as Chair of the Science, Math, Health and Education Department at Rend Lake College to accept the position of Minister of Education and Administration for Park Avenue Baptist Church in Memphis, TN.

Richmond was responsible for making major revisions in the Engineering and Physical Science programs, over 25 courses were added or revised, education courses were added for students interested in teaching and enrollment increased by nearly 25 percent in Science and Math. He also assisted in the acquisition of computers for instructional purposes.

Richmond's primary duties in Memphis will be to lead church growth and to train church committees and leaders. Park Avenue Baptist has a membership of approximately 1,100. / August '84

■ Dr. STEVE TIETZ

The RLC Arts and Communications Department Chair was recognized as Founding Editor of the literary magazine, *The Mississippi Valley Review* (MVR), which is celebrating its 15th anniversary, at Western Illinois University. / November '84

■ CUSTODIANS FAVOR UNION

At their Board Meeting on January 15, 1985, Trustees were informed Rend Lake College Custodians voted 9-3 in favor of representation by the Laborers Interna-

tional Union of North America Local No. 1136. / January '85

1985-86

■ Dr. STEVE TIETZ

The Chairman of the RLC Arts and Communications Department spent the day recently on Western Illinois University's campus in Macomb as a guest of the special "Visiting Writers" program.

Tietz taught classes in creative writing, gave a reading of his own poetry and was interviewed by the campus radio station, both for a local broadcast and for a syndicated program to be aired by National Public Radio stations, entitled "New Letters on the Air."

Tietz shared the spotlight with Actor Larry Linville, who plays Frank Burns on the television version of M*A*S*H. Linville was visiting campus before providing entertainment for WIU students.

Tietz taught at WIU from 1970-74. / November '85

■ RON APPUHN

The RLC Dean for Finance and Administration was appointed to the 1986 Finance Committee of the National Association of College Auxiliary Services, according to NACAS Executive Director Stan Clark from the organization's headquarters in Staunton, VA. / December '85

■ MITCH HASKINS

The RLC Athletic Director and Men's Basketball Coach has been selected as "Alumnus of the Year" at Oakland City (IN) College. / April '86

■ PHYLLIS RICE

Hired as the Receptionist in 1981 and later moved to the position of Cashier in the Business Office, Rice was transferred to Administrative Assistant for the Physical Plant in June, 1986.

Phyllis Rice Davis would remain in that position until her retirement in 2010, serving under Directors Leroy Spotanski, Dow Smith and Randall Shively. / June '86

1986-87

■ WSIU-TV FUND-RAISING VOLUNTEERS

Representatives from Rend Lake College recently helped answer phone calls during "Festival '87," the annual fund-raising campaign conducted by Public Broadcasting Station WSIU-TV Channel 8 in Carbondale.

Participants included Dr. Steve Tietz, Arts and Communications Department Chair; Larry Williams, Science, Math and Education Department Chair; Ron Appuhn, Dean for Finance and Administration; Ed Ruffino, Early School Leaver program; Sandy Rhoads, Director of Cooperative Education / Job Placement

and Affirmative Action Officer, and Rex Duncan, Assistant Director for Co-op Education and Job Placement. / April '87

■ LEROY SPOTANSKI

The Director of the RLC Physical Plant, who will be retiring September 1, was honored recently at Rend Lake College. A college employee since 1970, Spotanski succeeded the late Lawrence Winemiller as Director in 1983 and has served in that capacity since that time.

The Sesser resident and his wife, Elaine, are residents of Sesser. He was presented with a plaque of appreciation for dedicated service by RLC President Dr. Harry Braun and Marvin Scott, Chairman of the RLC Board of Trustees. / June '87

1987-88

■ SUE WELLS

The RLC Director of Admissions and Records was elected Vice Chair of the Southern District at the annual meeting of the Illinois Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (IACRAO). The conference was held October 20-23 in Urbana-Champaign.

Seventeen colleges and universities comprise the Southern District. Shirley Lilliard of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale was elected Chair.

As a result of her new position, Wells will be on the Program and Nominating committees for the statewide group. She will move next year to Chairman, a position she held in 1982. / October '87

■ RON APPUHN

The RLC Dean for Finance and Administration was appointed to the Finance Committee for the National Association of College Auxiliary Services for 1988.

NACAS includes members representing over 1,300 colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada. The committee is responsible for the development of the budget and review of the current budget and financial statements.

Appuhn has been active in the organization for six years. He served as Central Association of College Auxiliary Services Chair from 1984-86 and as CACAS Secretary-Treasurer for 1986-88. / December '87

1988-89

■ BOB ROSS

Director of Resource Development has been chosen to participate in the National Council for Resource Development, Resource Specialist Training Program to be held the first week in St. Louis and a second week in Washington, DC in March. He is one of 20 development officers selected by the NCRD Board of Directors representing applicants from community colleges throughout the United States.

The intensive workshop will feature sessions regarding fund-raising, contracting, corporate solicitations, foundation development/management, federal relations, grants management, networking, proposal preparation and technology applications, in addition to observance of successful Resource Development operations, meetings with congressional representatives and their aides and top-level personnel from the Department of Education, Department of Labor and the National Endowment. / October '88

■ ELAINE GRIFFITH

Rend Lake College's Single-Parent Project Coordinator for Franklin County has been named as an American Vocational Association "New Professional."

The program provides a stipend for vocational educators to attend their first national convention. Convention attendance affords participants the opportunity to remain current with rapid changes in technology, teaching methods and issues pertinent to vocational education.

One-hundred recipients statewide were chosen on the basis of demonstrated commitment to the profession of vocational education, according to a news release from the Illinois Vocational Association.

The "New Professional" program is sponsored by the AVA and state affiliates, along with the Illinois State Board of Education/Department of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education. / November '88

■ HAROLD FINN

The Mining and Industrial Technology Department Chair was elected Director of Region II in the Community College and Technical Institute Division of the National Association of Industrial Technology. The region encompasses seven midwestern states. / December '88

■ RON APPUHN

The RLC Dean for Finance and Administration has been appointed Treasurer to the National Association of College Auxiliary Services for 1989, according to NACAS officials in Staunton, VA.

Appuhn has been an active member for six years at the regional and national levels, serving as Central Association of College Auxiliary Services (CACAS) Audit Chairman from 1984-86 and as Secretary/Treasurer from 1986-89. He was appointed to the NACAS Finance Committee in 1985, '86 and '88. NACAS includes over 1,400 colleges and universities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

As Dean for Finance and Administration, he is responsible for financial and administrative affairs, the physical plant and auxiliary operations. / January '89

1989-90

■ SARA DAVENPORT

The Director of Advising and Student Development is encouraging friends to stop by and see her this weekend. Davenport and her husband, Jack, will have a booth at the prestigious Cedarhurst Craft Fair in Mt. Vernon Saturday and Sunday (September 9-10). "Bring your checkbooks," Sara said with a smile. / September '89

■ BARBARA BAUERNFELD

RLC Literacy Project Coordinator received the "Literacy Award" from the Southern Illinois Reading Council at its October meeting at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Bauernfeld also was invited to the Illinois Pre-White House Conference on Libraries and Information in Chicago. / October '89

■ Dr. KEITH R. LAPE

The Dean of Instruction-turned-Vice President (title change only) visited England as part of the International Studies "Administrative Exchange Program." /

■ BOB BUFFINGTON

RLC Media Services Coordinator was re-elected to a four-year term on the Giant City School District No. 130 Board of Education. He was then elected President by his peers. / November '89

■ RON APPUHN

Dean for Finance and Administration was re-elected Treasurer at the 21st annual meeting of the National Association of College Auxiliary Services held November 8-11 in New Orleans. Over 500 college and university administrators attended the convention. / November '89

■ Dr. JON ASTROTH

First-year Rend Lake College President was invited to make a presentation to the Executive Committee of the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators (ICCCA) at its Fall Conference. /

■ MITCH HASKINS

The RLC Athletic Director and Men's Basketball Coach has been named to the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Board of Directors. / June '90

1990-91

■ CARROLL TURNER

Dean of Vocational-Technical Education was honored with the "Larry Foster Award for Outstanding Public Service" by the Rend Lake Conservancy District. The honor is named for the head of the RLCD. / September '90

■ HAROLD FINN

The Rend Lake College Department Chair is President-Elect of the Community College and Technical Institute Division

of the National Association of Industrial Technology. / September '90

■ **Dr. JON ASTROTH**

RLC President will be in England October 4-20 to complete an International Studies "Administrative Exchange Program." Dr. Astroth will be visiting four institutions of "furthering education" in southern and southeast England, including Southend College of Technology, where Rend Lake College guest Tony Pitcher (April 26-May 8) is Principal. The visit also includes time with participants in the Canterbury exchange program and a tour of an adult education retraining school in northern Germany. / October '90

■ **MARY ROE**

The Vocational Special Needs Coordinator will be busy off-campus the next two weeks. On November 6-8, she will be part of a North Central Association Evaluation Team at Fairfield High School responsible for auxiliary services and guidance.

On November 16-18, Roe will participate as a panel member concerned with "Selecting a Superintendent" at the Illinois Association of School Boards Conference in Chicago. She is President of the Pinckneyville Community High School Board of Education. / November '90

■ **SUE WELLS**

The RLC Director of Admissions and Records will be one of 30 guests from Illinois colleges November 28-December 3 visiting the campus of the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) in Querétaro, Mexico, 120 miles northwest of Mexico City. The trip is part of the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs.

The Study Abroad Mexican Program will be offered to students for the first time Summer 1991. / November '90

■ **BARBARA BAUERNFEIND**

The RLC Volunteer Literacy Project Director was re-elected President of the Literacy Council of Southern Illinois at the organization's sixth annual meeting in January. Rend Lake College's Dee Russell and Mt. Vernon volunteer tutor John Howard were among five new board members also elected. / February '91

■ **JEAN ESTES**

The President's Secretary is now an elected official. She was one of the top three vote-getters April 2 when C.E. Brehm Memorial Public Library District in Mt. Vernon conducted its first Board of Trustees election since the formation of a new, area-wide district. Eight individuals were running for seven positions.

Estes was one of five incumbents selected; she was first appointed to the

position in Spring 1989. She received 1,379 votes, just 80 fewer than the frontrunner and 443 more than needed to be elected. / April '91

■ **BOB ROSS**

RLC's Director of Resource Development served recently on the Illinois Resource Development Commission Task Force on State Funding to Two-Year Colleges. Participants visited state agencies in Springfield to gather information on competitive grants for inclusion in a Guide to Community College Funding, which will be distributed in the fall to commission members, Illinois community colleges and state agencies. / June '91

■ **MENARD CORRECTIONAL STAFF**

After receiving notification following the April 23 RLC Board of Trustees meeting of possible termination of all faculty and staff associated with the Menard Correctional Center education program, contract extensions were granted at the June 18 meeting through September.

(Menard staff contracts were extended once again - through June 1992 - on September 24.) / April-June-September '91

■ **DANA HILS**

The Center for Business and Community Services Assistant Director recently completed the Program Management Institute for Administrators of Continuing Education. The institute is sponsored by the Learning Resources Network (LERN), an international organization.

The Program Management Institute is the most advanced, complete and comprehensive training available in the areas of programming and marketing for continuing education programs.

"As an experienced administrator, Dana was able to fully benefit from the program as well as contribute to its success," noted William A. Draves, Executive Director. LERN has more than 5,000 members in 20 countries. / July '91

1991-92

■ **MARK S. KERN**

The RLC President will be the featured speaker this Saturday (September 21) for the King City Dinner Club, which will meet on the Ina campus at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Center. Kern's address will highlight "Rend Lake College: Past, Present and Future." / September '91

■ **CAMILLE JONES**

The RLC Project First Class Coordinator has been named Chairperson of the 30-member Advisory Board Committee of the Minority Engineering Program at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

The committee meets on an as-needed

basis, four-five times per year, and includes 15 representatives from industry, seven university personnel reps and eight from the general public.

The program lends encouragement to Project First Class participants to work hard at the grade and high school level, attend RLC and transfer to SIUC in math and engineering programs. / September '91

■ **DANA HILS**

The Assistant Director of the RLC Center for Business and Community Services was selected to serve on an evaluation team for North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Hils and the other team members paid its official visit to Golconda's Civilian Conservation Center September 24-26 and will be submitting its evaluation report in the near future.

The committee is chaired by George Pintar, Executive Director of the Illinois Community Education Association. The team also includes Dale Murbarger, Director for the Clay-Jasper-Richland Optional Education Program and Don Norwood, retired from the Illinois State Board of Education. / September '91

■ **HAROLD FINN**

The RLC Industrial Technology and Mining Department Chair is the new President for the Community College and Technical Institute Division of the National Association of Industrial Technology. Finn was installed Saturday, October 19, during the group's annual convention in Dayton, OH.

The organization itself is 27 years old; the Community College and Technical Institute Division has been in existence just three years and boasts 150 members.

Finn served as the division's Director for a seven-state region in its inaugural year and as President-Elect the past 12 months. / October '91

■ **S.I.U. ALUMNUS MAGAZINE**

Hot off the press! The recently published Fall 1991 *Alumnus* Magazine from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale includes: credit to Designer Bob Buffington, former RLC Media/Graphics Coordinator; comments by ex-RLC Student Trustee Amy Andrews, and an article on the SIU Japan campus by former RLC part-time Instructor and student newspaper Advisor Sue Davis. / October '91

■ **MARY ROE**

The RLC Vocational Special Needs Coordinator was elected earlier this month to her third four-year term on the Pinckneyville Community High School Board. Roe, who has served the past six years as Board President, also was re-elected to

that position when the Board reorganized.
/ November '91

A letter regarding Roe from a Vienna High School administrator recognized her recent contributions as a member of its North Central Association Evaluation Team. / December '91

■ DAVE WARNER

The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Counselor was elected President of the Franklin County Farm Bureau for a third consecutive term at the November 26 annual meeting.

One of Warner's duties that evening was to present a plaque to RLC Vocational-Technical Dean Carroll Turner, who was coming off the bureau's Board of Directors after a two-year stint. / November '91

■ SUE WELLS

The Director of Admissions and Records for the past 12 years and a Rend Lake College employee since 1976 has been nominated to serve as President-Elect of the Illinois Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers Executive Board for 1991-92 and will assume the duties of President next year.

Wells has served previously as Southern District Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary and served on nominating, program and local arrangements committees.

Wells is the second in her family to serve in a similar capacity. Her brother, Dr. B. Kirby Browning, recently retired Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Director of Admissions and Records and current RLC Trustee, was IACRAO President in 1983.

The association promotes higher education and supports professional advancement of such functions as admissions, inter-school relations, registration and records maintenance. / December '91

■ TERRY CLARK DAVID WARNER

AAA Department Chair Terry Clark and JTPA Counselor David Warner were members of the Planning Committee for "Franklin County Agricultural Day" Saturday, March 21. The event will be from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Benton Civic Center and will feature displays and demonstrations, farm commodity groups, food, door prizes and entertainment. / March '92

■ SUE WELLS

Rend Lake College's Director of Admissions and Records will be one of the presenters during the Computer Management and Development Services (CMDs) Teams Conference March 22-25 in Arlington, VA. Wells will address "Legal Issues in the Educational Setting," with an emphasis on Family Rights and Responsibilities.

She will be joined at the conference, entitled "Sharing Tomorrow's Vision," by RLC Controller Butch Milam, Management Information System Director David Schwartz, representatives of the Harrisburg-based computer firm that is presently under contract to handle the college's MIS needs and over 100 other participants. CMDs provides the MIS software used by the college. / March '92

■ DOUG CARLSON

The RLC Director of Financial Aid will serve the unexpired term of office of the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Inc. Vice President of Community Colleges. / April '92

■ LISA PAYNE

Assistant Director Lisa Payne of the RLC Center for Business and Community Services has been elected Treasurer of the Illinois Community College Economic Development Association, a statewide organization. / May '92

■ SHERRY SOMERS

The Accounts Payable/Purchasing Clerk was inducted into Kappa Delta Pi national scholastic honor society last week at SIU-Carbondale. / May '92

1992-93

■ SUE WELLS

The Illinois Community College Board has recognized the appointment of Rend Lake College's Director of Admissions and Records to its Management Information Services (MIS) Research Advisory Committee. / July '92

■ ELAINE JOHNSON

Single-Parent Coordinator/Counselor invited to become one of nine members on the Illinois State Board of Education Sex Equity Advisory Commission. Signed into law September 1999, the group's purpose is "to advise and consult with the Illinois State Board of Education in all aspects of the Federal Vocational Education Sex Equity Program." / October '92

■ NAME CHANGE

The Rend Lake College Classified Staff is no longer. It has a new, updated name: the Office Support Staff. / 1993

■ BIG MUDDY RIVER C.C. TOUR

In-Service for Spring 1993 included a tour of the new Big Muddy River Correctional Center for those who desired to take advantage of the opportunity. / Spring '93

■ PAM SMITH

RLC Director of Student Services will serve on the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools Evaluation Team for its accreditation visit to Mt. Vernon Township High School. / March '93

■ GEORGE McPHEETERS

The Pinckneyville Community Coordinator is leaving the part-time position with RLC Community Services after a 15-year stay. / Spring '93

1993-94

■ DAVID SCOTT

The Ag, Architectural and Automotive Department Chair was recognized by the Illinois Department of Corrections for his assistance helping with the creation of softball diamonds within the Big Muddy River C.C. compound. / August '93

■ ADMINISTRATORS IN CLASSROOM

Beginning Fall 1993, more than 30 individuals will participate in the Administrators in the Classroom program over the next three years. Each participant either will teach or provide support services in a class for one semester. / Fall '93

■ ROBERT EGGERTSEN

The RLC Special Needs Coordinator at Big Muddy River Correctional Center is named "Southern Region Employee of the Month" for School District #428. His nomination was submitted by Educational Facility Administrator Michael W. Bond, who indicated the award is "in recognition of your hard work and dedication to the opening of school programs at BMRCC. You have been very influential in the set-up and opening of the program. You have done an excellent job recruiting students, generating Pell Grants and assisting in the overall start-up." / September '93

■ DOW SMITH

The Director of the RLC Physical Plant recently passed the difficult Class I Operator Exam and could now operate any municipal wastewater treatment plant in the state of Illinois.

The statewide pass rate is only 18 percent on this test, including those who take it a second, third and/or fourth time. Smith was successful on his first attempt September 24 in Oglesby.

Treatment plants are grouped into Class I-IV operations. A couple of years ago, Smith passed the Class II exam for operation of plants with a flow (influent) up to one million gallons per day.

Rend Lake College's sewer treatment plant has a flow of about 20,000 gallons per day, according to Smith. / September '93

■ Dr. JOHN HOMAN JR.

Arts and Communications Department Chair has poetry selected to appear in the Cloverdale Review of Criticism and Poetry for Spring 1994. / November '93

■ SUE WELLS

The RLC Director is serving as 1992-93 President of the Illinois Association of

Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. / December '93

■ **DOW SMITH**

The RLC Director of the Physical Plant was commended by Gregory E. Florian, Associate Director of Fiscal Affairs for the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), for "his great effort and leadership to initiate founding" of the Illinois Community College Physical Plant Administrators Association. / February '94

■ **KEN MILLER**

The retired Director of Resource Development and Executive Director of the RLC Foundation was selected as recipient of the Illinois Reaches Out Award, presented quarterly to a deserving Illinois resident. The Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce recommended Miller for the volunteer recognition award. "No one is more deserving," Executive Director Norma Colwell said of the first person ever nominated by the JCCC. "I think it's a symbolic presentation," said the tireless, humble recipient. "I feel I'm a symbol of hundreds and hundreds of volunteers – most of them senior citizens – from the Jefferson County area, and I feel honored to accept on their behalf." / March '94

■ **Dr. STEVE TIETZ**

The former English Instructor and Arts and Communications Department Chair, named RLC Vice President in 1992, was honored as the "Outstanding Alumnus" of the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale English Department. / April '94

■ **NANCY KERTZ**

The RLC Nurse has been selected as recipient of the first "Humanitarian of the Year" Award presented by the Human Services Club, according to an announcement by Sponsor Sue Tomlin.

Kertz is being honored for her volunteer nursing efforts in Haiti. The award includes a plaque and a \$50 donation to a charity of the recipient's choice . . . the "Support Haiti" program of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Evansville, IN.

Kertz had made 14 missionary trips to Haiti before joining RLC last fall and made her latest work-related visit in February.

"Choosing a single award recipient was a wrenching decision, since Therese Howard also has our deepest admiration for all of her work on behalf of The Amy Center," commented Human Services Club President Michael Flota. / April '94

■ **IMOGENE BOOK**

The former Rend Lake College Librarian is a 1994 recipient of the Association of College and Research Libraries EBSCO Community College Learning Resource Achievement Award. Book is Dean of

Learning Resources at Denmark (SC) Technical College. / June '94

1994-95

■ **BARBARA BAUERNFEIND
JEAN ESTES**

RLC's Director of the Developmental Skills Center (Bauernfeind) is appointed to the C.E. Brehm Memorial Public Library Board of Trustees. She joins the RLC Title III Director and Administrative Assistant (Estes) on the seven-member board of the Mt. Vernon-based library. / July '94

■ **BOB ROSS**

The RLC Director of Resource Development, Research and Planning has been elected President of the Illinois Resource Development Commission and was appointed to the Illinois Community College Foundation Board.

■ **PAULA TATE**

Just two months after it was discovered and began taking her from her job as RLC Counseling Center Secretary, cancer took the life of Paula Tate, 52, on Wednesday, December 7.

A scholarship fund has been established by Counselor Sara Davenport and other friends in Paula's memory.

It is hoped the Paula Tate Scholarship can grow to endowed status, to be used eventually by five grandchildren – Rachel, Loren and Taylor Thomason, children of daughter Daphne and Allen Thomason, and Zachary and Emily Tate, children of son Kevin and Julie Tate.

Davenport had the opportunity to inform her good friend about the establishment of the scholarship in her honor a week prior to Paula's death. / December '94

■ **MARY KELSO**

A paper by the Testing Services Coordinator, "Vocational Assessment Within a Community College," will be made part of **The Issues Papers**, resulting from the National Forum on Issues in Vocational Assessment. The Issues Papers will be published by the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Contributors included Pat Elliott, Mary Roe, Cooperative Education and Job Placement staff, Cindy Minor, Dr. John Homan Jr. and Carolyn Manker. / April '95

■ **JERRY BATE**

The RLC Human Services Club named the Security Chief as its Second Annual "Humanitarian of the Year."

Bate was saluted May 5 by club members "in recognition of services performed above and beyond the call of duty." / May '95

1995-96

■ **LYNETTEE HEPPE**

The Board was provided with copies of a letter from the Southern Illinois Area

Adult Education Service Center inviting the Coordinator of Adult Learning at RLC's Mt. Vernon Family Education Investment Center to do a session at its fall conference. Heppel likewise was commended for her classroom activities which have increased learning outcomes and student retentions and success. / August '95

■ **AMERICORPS PRESENTATION**

Three RLC Directors will join previously announced Science Instructor Barbara Davenport as presenters at the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators Fall 1995 Conference November 8-10 in Springfield.

"AmeriCorps: A New Choice for Illinois Community Colleges," will be addressed by a panel comprised of volunteers and program managers, including the RLC trio of Bob Ross, Director of Planning, Research and Correctional Education; Valerie Dawkins, who coordinates the "Illinois ChildCorps" program, and Rex Duncan, who initiated and oversees the "AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois" project.

Those three, along with Dana Curtis of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' "RiverWatch Network" project and Moderator Bruce Bohrer of Harper College, will highlight how three programs in Illinois have changed communities, campuses and lives. / September '95

■ **DEBBIE PASCHAL**

The part-time employee and student, who helped Director of Resource Development Bob Ross generate the most recent successful Title III Grant application, has been hired as the new Executive Director for the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, effective October 9.

Paschal was the Administrative Assistant for 10 years in the Mt. Vernon office of State Rep. Larry Hicks. / October '95

■ **SHAKIR HIRED ON PART-TIME BASIS**

Salah Shakir was hired as half-time Information Services Director, effective January 2, 1996, at the December 12 Board of Trustees meeting. / December '95

■ **CARROLL TURNER**

The Dean of Vocational-Technical Education was being honored at a reception upon his retirement when he told his captive audience, "I certainly am enjoying hearing about how good I used to be." Turning serious, Turner admitted, "I love all of you. It has been a great experience being here, and I am looking forward to retirement." / April '96

■ **VALERIE DAWKINS
MARY HARRISON**

RLC's Project: CHILD Director (Dawkins), 16-year-old daughter Rachel Dawkins and the Illinois ChildCorps As-

sistant (Harrison), on their own, served as unofficial RLC ambassadors when they attended the June 1 "Stand for Children" demonstration which attracted 200,000-plus to the nation's capital in Washington, D.C. "It is time for this country to see children as its No. 1 priority," said Dawkins, calling the gathering between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument "an event of a lifetime." / June '96

1996-97

■ HERB WINEMILLER PAT MITCHELL

The Director of Resource Development (Winemiller) and Registrar (Mitchell) were invited to make a presentation at the fourth annual Clements Group Client Conference in St. Simons Island, GA, August 23-24. "How to Use Special Events as Image Enhancers," included a video of the last two RLC Foundation Annual Dinners, free Valentine Dances, the annual RLCF Open Golf Tournaments and Scholarship Dinners putting together donors and recipients. "Best Practices Advancement" was the overall theme emphasized by Ray Clements and Associates.

Along with President Mark S. Kern, they were asked to repeat a similar presentation among 19 successful fund-raising efforts featured during pre-conference National Council for Resource Development Executive Institute December 4-5 in Washington, DC. Eleven states were represented. / August and December '96

■ BARBARA DAVENPORT

The RLC Science Instructor has been added to the Executive Committee for the Illinois Community College Faculty Association. / January '97

■ DAVID VINYARD

The Director of RLC's Education Program at Big Muddy River Correctional Center will take over as President of the Illinois Correctional Education Contractors Organization on July 1. He has served as ICECO Vice President the past year.

The organization represents 25 adult institutions throughout the state. It acts as the liaison between the Department of Corrections Illinois School District No. 428 and the correctional centers.

Vinyard worked for RLC at Menard C.C. in Chester before returning to start the BMRCC program. / March '97

■ BOB CARLOCK

The RLC Dean for Finance and Administration is President of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce. / April '97

1997-98

■ NANCY KINSEY

The RLC Director of Admissions and

Records was elected Southern District Chairperson for the coming year during the 75th Annual Conference of Illinois Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers in Champaign.

Registrar Cindy Jenkins served as the moderator and Kinsey as recorder for a session on "Home Schooling," an issue of growing importance considering 1.5 million students currently are being home-schooled in the U.S.

Kinsey served as a mentor to Stacy Ehman, a new IACRAO member from North Central College. / October '97

■ ED BILLINGSLEY

Country Music superstar Shania Twain is the proud owner of a Rend Lake College sweatshirt, compliments of the AAA Department Chair.

Billingsley enjoyed doing some of his Christmas shopping at Mall of America in Minnesota after winning a contest sponsored by Z100 Radio. Winning also meant spending a little time with the trip's celebrity hostess, Twain. / November '97

■ LISA PAYNE

A letter was received from Dr. Joseph J. Cipfl, ICCB President, congratulating the Director of the RLC Center for Business and Community Services on her election as Secretary-Treasurer of the Illinois Community College Economic/Workforce Development Association. / December '97

■ MARY ROE

The RLC Director of Student Transfer and Retention Support (STARS), a federally funded TRIO Grant program, elected to the Southern Illinois University Alumni Association Board of Directors. / March '98

■ CARROLL TURNER

The retired Agriculture Instructor and Dean of Vocational-Technical Education elected to the Franklin County Board representing District 1. / March '98

■ CAMILLE JONES

The Coordinator of Rend Lake College's highly successful grant project, Project First Class, received special recognition at the Black History Recognition and Awards Celebration in Mt. Vernon. / April '98

■ BOB ROSS

The Director of Resource Development was recognized April 23 at Benton Middle School for his efforts as a volunteer. Between 50 and 75 parents and other individuals were singled out for various contributions to the school.

Ross has helped write two after-school grant programs in recent months. Word was received recently that the first grant application dealing with abstinence has been funded. / April '98

■ BOB ROSS

RLC's Director of Resource Development has been selected as a presenter for the Council for Resource Development Region V Conference June 1-3 at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee.

Ross will be addressing college grant writers and foundation directors from the Midwest and Canada.

"Grantwriting - Gambling That Pays Off" will be offered twice and will outline "how a one-person R&D office, with borrowed secretarial help and limited resources, can be a catalyst to building an annual grant base of over \$4 million."

Gambling "skills" emphasized include: Calculating odds of getting funded; deciding whether to apply for a grant again, or cut losses and walk; deciding how much money and time to "bet" on a grant; hiring outside consultants, and investing for short- and long-term. / June '98

1998-99

■ DAVID WICKS

RLC's Title III Educational Technology Specialist served as the Orchestra Director for the July 23-25 Pyramid Players production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

The all-volunteer regional theater troupe based in Benton, is in its 21st season and boasts over 60 full-scale shows since 1977. Most of the productions have been in the RLC Theatre, bringing thousands to campus each summer. / July '98

■ LISA PAYNE

Director of the Center for Business and Industry was awarded coveted designation as a Certified Business Specialist from the Illinois Small Business Development Association, based on a rigorous evaluation of knowledge and qualification as a small business expert. / November '98

1999-2000

■ WILANNA KIEFER

Executive Director Gary L. Filan of Chair Academy congratulated the Allied Health Chair on successfully completing and meeting program competencies of the year-long Academy for Leadership Training and Development. / July '99

■ GLORIA SLOAN-REEL

Rend Lake College officials announced the recent hiring of the RLC Foundation's 1990 "Alumnus of the Year," as the new Coordinator of Continuing Education and Business/Industry Training.

The first female graduate of RLC's Ag program, compared the industry/college connection to a two-way highway, noting, "It is important to bring industry to the college and the college to industry." She says RLC can help the business community through image-building and training.

Sloan-Reel will market educational programs within the district by going to businesses to discuss their needs. / August '99

■ ELAINE JOHNSON

Administrators received a letter from Dr. Hazel Loucks re: the recent appointment of the RLC Community Development Executive Director to the K-16 Youth Council State Task Force. / September '99

■ BOB CARLOCK

The Rend Lake College Dean has been appointed Vice Chair of the Illinois Community College Chief Financial Officers. / June '00

2000-01

■ KIM HARVEY

Rend Lake College's new Director of Student Records will be honored statewide this fall for her work-related efforts prior to her arrival on campus.

Harvey is scheduled to be recognized October 27 at the Illinois Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG) Directors and Task Force Commanders Association Awards Banquet in Peoria for outstanding achievement as a Criminal Intelligence Analyst with the Illinois State Police.

More specifically, the recognition is for her contribution to the "Operation Gateway" investigation which led to the arrest of 24 individuals responsible for distributing 20 kilograms of cocaine, five kilograms of methamphetamine and 100 pounds of cannabis in the Sesser area.

Harvey worked for the Illinois State Police at the Southern Illinois Resource Support Center in Marion for three years. She joined the RLC staff in July. / October 2000

■ RONNIE RESSEL

The RLC Fitness Center Coordinator and Women's Basketball Coach was inducted along with six others into the Notre Dame High School Hall of Fame in his hometown of Cape Girardeau, MO. He is one of the first 12 individuals to be so honored. Ressel lettered four years in both basketball and baseball.

■ GRANT TO INCREASE POLICE FORCE

A three-year grant will allow RLC to hire three full-time police officers and four other part-time officers. / April '01

■ CAMILLE JONES

The Coordinator of the grant-funded "Project First Class" project which encourages young minority students to pursue educational goals in preparation for college futures was appointed to the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Board by President Dan Black. / Spring '01

2001-02

■ CHRIS KUBERSKI

The Liberal Arts Department Chair was a participant in the Fifth Annual Teaching and Student Learning Conference at Southwest Missouri State University.

/ December '01

2002-03

■ CHRISTY HAMILTON

The Rend Lake College Youthful Offender Counselor recently was selected as the School District "Employee of the Year" at Pinckneyville Correctional Center.

According to Illinois Department of Corrections Acting Superintendent LeeAnn Miller, Hamilton took a below-standard program and created one of the top Youthful Offender Programs in the state.

"A day does not pass that Christy is not improving herself and her work," Miller said. "She is a person of unquestionable integrity and high ethical standards. The exceptional quality of the Youthful Offender Program at Pinckneyville Correctional Center is the direct result of Christy Hamilton's dedication and hard work."

Hamilton has been employed with the Illinois Department of Corrections, School District 428 through RLC for nearly three years. She worked for a year on-campus in the Teen Parent Services Program.

She was nominated by Traci Hempen, RLC Director of the Educational Program at PCC, and PCC Education Facilities Administrator Gene Broombaugh.

Hamilton also teaches Human Relations for Career and Personal Success. / August '02

■ SALAH SHAKIR

Trustee Hunt Bonan informed the Board he had heard the RLC Dean of Information Technology give a "very informative and educational" presentation on his native Iraq at a recent Rotary meeting. "He provided a good understanding of the things going on in Iraq," Bonan said. / March '03

2003-04

■ ANNETTE BRADEN

Counselor elected Secretary on the Executive Board of the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling for 2004-05. The IACAC is comprised of high school, community college and four-year counselors. Braden, who has been with the college since 2001, also received a 2004 Newcomer Award "for being one of the most active and energetic new members," according to fellow RLC Counselor Michelle Garrett.

"It will be nice to have a representative on the board from both a community college and a downstate school," Garrett added. / June '04

■ CAROLINE SMITH

Around the same time she transferred from the RLC Foundation Children's

Center (Operations Assistant) to the Child Care Resource and Referral Center (Subsidized Child Care Specialist), the 2003 Rend Lake College graduate became the 82nd person in the state to earn the Level I Director Credential conferred by the Illinois Network of CCRR Agencies and the Illinois Director Credential Commission.

"I am honored to be associated with such an elite group of professionals," said Smith, a Benton native. / June '04

2004-05

■ SARAH OCHS

The Applied Science Division Chair was honored during the 29th Annual Agricultural Banquet Friday evening, April 8, at Rend Lake Resort. Ochs received the Friend of Cooperatives Award from the Illinois Cooperative Council.

The award was bestowed by Dr. Robert Arthur, retired Chair and Professor of Animal Science, Food and Nutrition at SIU-Carbondale, and Peggy Kaye, Vice President of Public Relations for Farm Credit Services of Illinois. / April '05

2005-06

■ Dr. JIM HULL

Dr. SARAH OCHS

Two Rend Lake College administrators have earned Doctor of Philosophy Degrees in Workforce Education and Development from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Both Hull, the Vice President of Instruction, and Ochs, Applied Science and Technology Division Chair, have defended their dissertations and will graduate Saturday, August 6.

Hull said he started his doctorate program in 1999, then took about 1 1/2 years off before returning to his studies full force. "I realized that to advance, I would need a Ph.D. The more you advance, the more the need for that degree increases," he said. "It is a key to unlock a door."

Ochs said a Ph.D. had been a personal goal for several years. She has been working toward that goal by taking evening and weekend classes the past four years.

"My Bachelor and Master's degrees were both agriculture-specific, which is near and dear to my heart," Ochs said. She utilized many of the same concepts in the WED program, but they were more focused on workforce issues. / July '05

■ SALAH SHAKIR

The RLC Vice President has been appointed to the Global Wireless Education Consortium (GWEC) Board. / June '06

2006-07

■ PAULA BURRIS TINA GROUNDS

Two Rend Lake College employees

– Tina Grounds, Early Childhood Education Associate Professor, and Paula Burris, Provider Services Coordinator for the Child Care Resource and Referral program – have been certified as Professional Development Advisors through Illinois Gateways to Opportunity.

PDA's help represent and mentor those interested in the field of Early Childhood Education. Grounds and Burris are two of the five Professional Development Advisors available in Southern Illinois.

Grounds has worked in the field for more than 26 years. Prior to RLC, she was a Preschool Teacher in a private school for children with special needs; taught in an early intervention program working with infants and toddlers and their families, and directed a faith-based center.

Burris has worked in the field for 11 years. She has worked as a Preschool and High School Teacher, Consultant/Trainer and Community College Instructor.

Burris coordinates training opportunities in the 12 counties CCRR serves. / July '06

2008-09

■ KATHY CRAIG LORI RAGLAND

The Director of the RLC Center for Business Services (Craig) and the Director of Community Education (Ragland) successfully completed the third Illinois Council for Continuing Education and Training Leadership Institute, "The Foundations of Leadership," July 23-24 at the Illinois Community College Board in Springfield.

The Leadership Institute provides help developing skills necessary for success in professional careers and for the development of future leaders. / July '08

■ CATHY CROSS AND GUEST

Gyongyi Somodine of the Netherlands was a recent guest of Rend Lake College as part of an exchange program among professionals abroad. Her collegiate counterpart at RLC, Cathy Cross of the Liberal Arts Department, will be visiting Somodine in the spring. As part of the program, Cross shared her home with Somodine and acted as an ambassador for Southern Illinois and the U.S.

The College of Business course leader in the Netherlands wants to learn more about the registration process, courses and programs. "I want to learn everything I can about the college," she said.

Somodine was able to hit some big city hot spots like Navy Pier and shopping in Chicago, along with sampling local fare at a wienie roast in Opdyke and an on-campus pot luck in her honor. / November '08

■ LARRY WEST

The Pinckneyville Chamber of Commerce has chosen Larry West to serve as

its next President.

West, 52, was named to a two-year term on March 28 to replace longtime President Charles Dobrinick. West is Vice President of Finance and Administration at Rend Lake College, where he oversees the financial operations of the main campus in Ina, its satellite campuses in Pinckneyville and Mt. Vernon, numerous departments and a budget of roughly \$38 million.

Prior to moving back to the area toward the turn of 2007, he was Dean of Budget and Finance at the University of South Carolina's Salkehatchie campus. West is a Pinckneyville native.

West also is Chair of the Chamber's Strategic Planning Committee. / March '09

■ STAFF, FACULTY COMBINE FORCES

Rend Lake College staff, faculty and administrators, as well as many of their family members, combined efforts Saturday, April 25, to raise money for the American Heart Association's Heart Walk, held at Times Square Mall in Mt. Vernon.

RLC teams were able to raise \$5,033.25 toward the \$98,588 total generated by the annual event. St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital in Mt. Vernon was the lead fundraiser this year at \$19,664. / April '09

2010-11

■ PHYSICAL PLANT STAFF

Members of the Rend Lake College Physical Plant Staff were recognized recently by RLC Foundation CEO Pat Kern with a Bronze Seal Major Gift Award. The group of co-workers has made a concerted effort to reach the \$10,000 standard in scholarship support for students.

Present were Director Randall Shively (Wayne City), Wayne Caplinger (Marion), Supervisor David Davis (Thompsonville), Dennis Hamson (Belle Rive), Frank Hughey (Belle Rive), Charlie Massie (Waltontown), Supervisor Dave Mathis (Pinckneyville), Supervisor Donnie Millenbine (Dahlgren), Brenda Moore (Benton), Roy Simpkins (West Frankfort) and Supervisor Donnie Trogolo (Coello). / June '11

2011-12

■ ROBIN PYTLINSKI RATES LEVEL 5

The office of Gateways to Opportunity, on behalf of the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA), announced the awarding of the Infant Toddler Credential Level 5 for Robin Pytlinski, Lead Child Care Provider at the Rend Lake College Foundation Children's Center.

The ECE Credential, Infant Toddler Credential and the Illinois Director Credential are awarded based on the education level, knowledge, skills and experience of practitioners and administrators in the early

care and education profession. / August '11

2013-14

■ SANDY WEST

Last month, Sandy West, Rend Lake College Coordinator of Technical Services and Collection Management, was elected as the newest Academic Library Representative for the Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS). She will start her three-year term on July 1.

West has been with RLC full-time since September 2001. She works in the Learning Resource Center and is responsible for collection development, cataloging and processing materials for circulation.

West sits on the SHARE (Sharing Heartland's Available Resources Equally) Bibliographic and Cataloging Standards Committee. / June '14

■ LEADERS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

Perusal of the Franklin County Government website reveals several familiar names among those civic-minded individuals serving in leadership positions within their communities. To wit . . .

- Franklin County Board District 1 Chair, [two-time RLC Trustee] Randall Crocker, through November 30, 2016.

- Benton High School District 103 Board member [RLC Vice President of Student Services] Lisa Price (2015).

- Northern Township Clerk, Price ('17).

- Franklin County Housing Authority Board, [former RLC Trustee] Dr. Allan Patton (2017).

- Franklin County Jail Building Commission, [former RLC Foundation Director] Don Dalby.

- Benton Library District Board, [retired RLC Dean of Student Services] Sue Wells.

- Benton Park District Board Treasurer, [former RLC Resource Development Specialist] Trudee Wynn.

- Village of Valier President, [former RLC Foundation Director] Martin Buchanan (2017).

- Village of Ewing Treasurer, [retired RLC Business Office and Project CHILD employee] Sherry Somers.

- Goode Township Trustee, [former RLC Maintenance employee] Terry Witcher (2017). / June '14

2015-16

■ SANDY WEST

The Rend Lake College Coordinator of Technical Services and Collection Management was elected Treasurer for the Illinois Heartland Library System for the 2016 fiscal year. She will serve as Treasurer for one year.

West was elected by the IHLS Board of Directors at its regular meeting. She was seated as an Academic Library Representative for the IHLS in June 2014. / August '15

Representatives of an outstanding staff ...

Kistner, McKinney and Millenbine: RLC graduates and award-winners

For the first time in 15 years, three Rend Lake College employees were selected to receive the "Outstanding Staff" Award from the RLC Foundation in 2011. Nominated by their peers, Angie Kistner, Stephanie McKinney and Donnie Millenbine were surprised with their awards at the annual Board, Faculty and Staff Recognition Ceremony May 3 in the Theatre.

Kistner, College Controller, is in her 19th year with Rend Lake College. McKinney is a Subsidized Child Care Specialist for Project CHILD at the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon and has worked at the college since 2000. Millenbine, in his ninth year as a full-time Physical Plant employee, is the Grounds Supervisor.

All three honorees are Rend Lake College graduates.

As Controller, Kistner works closely with Business Office staff and the college's Chief Financial Officer – Vice President of Finance and Administration Bob Carlock – to oversee the financial aspects of college operations.

She was nominated by staff from the RLCF Children's Center who said Kistner "daily exceeds expectations and . . . continuously strives to help us brainstorm ideas to improve (the center's) budget and manage (its) finances."

The letter of nomination went on to say Kistner goes out of her way to assist the Children's Center, where her daughter, Anna, once attended and son Tony now attends in the Early Preschool Classroom. From helping with grant writing to catering lunch, and bringing in chocolate to arranging for vehicles for Big Truck Day, "Kistner daily brings joy into our building."

In addition to her duties as Controller, a position she was elevated to in 2004, Kistner serves on the Children's Center Parent Advisory Council, Online Degree Committee and the Policies and Procedures Committee.

"I am truly honored because this is an award from my peers," she said. "It's nice to be recognized for simply doing a job that you love to do."

Angie and Scott Kistner and family live in Scheller.

McKinney was responsible for processing cases prior to moving to the Project CHILD "front office," where she now assists walk-in clients and those calling in for help. Her history with casework helps McKinney save her co-workers and clients valuable time by making sure paperwork is complete and questions are answered on the front lines. Co-workers say she is professional and knowledgeable.

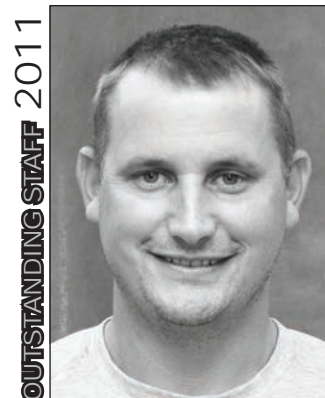
"She goes the extra mile to ensure that (client) needs



ANGIE KISTNER
CONTROLLER



STEPHANIE MCKINNEY
PROJECT CHILD SPECIALIST



DONNIE MILLENBINE
GROUNDS SUPERVISOR

have been met," stated Jamie Nichols.

"She is always positive, always has an ear to lend and always, always goes the extra mile to help our customers and each staff member," wrote Paula Burris.

McKinney said she was amazed when her name was announced as an award recipient. "I get a lot of personal fulfillment from doing my job," she said, adding that she herself benefitted from Project CHILD services as a single mother raising two children. "I get to help my co-workers and parents out there who need assistance. For someone else to recognize that . . . wow! Very humbling. It's like 'Mission Accomplished.' Maybe I am making a difference."

McKinney lives in Mt. Vernon with her children, Bryan and Lindsay.

Millenbine's job, in a nutshell, is to keep the RLC campus beautiful . . . all 93 acres and 60,000 square feet of landscaping that is maintained. He can be found supervising numerous jobs from one corner of the grounds to another on a daily basis. That probably is why those who nominated him include not only his co-workers in the Physical Plant but faculty and staff from other departments.

"Donnie has been very dependable, responsible and courteous in his daily work duties," stated those who nominated him. "How we determined this recommendation was due to many positive attributes we see every day working with him."

Some of those attributes, it was pointed out, are excellent attendance, knowledgeable, dependable, team-oriented, altruistic and a strong work ethic.

"I was totally shocked and honored," he said. "I received my horticulture education at Rend Lake College and it was actually a dream of mine to work here. To be able to do it is, well, a dream come true."

Millenbine lives in Dahlgren with his wife, Sarah, and their two children, Mallorie and Trevor. He was part of the first class to graduate from the Horticulture program at the college (Class of 2000).

Peers do not take her for granted ... Wynn willing to go the extra mile

Going that extra mile, sometimes literally, is one of many qualities that led to Resource Development Specialist Trudee Wynn being honored with the 2006 Rend Lake College Foundation "Outstanding Staff" Award.

Wynn (Benton) was recognized at the annual Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner held May 5 at the Rend Lake Resort Conference Center. The co-recipient of the award was Kelly Downes, Assistant to the Vice President of Information Technology / Student Services and the Dean of Student Services.

"I feel honored to receive this prestigious award. It means a lot to me that my co-workers nominated me," said Wynn. "I am proud to work at Rend Lake College and to be a small part of its successes. I believe the educational and community services provided by the college are beyond measure."

According to a nomination letter prepared by her colleagues, Wynn has a positive attitude and works well with all facets of the college and the community.

"She goes the extra mile in order to get a grant submitted ahead of schedule. During 'crunch time,' she takes her work home or works extra hours so the grant is prepared early," the letter states. Wynn also freely gives of her weekend time to attend informational grant workshops, often driving to save the college money.

Last year, Wynn participated in a national training program through the Grantsmanship Center, earning the most prestigious and highly regarded certificate among grant-writing professionals. This rigorous, five-day training regimen deters many grant writers from attending. "She not only attended, but was very active in the class, representing RLC well," her co-workers wrote.

During FY05, Wynn helped college personnel oversee 49 grants and contracts totaling \$5.3 million, an increase of \$828,055 (18.5%) from FY03.

Wynn was assigned the extra duties of supervising the RLCF Children's Center in 2004 and has made positive contributions to the Foundation since her hiring in 2001.

She was part of RLC's first Emerging Leaders Institute.

"How is the college going to benefit from this project?" we ask before pursuing a grant.

The challenge, she said, is trying to find the right grant to fit the need and then making the necessary adjustments to make it fit.

"Being in this position, you really have your hand on the pulse of the college and the direction in which it is going," said Wynn. "It's exhilarating!"

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2006



TRUDEE WYNN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

'Well-traveled' Assistant Garvin surprised but reassured by honor

The Rend Lake College Foundation "Outstanding Staff" Award for 2010 was presented to Brenda Garvin, who worked on-campus for four-plus years in the early 1990s, took a two-year break to help in a new family business venture and then returned in September 1997.

Garvin has been Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Information Technology, Salah Shakir, for the last four of those years.

She first joined the staff in April 1991 as a clerk for the grant-funded Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) "Project CHILD" program. In November 1994, she was named Rend Lake College Bookstore Assistant, but the following August resigned in order to help operate a local printing business she and her husband, David, had purchased.

Two years later, however, Garvin rejoined the Rend Lake College family with her hiring at the September 1997 Board meeting, this time as Administrative Assistant in the Community Development Nontraditional Student Support program. She was then named Administrative Assistant for the Industrial Technology Department/Advanced Technology Division in June 1999, a position she held until the promotion to her current post.

The Garvins have been married 38 years and live in Whittington.

Her granddaughter, Kinlee, greeted Garvin with two arms full of roses after Grandma had been given her award. Kinlee is the daughter of the Garvins' son, Ryan, and daughter-in-law Dawn.

"I was very surprised and very honored," Garvin said after becoming the 47th person to claim honors since the "Outstanding Staff" Award was presented for the first time in 1981. "I certainly didn't expect it."

It is only the second time in the last 17 years the staff award has been given to just one recipient.

The RLC Foundation "Outstanding Staff" Award recognizes employees who go above and beyond their regular job duties. Garvin said receiving it was reassurance she is doing a good job.

[Garvin would later serve as Executive Assistant to Dean of Special Programs Andrea Witthoft before retiring in May 2011. "I have worked for Rend Lake College for 18 years and made many lifelong friends. I have enjoyed working with dedicated faculty and staff who strive to help students meet their educational and personal goals," Garvin indicated at the time of her retirement.]

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2010



BRENDA GARVIN
OFFICE SUPPORT

The best? Yes / No? ... Oxford can't say 'No,' D. Davis always says 'Yes'

The person "affectionately known as the girl who can't say 'No'" and another talented individual who says "Yes" to building just about anything anyone might need on-campus were among those singled out for special attention at the 1995 Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner.

Julie Oxford and David Davis were the surprise recipients of honors. Oxford, secretary for Athletics and Health, Physical Education and Recreation, was named winner of the "Outstanding Office Support" Award. Davis, a maintenance employee with a carpentry specialty, was presented the "Outstanding Physical Plant Staff" Award.

"This is quite an individual," Dean Bob Carlock said while beginning his introduction of Oxford, the former Julie Drone who started out as a student-worker and has been a full-time employee eight years. Carlock called her "the fastest walker on campus," at which point the award-winner began to realize who he might be talking about, and noted that "she always has a smile on her face."

The presenter pointed with pride to the fact he had hired her in 1987, when she split time between the Business Resource and Assistant Center and Athletics after a two-year stint as a student-worker. A year later, when asked to make a choice between the two areas, she rejected Carlock in order to stay full-time with Health, P.E. and Athletics.

Davis joined the Physical Plant staff in 1987, also, and since that time "has helped almost everyone on-campus

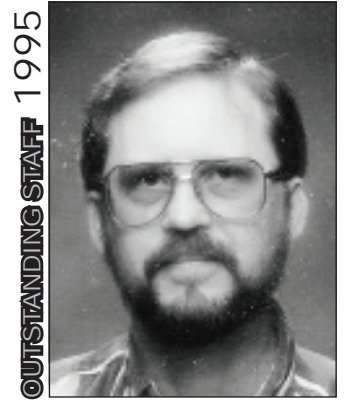
on a daily basis," according to Carlock. Davis serves as supervisor for the day shift and is expected to be named Interim Director until a full-time replacement for Dow Smith is hired.

Counted among his major remodeling projects are the Skills Center in the Industrial Tech Building, offices in the Student Center balcony and various computer classrooms and distance learning labs.

His boss, Smith, told Carlock, "He (Davis) is a better carpenter than I am." "Dave, you should take that as a compliment coming from Dow," Carlock said.



JULIE OXFORD
OFFICE SUPPORT STAFF



DAVID DAVIS
MAINTENANCE STAFF

Quiet, unassuming K. Davis, Richards should no longer go unnoticed

Kim Davis is a Circulation Specialist in the Learning Resource Center. Dennis Richards specializes in carpentry work as a member of the Maintenance staff. But the Rend Lake College employees have a couple of other things in common.

For one, both are quiet and very unassuming. They go about their business with little fanfare, drawing as little attention to themselves as possible. "Many times," say friends, "the quiet people who do their work day by day go unnoticed."

Similarity No. 2: Neither is going unnoticed any longer.

Davis was recently named recipient of the 2001 "Outstanding Office Support Staff" Award. At the same Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner, Richards was saluted as the "Outstanding Physical Plant" employee.

The former will celebrate 21 years working in the LRC – alias, library – this year. She is the 10th individual (counting two ties) to earn the Office Support honor since it split into a separate award in 1994. In all, 18 administrative assistants have been recognized since 1981.

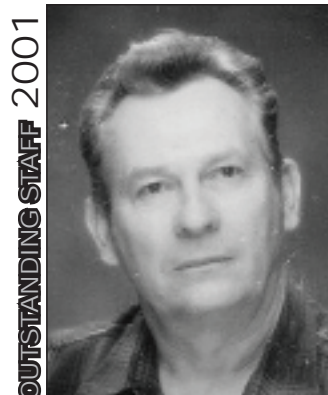
The master carpenter joined the RLC work force in 1994. He is the eighth Physical Plant representative recognized since 1994, the 13th overall since 1981.

A dozen cohorts signed the nomination letter for Davis, including four former winners. "Kim is the first person many students and community members see when they enter the LRC and is always a smiling, helpful face in person and on the telephone," noted the recommendation. "Kim probably gets up from her desk 100 times a day to assist students and staff with their needs."

"Dennis has been very dependable and has performed some outstanding work over the past few years," noted his supporters. Almost everyone at RLC benefits from his craftsmanship. His renovation projects include both floors of the LRC; Advanced Tech and second-floor Academic computer labs; Maintenance Office improvements; Athletic Office, and locker room improvements.



KIM DAVIS
CIRCULATION SPECIALIST



DENNIS RICHARDS
MAINTENANCE STAFF

Feira 'exudes every characteristic RLC would consider to be outstanding'

Every Rend Lake College student has visited the Textbook Rental Center, more than likely. At the helm of this hub of activity is Dorothy Feira, who was recognized by colleagues and college administrators as co-recipient of the 2004 "Outstanding Staff" Award.

Feira and Community Education Director Dawn Gibson both received awards during the annual Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner on May 7.

"I feel deeply grateful and overwhelmingly proud that my work has been a positive contribution to the college," Feira said.

Feira "exudes every characteristic the college would consider to be outstanding," said her colleagues in a nomination letter. "Her stellar performance as an employee is an essential element in the success of the retail store and the college as a whole."

The award-winner's duties include ordering and maintaining the required textbooks for all classes offered by RLC and coordinating textbook rentals for district high schools which

participate in the dual-credit program.

Feira is an alumna of Rend Lake College, having received her AAS Degree in Business Management in 1997 and an A.A. Degree a year later. She continued her education at SIUC in Workforce Education and Development, earning a Bachelor's Degree in 1999 and her Master's Degree in 2002.

"I wanted to go to school as a child, but there was not a lot of funding for college," Feira said. As one of five children, money was tight at home, she added.

Each degree was earned while she worked full-time. "So it can be done by anybody who really wants a college education," she said.

Feira started at Rend Lake College in 1993 as Assistant Bookstore Manager. She was elevated to her present position as Textbook Sales and Rental Coordinator in 1998.

"In the last six years, I'm glad we've seen the development of the textbook rental program," she said. "I've seen the difference it makes for students paying for their educations. I think it is the most positive thing that has come from this department."

Her Master's Degree thesis was based on the program, designed by Bob Carlock. The reduced cost for textbooks causes scholarship and grant money to go farther at Rend Lake College than other institutions.

"I'm thankful to my staff for helping make everything work so well," Feira said.

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2004



DOROTHY FEIRA
TEXTBOOK RENTAL

Devotion to job helps Gibson and COMED succeed evenings, off-campus

Not every class offered by Rend Lake College is held in a campus classroom. There are numerous credit and non-credit courses held throughout the district, and keeping a handle on them requires considerable hours and effort.

Behind all of these out-of-classroom experiences is Dawn Gibson, Director of Community Education and co-recipient of the 2004 "Outstanding Staff" Award. She was recognized during the May 7 annual Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner along with Textbook Sales and Rental Coordinator Dorothy Feira.

"I am eternally grateful to have this career," Gibson admits. "Rend Lake College is a great place to work."

"She is my mentor, co-worker and friend, and I feel she truly deserves this award for her dedication to the college and her vision of delivering quality educational opportunities to all of our surrounding communities," said one of her boosters.

"She puts forth many extra hours at night and weekends beyond normal expectations of her job," said another. "She spends a considerable amount of time in area high schools for credit and non-credit recruitment. She has devoted herself to being the best."

Gibson facilitates RLC's off-campus credit classes, non-credit classes on- and off-campus and other offerings, such as summer programs for children, special events and the Elderhostel program for senior citizens.

Gibson works with 7-10 Community Coordinators and the on-campus Department Chairs each semester to schedule credit and non-credit courses. The college offers many courses online, as well.

Community Education provides instructional courses, workshops, youth camps and programs designed to meet the educational, social and cultural needs of the college's diverse district population. It provides lifelong learning opportunities for self-development, personal challenge and leisure enjoyment for all ages. Off-campus credit classes allow students to earn college credit closer to their homes.

"This has really touched me, getting recommended by my colleagues," Gibson admits. "It makes me feel good about myself. I share this award with the people who help me coordinate projects, volunteers, everyone who has ever lent a helping hand."

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2004



DAWN GIBSON
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Cabinet believes Shively 'the man'

Randall Shively is the man behind the scenes. It is the work of his department that gets everyone's attention.

The Director of the Physical Plant definitely has the attention of fellow administrators. When a call went out for nominations for the 2003 "Outstanding Staff" Award, Shively's name was submitted by the President, two Vice Presidents, a Dean and the RLC Foundation CEO, among others. Not a bad lineup to have in your corner.

"Shively exhibits a positive attitude each and every day. Although he oversees multiple projects, you will never hear complaints . . . only a smile and 'We will do our best and try to get it done on time,'" according to one of the letters of recommendation in support of him.

A former Warrior student-athlete (pitcher) from Kentucky who now lives in Wayne City, Shively is responsible for a large department "critical to the development and safety of the college staff and students."

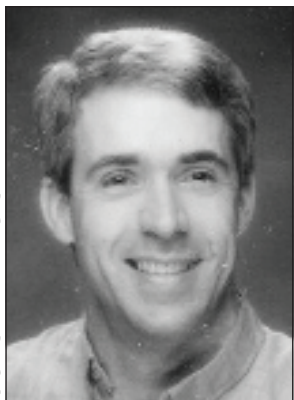
"He has spent many hours above and beyond his position's requirements. He can be found the night before a special event ensuring the next day's success. He can be found volunteering weekends at the Golf Expo or Spring Fling. Or he may be at the MarketPlace late on a Friday

night making sure store needs are met.

"When severe weather conditions occur, he works with his crew making sure the campus is safe."

Shively has maintained a college course load on weekends and evenings in recent years, completing a Master's Degree in Workforce Education from SIUC this spring. He also is a member of the Wayne City School Board.

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2003



RANDALL SHIVELY
PHYSICAL PLANT DIRECTOR

A tip of hat to ILR's willing Ragland

Rend Lake College employee Lori Ragland wears three hats, at the very least. More importantly, "She maintains a positive attitude while balancing the three 'hats' of wife, mother and employee," according to her fan club.

For that reason and more, the Assistant Director of the Rend Lake College Foundation was honored recently at the annual Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner as one of two recipients of the "Outstanding Staff" Award.

She was nominated by three of her peers. Ragland, they noted, has worked for the RLC Foundation approximately three years.

"She is very organized and takes great pride in her work. In her position, Lori occasionally has to work after hours and on weekends," the recommendation noted.

"Lori is always willing to help in any situation she can. Lori is a good representative for Rend Lake College and the RLC Foundation. She has a professional appearance and a demeanor that is pleasing to everyone."

As the recently promoted RLC Foundation Assistant Director, Ragland coordinates the popular Institute for Learning in Retirement program which provides educational and cultural opportunities for senior adult

learners. She also assists RLC Foundation CEO Pat Mitchell in most other operations of the not-for-profit fund- and friend-raising group.

The Raglands - Lori and husband, Chuck, plus RLCF Children's Center student Chase - live in Sesser.

In her spare time - that is assuming she has any - she enjoys scrapbooking and shopping.

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2003



LORI RAGLAND
RLC FOUNDATION ASSISTANT

Emerging Leader Rushing involved with accreditation, PTK and more

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2008



CHERI RUSHING
FINANCIAL AID ADVISOR

Financial Aid Advisor Cheri Rushing was chosen by her peers to receive the 2008 "Outstanding Staff" Award.

Rushing is a member of the first RLC Emerging Leaders Institute, a select group of 15 individuals chosen by the President's Cabinet to participate in a nine-month training program to collectively consider the concept of leadership and develop individual leadership skills. She has worked in the Financial Aid Office for eight years.

Rushing also is involved in the current reaccreditation process through the Higher Learning Commission and is the advisor for Phi Theta Kappa, the International

Honor Society for two-year colleges. She helps with student orientation, assisted in the Staff Clock Tower fund-raising and is active in her hometown of Pinckneyville.

"There are so many people who deserve this. I am just truly honored," she said of the RLC Foundation award. "Rend Lake College is such a great place to work."

Rushing brought to the job seven years of administrative and customer service experience, including three-plus years as Manager for Wilson Home Furnishings.

She is a graduate of Central Missouri State U. and is married to former Warrior basketball star Chad Rushing ('89).

Degree-bearing Ruemmler earns honors after 12 years, stays 19 more

OUTSTANDING STAFF 1983



JERRI RUEMMLER
OFFICE SUPPORT

Jerri Ruemmler, a Dean's Secretary since 1971 at Rend Lake College, received the Third Annual RLC Foundation "Outstanding Staff" Award during the 1983 Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner.

Ruemmler, a resident of nearby Ewing, has been Secretary to the Dean of Vocational-Technical Education all 12 years of her employment on the college campus.

By taking courses part-time, she was able to earn an Associate in Applied Science Degree from Rend Lake College in 1980. Three years later, she completed requirements for an Associate of Arts Degree as well and would eventually earn her Bachelor's Degree from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

The award-winner and her husband, Jerry, are the parents of a married daughter, Mrs. Kevin (Chris) Allsopp, and a son, Bill.

In addition to her work and helping to operate the family farm, Ruemmler serves as a pianist for Williams Chapel Church.

Previous honorees by the RLC Foundation are Betty Herbert (Nursing Department) and Rosemary Carnes (Business Office).

In Spring 2001, Ruemmler became only the fifth person to ever receive 30-Year employment recognition from Rend Lake College. By then, she was working as the Community Development Administrative Assistant. She joined a 30-Year Membership Club which included English Professors Georgine Hawley and Dr. Barbara Luchsinger (as of 1997), Learning Resource Center Director David Patton (1998) and President Mark S. Kern (1999).

She retired from Rend Lake College the following year.

Security guy Peeples award-winning Maintenance Technician before that

Regulars around the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon might be surprised to learn Security Officer Jimmie Peeples officially retired from Rend Lake College in August 2000 at age 65. His plan was to return part-time after the required time away, which he did on-campus initially.

They also might not realize the Mt. Vernon resident was a member of the Physical Plant Staff during his prime-time in Ina, which spanned 23 years beginning Fall 1977.

But nobody was surprised in 1985 when the likable Peeples, a Maintenance Technician by trade, was presented with the "Outstanding Staff" Award by the RLC Foundation for "excellence and dedicated service."

Leroy Spotsanski was Director of the Physical Plant at the time Peeples was honored. But before that, he was a dependable worker under Bob Webb and Lawrence Wine-

miller; after that, for Dow Smith and Randall Shively.

Peeples originally joined the college family at the same time as four other full-time Physical Plant employees - 1993 award-winner Dennis Carnes, 24-year employee William Roberts, Melvin Delaney and John Downey.

Jimmie and Nancy Peeples are the parents of two sons, Scott and Steve.

OUTSTANDING STAFF 1985



JIM PEEPLES
PHYSICAL PLANT

Shipping and Receiving's Treece 'willing to accommodate everyone'

Roger Treece, a Physical Plant employee at Rend Lake College for 16 years, is recipient of the 1989 RLC Foundation "Outstanding Staff" Award, presented annually to a full-time member of either the Classified or Physical Plant staff in recognition of "excellence and dedicated service."

RLC Foundation Vice President Larry Foster made the presentation at the annual Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner.

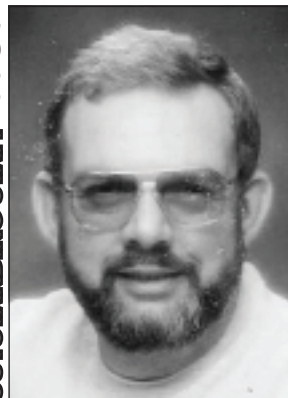
Treece is a former Rend Lake College student-worker and Student Manager for the Men's Basketball team who joined the staff full-time in 1973.

"Roger does not have an easy job, but he is always pleasant and willing to accommodate everyone," noted Ron Appuhn, Dean for Finance and Administration. "I have enjoyed working with Roger since I have been here and have only heard good things about him from other employees."

Treece and wife Brenda are the parents of two girls. Brenda is a nurse and is pursuing an Associate Degree to become a Registered Nurse. The award-winner and his family reside in Benton and are members of East Benton Baptist Church.

Nominations for the staff award are submitted by co-workers. Past winners make the final selection.

OUTSTANDING STAFF 1989



ROGER TREECE
PHYSICAL PLANT

From ESL to Counselor to Co-Op, Ed Ruffino ends up No. 1 STAR(S)

One is reaching the end of his career at Rend Lake College. The other is still in the beginning of his. What bridged the gap between Ed Ruffino and Chad Copple in 2008-09 was hard work and dedication. For that, they were named recipients of the RLC Foundation's "Outstanding Staff" Award at the annual Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner.

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2009



ED RUFFINO
DIRECTOR OF S.T.A.R.S.

Ruffino, 56, of Benton, has been Director of the college's Student Transfer and Retention Support program, commonly known as STARS, for the past three years.

However, his roles at the college have spanned more than the past two decades and include Grant Writer, Coordinator for the Early School Leaver program, Counselor, Coordinator of Cooperative Education and

Job Placement, Disability Services Coordinator, AmeriCorps Coordinator and Director of the RLC Center for Business Services. The majority of his time was spent as Early School Leaver Coordinator.

Throughout the title changes, he has been a mentor and role model to hundreds of college students looking to succeed at Rend Lake College.

Ruffino "has always been a true team leader," stated Workforce Investment Act Coordinator Paula Myers, who has worked with the award-winner at RLC for 21 years. "He always adapted to whatever position he was in and volunteered on many occasions to go beyond his regular duties. He always puts students as the No. 1 priority."

Dean of Student Services Lisa Price pointed out that, when Ruffino became STARS Director, he asked to continue helping with AmeriCorps but did not want any compensation for the work. "Whatever I need to do to make sure the Rend Lake College bus keeps moving forward' is Ed Ruffino's motto," Price stated. "... Ed has always been willing to take on extra duties with the hope of keeping the RLC bus moving forward."

In her letter nominating Ruffino for the award, STARS Administrative Assistant Elena Pruitt wrote, "Working with Ed has been inspiring. I will be sad to see him go in June when he retires.

"One thing is for sure. When Ed leaves, the college will lose one of its greatest assets."

Ruffino will retire next month. He lives in Benton with his wife Connie, who works in the RLC Business Office as the Accounts Receivable Specialist. Retirement will allow him to spend more time with their grandchildren, as well as his golf game.

FYI: Dedicated Copple a credit to self-study as Weekend Warrior

One is reaching the end of his career at Rend Lake College. The other is still in the beginning of his. What bridged the gap between Chad Copple and Ed Ruffino in 2008-09 was hard work and dedication. For that, they were named recipients of the RLC Foundation's "Outstanding Staff" Award at the annual Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner.

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2009



CHAD COPPLE
MARKETING / PUBLIC INFO

Copple, the 30-something Director of Marketing and Public Information, is a resident of Mt. Vernon. He started working as Director of Public Information in 2003 and took over for retired Marketing Director Bob Kelley in 2006, at which time the programs merged.

Copple is involved with and directly responsible for numerous marketing initiatives and other projects, including the Higher Learning Commission's accreditation study of RLC. His work on the Self-Study appeared to be very influential in college officials selecting him for this award.

Copple's "most obvious contribution to the institution over the past year was his service and dedication to the Higher Learning Commission accreditation process," wrote Vice President of Academic Instruction Chris Kulerski in her letter nominating Copple for the award.

". . . His involvement significantly changed in the summer of 2008 when he was asked to expand his role to become one of the lead writers/designers of the document. Chad never complained about the extra work. He was always willing to listen to suggestions and go the extra mile to meet the expectations and requests of the Steering Committee . . . Chad worked long hours and was certainly worthy of the 'Weekend Warrior' title bestowed upon him."

She called his hard work a "reflection of his dedication to the institution and his colleagues."

A graduate of Rend Lake College (Class of 1995), Copple holds a Bachelor's Degree from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree from McKendree University.

He is a vital member of the HLC and Marketing Committee, graduated from the college's Emerging Leaders Institute and is the former Vice President of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce's Educational Clearing House Council. He lives in Mt. Vernon with his wife, Darlene, and their daughters, Sadie, 4, and Emilee, 13.

Prior to accepting his position with Rend Lake College, Copple covered Board Meetings and other college activities as a News Reporter for the *Morning Sentinel*.

Dillon, R. Somers speak softly, let their willingness to work do the talking

Two soft-spoken Rend Lake College employees, both of whom are involved in their own variation of preventive maintenance, were surprised with "Outstanding Staff" Awards at the 1997 Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner.

Janice Dillon, high on the college seniority list after going straight from student-worker status to Admissions Clerk, goes about her business in a subtle way.

For Ron Somers, it has been a much more direct approach since he joined the Maintenance staff later in life.

Dillon's preventive maintenance work is evident throughout the Administration Building, according to the 10 Office Support co-workers who nominated her.

"Janice makes her job seem easy because of her helpful attitude and knowledge. Because of this, her work may go unnoticed by others," noted her admirers. "Her dedication is obvious in her willingness to work late to finalize reports. She also is helpful to other departments by alerting them to potential problems before they become problems."

"Her pleasant and helpful attitude make Janice a very special asset to RLC. She couldn't be more deserving."

Give Dillon credit for her two years in the Admissions and Records Office as a student-worker, and she has been a fixture at Rend Lake College for the last 19 years.

Dean Bob Carlock said, "She is so detail-minded, she rarely makes a mistake and always provides a quick answer to your questions."

Somers joined the college staff in 1988 following a career in the coal mines. A third-shift custodian initially, his strong work ethic and array of talents earned him a promotion to the maintenance staff five years ago.

His main job is preventive maintenance, but he assists in many other projects.

When the going gets tough, Somers can be found in the middle of the solution. "He is also here when we have emergencies. He's a good worker," said Carlock.

"He is always willing to lend a helping hand to fellow employees," agreed those who nominated him.



JANICE DILLON
ADMISSIONS CLERK

OUTSTANDING STAFF 1997



RON SOMERS
MAINTENANCE STAFF

OUTSTANDING STAFF 1997

Award-winners Carpenter, Sevenski dependable, willing to work hard

Administrative Assistant Shari Carpenter and Custodian Mike Sevenski share several things in common. Both are highly regarded for their dependability, good attitude and willingness to do the job.

Now they share something else in common: Recipients of "Outstanding Staff" Awards for 2000, Carpenter in the Office Support category and Sevenski in the Physical Plant area.

Carpenter, who works under the Title III Grant, learned of her honor at the Secretaries Week luncheon and received her award along with a surprised Sevenski at the annual Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner.

Sevenski was in the retail clothing business and worked in the coal mines for many years prior to his arrival at RLC in July 1994.

"Since that date, Mike's attendance has been excellent. He very seldom misses work. He is always here on time to begin his shift at 3 p.m. This type of attendance tells a great deal about an employee," stated his nomination letter from three peers.

"Mike has been very dependable and always seems to have a good attitude towards his work."

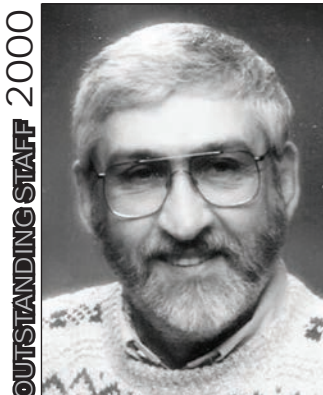
Eight colleagues signed the recommendation for Carpenter, who is in her second year serving as president of the Office Support Staff. "She is respected and admired by co-workers," the letter indicated.

The Christopher native who now serves on the Sesser-Valier School Board started in 1995 in the Nontraditional Student program before transferring to her current post. In addition, she recently started teaching computer classes for Community Education at the Times Square Campus.

"Her contributions to RLC don't end in the office," said her admirers. "She is active in extracurricular activities, serving on various committees such as Fun Fest, and is always willing to volunteer to help with other events."

"Shari projects a positive image of the college. She takes pride in her work and is glad to say she is part of the Rend Lake College team."

Carpenter also is taking classes at the college.



MIKE SEVENSKI
CUSTODIAN

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2000



SHARI CARPENTER
TITLE III ASSISTANT

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2000

Reference Librarian Mandrell never too busy to help with enthusiastic attitude

Most students at Rend Lake College have visited the Learning Resource Center, and many of those have received a helping hand from Reference Librarian Beth Mandrell, one of two recipients of the 2005 "Outstanding Staff" Awards.

Mandrell (Mulkeytown) was saluted at the annual Board/Faculty/Staff Dinner May 6 at Rend Lake Resort, along with Director of Marketing Bob Kelley.

Mandrell began her career with the college in October 1998 as a part-time Reference Assistant. She was hired full-time in September 1999.

According to Andrea Witthoft, Dean of Special Programs, Mandrell's attitude is what sets her apart.

"No job is too great or too small to be taken with enthusiasm. She helps us to succeed and inspires our college," Witthoft said. She added Mandrell is never too busy to offer her assistance.

"She is an asset to the Learning Resource Center and the

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2005



BETH MANDRELL
REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

college as a whole," co-workers wrote in her nomination letter. "Beth enjoys her job and takes pride in all she does. She has been instrumental in developing the Electronic Library and has taken the lead in providing Information Literacy Workshops for RLC students, faculty and staff and high school students."

Mandrell has taken it upon herself to make library tours more interesting and interactive, focusing both tours and workshops on the subject matter which will be most beneficial to her audience, her co-workers noted.

"I am very honored to be chosen" she said. "I really enjoy working with the people here and I enjoy my job. That makes it easy to come to work every day. I am very pleased to receive the award; I just hope I am able to live up to this honor."

"Beth's primary goal is meeting the educational needs of Rend Lake College students. She constantly seeks new ways to improve library services and develop herself as an information professional," wrote her supporters.

"She always wears a smile and speaks to every person she meets throughout her day's work," her nomination letter reads. Mandrell serves on campus committees and always is willing to help with special events [often times providing decorative cakes, one of her specialties]. Each week, she reads to the children at the Rend Lake College Foundation Children's Center.

Marketing Director Kelley 'Go-to-Guy' on campus dedicated 26 years to job

For more than 26 years, there has been a constant at Rend Lake College. The majority of publications, news releases, newspaper ads, TV commercials and the like have come from the desk of Director of Marketing Bob Kelley, whose task it is to keep the comprehensive community college in the minds of the public.

Kelley was honored with one of two "Outstanding Staff" Awards in 2005. Sharing honors with him was Reference Librarian Beth Mandrell.

"Bob has always been the 'go-to' guy on campus," said Vice President Bob Carlock, his supervisor. "He is the guy we rely on."

Carlock indicated Kelley took on the massive task of marketing the college and keeping the public informed

on his own for the majority of his career, until the workload began to require additional staff in recent years.

"We award this based on years of service, dedication and loyalty, especially for those who go above and beyond the line of duty," Carlock said. "We rely on him all the

time. He is dedicated to the point if something is going on at Rend Lake College, he will be there to help facilitate it."

Kelley, a former newspaper Sports Writer for the *State Journal-Register* in Springfield and *The Sunday Courier and Press* in Evansville, IN, and Sports Editor for the *Owensboro (KY) Messenger-Inquirer*, began his RLC career in June 1979. He majored in Journalism at SIU-Carbondale.

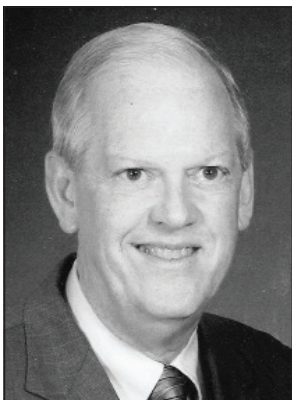
He is proud of the fact he was a freshman when Rend Lake College first opened its doors in Fall 1967, adjacent to the Mt. Vernon Township High School campus. He was among those in attendance for groundbreaking ceremonies for the Ina campus and is a 1969 graduate. His mother was the Executive Secretary for two College Deans, Dr. Howard E. Rawlinson and his successor, Dr. Philip G. Ward, from 1967-76.

"He is dependable, hard-working and extremely professional with all he accomplishes," noted one letter of nomination. "He is never too busy, despite his unending deadlines, to assist a colleague when the need arises."

"The thing that impresses me most is his willingness to help other people, even if it means being one of the last to leave each day or taking extra work home."

"He brings a delightful sense of humor to the workplace and always has a ready smile. His concern for RLC begins with our students and goes with him into our community, where he is one of our finest spokesmen."

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2005



BOB KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

Personality-plus Huie and Cross, 'anonymous' Helverson share bond

"Things have never been the same" since the arrival of one. Another is described as the "super glue" that holds a department together. The third toils in anonymity, even though he has been here two stints.

And yet the threesome shares a common distinction.

Three goes into two, in this particular case, as winners of the 1996 RLC Foundation "Outstanding Staff" Awards.

Office Support honors are shared by Jean Huie, who "arrived" in June 1989, and Cathy Cross, who has been good at handling sticky situations longer than any other department secretary (since December 1983). Carl Helverson, who has worked both early evening and late-night custodial shifts, is the Physical Plant recipient.

Huie's honor represents a first . . . the first time sisters have won the award. Jean is following in the footsteps of her sister, 1986 winner Jill Colvin. Both work(ed) in the Business and Social Science Department; Jean also serves the Science, Math and Education Department.

The five members who nominated Huie indicated "she needs no introduction. The people she works with and for will attest that, since that day in '89, 'things have never been the same!' She uses her great personality and wit to successfully deal with RLC department chairs, instructors, students and visitors. She is cheerful and willing to help out, whether it is an activity for the Office Support Staff or a special performance in Blackouts!"

Huie's maturity and poise enable her to deal with two departments that total 17 full-time faculty and about 75 part-time instructors. "She is fast, efficient and rarely makes errors," say colleagues.

"Ask anyone" in her area, claim 12 co-workers, "and they will tell you she (Cross) is the glue that holds the Arts and Communications Department together . . . the super glue, that is!"

"Cathy always has a smile that is contagious. She is known for her sense of humor and upbeat personality. She is refreshingly outspoken and very friendly. Cathy wears many hats but only one face . . . one of integrity."

Calling her "more than a secretary, she is a friend," colleagues noted she "is well-organized, goes beyond what is expected and brings to the department her excellent skills, expertise and vast experience. She has earned the utmost respect of those she answers to."

In Helverson's case, it is not that his work goes unnoticed, it is just that he is seldom seen by many on campus. But he "enjoys his work and performs his duties well above the expected requirements," according to four peers. "He has been an employee of the college twice because he was deserving enough to be re-hired." Helverson, who worked at RLC from 1970-76 and returned in 1985, "is quiet by nature but well-respected by his fellow workers," commented Dean Bob Carlock while making the presentation.



OUTSTANDING STAFF 1996

CATHY CROSS
OFFICE SUPPORT



OUTSTANDING STAFF 1996

JEAN HUIE
OFFICE SUPPORT



OUTSTANDING STAFF 1996

CARL HELVERSON
CUSTODIAN

Broy's green thumb blooms into award-winning campus landscaping



OUTSTANDING STAFF 1998

DANNY BROY
GROUNDSKEEPER

Danny Broy's work does not go unnoticed, in more ways than one.

As the Groundskeeper for Rend Lake College, his landscaping handiwork on the Ina campus is on display for all to enjoy on a daily basis.

He has got the attention of some of his co-workers, among others, and now everyone will have a chance to see how appreciated his efforts are: Broy is recipient of the college's 1998 "Outstanding Staff" Award for Physical Plant employees.

Broy uses a green thumb and help from several other sources to keep campus grounds safe and attractive.

The West Frankfort resident first joined the RLC Security Office on a part-time basis during his days as a student-worker. He was hired full-time in the dual role of Custodian/Security, and then named Groundskeeper in 1994.

His charge then was not merely to maintain campus landscaping, "but to improve it to what you see now," according to three of her admirers. "He knows his goal is not yet complete, and this is why he works diligently every day he comes to work. He has been working closely with a landscape committee to improve the campus over a four-year period."

Name on Wall of Honor one of greatest achievements for 'Winner' McLain

Brent McLain has won multiple championships and "Coach of the Year" honors on the national level. An accomplished runner himself, he knows the taste of success and has the trophies to prove it. After the 2007 Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner, McLain can add one more to the mantle – the RLC Foundation "Outstanding Staff" Award.

McLain was hired in August 2002 to head the Wayne Arnold Aerobic Super-Circuit Fitness Center on campus and coach the Men's Cross-Country and Track and Field teams. Since then, he has been promoted to Assistant to the President for Athletics, was part of the inaugural RLC Emerging Leaders Institute and was named National Junior College Athletic Association Men's Cross-Country "Coach of the Year" for 2001, '02 and '03 (Division II) and 2006 (Division I) and NJCAA Men's Indoor Track and Field "Coach of the Year" in 2005. [He later took on the role of Athletic Director for the 16 Warrior and Lady Warrior programs, plus a competitive Cheerleading squad and the Laker Girls Dance Team.]

"He has taken the love of his sport and lifted it to new heights," his nomination letter reads. "Brent is a winner who stresses the importance of competition and winning to his runners."

McLain accepted his "Outstanding Staff" Award from President Mark S. Kern and said he thinks of Rend Lake College staff, administrators and faculty as family. He sees himself working for many more years and retiring from the college, he added. "It definitely was a surprise, but an honor," he said. "It was especially a privilege Mr. Kern was the one to present me with the award and list my accomplishments. To be recognized by such a great

family is one of the greatest honors I have received."

Regarding his goal of retiring from Rend Lake College, McLain commented, "This reinforces the commitment I have to RLC, as well as my goal to spend the rest of my career here."

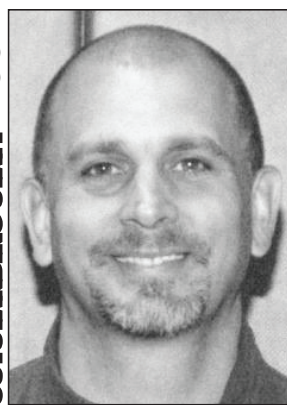
"Having my name added to the Wall of Honor is definitely a proud moment for me," he said. "My name is already on the RLC Wall of Fame for achievements in athletics at the college. In a way, being among those on the Wall of Honor is even more of an accomplishment for me."

His name will be added to a list of 41 staff members who have received it before him and it will be etched on a nameplate and displayed among the others on the Wall of Honor in the center of Rend Lake College's Ina campus.

McLain lives in Benton with his wife, Dr. Deedra McLain, a General Practice Physician for the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Student Health Center. She is Director of Preventive and Travel Medicine and a Medical Consultant for the Eating Disorder Outpatient Program. They are the proud parents of twin daughters Madi and Mia, and 7-week-old son Gabriel.

[**Editor's Note:** For health reasons, McLain resigned his administrative and coaching positions in 2009.]

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2007



BRENT McLAIN
ATHLETICS

In case of an emergency . . . count on the faithful, dedicated D. Carnes

The only surprise announcement at the 1993 Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner involved the RLC "Outstanding Staff Excellence" Award. And nobody was more surprised than the winner himself, Maintenance employee Dennis Carnes.

Perhaps the least surprised of all was his wife, Rosemary, who had to keep the secret since past recipients of the

honor voted Dennis Carnes as the 13th member of their exclusive "club" several weeks before. The 1993 winner's wife gained similar recognition in 1982, the second year of an award which goes to a representative of either the Classified or Physical Plant staffs.

Dean for Finance and Administration Bob Carlock made the announcement. Dr. Val Gibbons, President of the sponsoring Rend Lake

College Foundation, presented Carnes with a plaque "in recognition of excellence and dedicated service" and a check for \$500.

The World War II Navy veteran started working at Rend Lake College in 1977.

One of those nominating Carnes for the annual award was last year's winner, Custodian Paul Ossig, who called his friend and colleague a "faithful and dedicated employee."

Ossig said Carnes is active in his church – he is a former Sunday School Teacher at Logan Street Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon – and has been a Cub Scout leader. "He is a devoted family man and takes great pride in his grandchildren," the nomination letter indicated.

Carnes' supervisor, Director of Physical Plant Dow Smith, praised the award-winner's willingness to work. Carlock quoted Smith as saying, "Dennis Carnes is the first person to respond to an emergency situation on this campus . . . and the last one to leave."

Dennis and Rosemary Carnes are the parents of a son, Dennis, and have two grandchildren.

OUTSTANDING STAFF 1993



DENNIS CARNES
MAINTENANCE

'Mr. Paul' Ossig called 'gentle, responsible, loyal, polite and even sweet'

OUTSTANDING STAFF 1992



PAUL OSSIG
CUSTODIAN

The RLC Foundation Award which recognizes an "Outstanding" representative of either the Classified or Physical Plant staff was presented in May 1992 to second-shift Custodian Paul Ossig.

The recipient was called "a gentle man with a large heart" by those who nominated him, and the audience at the Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner was quick to echo that sentiment with a standing ovation for the 11th annual winner.

"Respectable, responsible, loyal, polite and even 'sweet' are all words that have been used to describe Mr. Paul," noted the letter of recommendation on his behalf.

"He is one of the most dependable and hard-working employees Rend Lake College has ever had. Paul is always willing to go that extra mile in preparation for special events, while still doing his regular duties in their entirety. Our only regret is that with Paul on evening shift, many of his fellow employees have never gotten to know Paul nor realize just how much he has done for them."

Ossig shares produce from his garden and always has a kind word for students and staff. "Paul doesn't care whose job it is," say friends. "If it needs to be done, he does it without expecting anything in return."

Sample-ing of what it takes to win: Cheerful, enjoy job, fair treatment

She maintains a cheerful attitude. She enjoys her job. She deals with students and co-workers fairly. That is just a Sample-ing of what it takes to make an award-winner.

Connie Sample, the Secretary to Associate Dean of Student Services Pam Smith, was pleasantly surprised at the year-end Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner when she was announced as winner of the 1990 RLC Foundation "Outstanding Staff" Award. The award, presented by RLC Foundation rep Larry Foster, is now accompanied by a monetary gift as well.

Sample graduated from Rend Lake College with an Associate in Applied Science Degree in 1988 and joined the full-time staff soon thereafter. Dean Ron Appuhn read from the letter of recommendation in making the announcement:

"Connie's attitude is one of her most positive attributes," the letter noted. "She is pleasant with her supervisors, her peers, students . . . everyone with whom she comes in contact. She enjoys her job and is positive in praising RLC.

"Connie recently inherited the position of Classified Staff President and is doing a good job. I believe we all can have confidence in her ability to deal with each person fairly and to listen with an open mind to various viewpoints."

"Connie handles a heavy workload with a smile and a cheerful attitude . . . I believe she is one of Rend Lake College's definite assets."

OUTSTANDING STAFF 1990



CONNIE SAMPLE
OFFICE SUPPORT

Swift to judge: Kind like a mother; courteous, conscientious, flexible

Conetta Swift, who was recognized for 10 years of service to Rend Lake College earlier in the program, received the RLC Foundation "Outstanding Staff" Award during the 1991 Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner. The Ewing resident has been a Housekeeper on the college's Physical Plant Staff since July 1981.

The award recognizes excellence and dedicated service to the college. Nominations are made by RLC staff. Past winners help make the final selection each year. More nominations were received than ever before, according to Dean for Finance and Administration Ron Appuhn.

Swift, according to one of those submitting her name for consideration, "has always been kind and courteous serving students and instructors in her line of duties. She goes the extra mile and is always cheerful . . . whatever tasks are required. (I understand) her services and attitude are the same wherever she is working."

Commented another peer, "She is a loyal, conscientious employee who is flexible in fulfilling her duties from day to day. She seems like a mother to staff and students alike. She is always very cooperative and helpful when we have problems. She enjoys her job and likes working with students.

"The students are very fond of her, also. 'Cheerful,' 'young' and 'energetic' are a few of the words I would use to describe her."

The wife of Kenneth Swift is active in her church in Ewing, where she has taught Sunday School classes, among other duties.

OUTSTANDING STAFF 1991



CONETTA SWIFT
HOUSEKEEPER

F.Y.I. Covergirl Williamson calm, poised, meticulous and trustworthy

OUTSTANDING STAFF 1998



BECKY WILLIAMSON
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Very few people, if any, have been pictured on the cover of the weekly internal publication *Rend Lake College F.Y.I.* twice within a three-week period.

Becky Williamson has been now. But then again, she is "Outstanding." The Executive Assistant to the Vice President is the 1998 recipient of the "Outstanding Office Support Staff" Award. Williamson and peers learned of the award at a luncheon in honor of Professional Secretaries Week.

That also was the week in which Becky (Hines) Williamson, shown as a first-grader, was featured on the cover of some *F.Y.I.s* in a salute to Office Support staff.

Actually she "needs no introduction," said the nomination letter for an employee since 1990. "She uses a calm demeanor and wit to successfully work with administrators, chairs, instructors, students, co-workers and visitors. She is meticulous and trustworthy when carefully performing her duties." "Her maturity and poise are apparent as she performs her duties," which include the scheduling of all campus facilities.

An Associate Degree was not required when Williamson, with 23 years of secretarial experience, was hired. She had eight college credits then, but will graduate with her A.A. Degree after two summer classes.

M. Lewis, Spencer, Atkins . . . a trio of deserving, 'Outstanding' winners

■ Should you need help and choose to enter the Administration Building from the west, you will soon discover it was a wise choice. More than likely, you will be greeted by the smiling face and good-natured personality of Mary Ann Lewis, Data Entry Clerk. She's a winner.

■ Should you need help and choose to enter the Administration Building from the east (or call), you will soon discover it was a wise choice. More than likely, you will be greeted by the smiling face and good-natured personality of Receptionist Jane Spencer. She's a winner.

"We had five people (voting) on the committee and we had a tie. I'm not sure how we did that," Dean Bob Carlock said in announcing co-recipients of the 1994 "Outstanding Support Staff" Award at the Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner.

Why? How? "Both have excellent employee records and everybody thinks the world of them," Carlock said of two individuals who in reality are quite different and unique in their own right - Lewis, the southern "belle" who took advantage of the dress-up affair to show off her fashionable hat, and Spencer, the former Chicago resident who would like you to think she, too, is cold and windy but is anything but that.

Even though Lewis is well liked within the Administration Building as well, her recommendation came from Mary Ann-boosters in other offices across campus and was sent "with sincere admiration" for 13 years of "dedicated and loyal service." "She treats people in a professional manner and always with enthusiasm and the added touch of kindness. It is every employer's dream

to have an employee as efficient, loyal and dependable."

Spencer "receives an A+ rating from those she works with, people who call RLC, people who walk through the door needing direction and fellow workers. "She has proven herself to be a hard-working, forthright, gracious and accommodating individual."

There goes the image! The professional Spencer is "cheerful and congenial and willing to go the 'extra mile' in her performance as the important first contact for RLC."

■ Nominees for the "Outstanding Physical Plant Staff" Award are voted on by previous winners. That being the case, it is obvious RLC Housekeeper Glenda Atkins enjoyed a distinct advantage on the competition.

Atkins not only got the final endorsement, she originally was nominated by three peers who were previous recipients of the honor. Both groups based their reasoning on the fact Atkins is "friendly to everyone, always helpful as needed and dependable. "For 17 years," added Dean Bob Carlock, "she has been a very good employee." She first called the Student Center "home," later the South Oasis, and "sees that everything is kept as it should be."

OUTSTANDING STAFF 1994



MARY ANN LEWIS
OFFICE SUPPORT

OUTSTANDING STAFF 1994



JANE SPENCER
OFFICE SUPPORT

OUTSTANDING STAFF 1994



GLENDA ATKINS
HOUSEKEEPER

Conscientious Downes also a great person and good friend, respected by all

From her time on the Lady Warriors softball diamond through her growing responsibilities as an employee of Rend Lake College, Kelly (Johnston) Downes has made a lasting impression on her colleagues.

She was chosen as a recipient of the 2006 "Outstanding Staff" Award during the Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner May 5. Co-recipient of the award was Resource Development Specialist Trudee Wynn.

Downes (Woodlawn) began her career at RLC as a student-athlete – a walk-on who was awarded a softball scholarship her sophomore year. She earned her AAS Degree in 2000 and has worked at the college for five years.

Downes has worn many hats during her time at the college, working in the Textbook Rental Center, Student Transfer and Re-

tention Support (STARS), Title III federal "Strengthening Institutions" grant programs, Upward Bound and, most recently, for both Information Technology and Student Services.

Downes currently is the Assistant to both the Vice President of Information Technology and Student Services and the Dean of Student Services.

"Her job requires an extreme amount of patience and understanding as she listens to and assists students, faculty and staff," her colleagues wrote in a nomination letter. "Kelly is a very conscientious employee who is always professional in her appearance and demeanor and is respected by all who know her."

"I'm very humbled and honored the people I work with nominated me for this award. I certainly didn't expect it. I truly enjoy my job and working with such a great group of people," said Downes.

"On top of her attributes as an employee, Kelly is more importantly a great person," her co-workers praised. "She is not only a co-worker, but also a friend. Kelly is truly deserving of the Rend Lake College 'Outstanding Staff' Award."

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2006



KELLY DOWNES
ASSISTANT TO V-P / DEAN

Price emerges as contributor, leader who loves challenges of additional duties

Although she was shocked, for those who know her and work with her it came as no surprise when Lisa Price's name was read as an "Outstanding Staff" Award winner during the Annual Rend Lake College Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner.

"I am honored and humbled by the nomination," Price said. "Rend Lake College is full of many hard-working, talented people who work hard everyday to help Rend Lake College be the best community college."

Price, Executive Director of Academic Counseling at RLC, was hired as a Teen Parent Services Case Worker by the college on October 5, 1994. Price moved from Teen Parent Services to Coordinator of the Future Focus Abstinence Education program, later adding duties when she became Director of K-12 Programs.

Before RLC, she was a Pregnancy and Parenting Home-Based Therapist and Family Counselor for Franklin-Williamson Human Services from 1988-91.

Before marrying Alan Price, Lisa Bauer was a Ewing Warrior, Benton Rangerette and student-worker in the RLC Bookstore. Her goal after graduating from Rend Lake College was to one day work at the college. The Prices live in Ewing today with their daughter Victoria, 16, and son Nicholas, 14.

Operating as a proverbial lighthouse, Price guides students who know what they want to do, but do not know how to get there, as well as those who are searching for their niche. Her dedication to the Counseling Center is paramount in her career goals.

"She is a wonderful leader who is admired and re-

spected by her colleagues," the nomination letter reads. "... she is just a great person to work with. She is a great ambassador for Rend Lake College . . . She has served on the Ewing Grade School Board for several years and is very involved in activities of her children and community."

"I enjoy and am challenged by taking on additional duties or starting new initiatives and RLC has afforded me many of those opportunities," she said. "I have had the opportunity to participate in and grow professionally through the Emerging Leaders Institute. My goal is to be a 'contributor' to Rend Lake College in whatever form or fashion that means until retirement."

Her colleagues commended her for doing an exemplary job of helping students with conscientious, personal attention to providing them the best service possible. And on a personal level, "She is a caring and helpful friend."

"My name being added to the Wall of Honor shows that I am a contributor and challenges me to keep going," she said. "I feel very fortunate I am able to continue to grow personally and professionally from my peers and from Rend Lake College experiences every day."

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2007



LISA PRICE
DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING

Thinking of RLC's outstanding staff? Think of Nursing's Herbert first

OUTSTANDING STAFF 1981



BETTY HERBERT
OFFICE SUPPORT

Betty Herbert, a Faculty Secretary in the Nursing Department for the past 9 1/2 years, was recipient of the first "Outstanding Staff" Award to be presented each year by the Rend Lake College Foundation.

The award was established to recognize excellence among non-teaching members of the RLC staff. RLCF President Hank Hannah made the presentation to Herbert.

In addition to her duties as a secretary for the Department Chair and both full- and part-time faculty members in the one-year Practical Nursing certificate program, the Associate Degree Nursing program and other related allied health courses

and programs, Herbert serves as clerical representative on the President's Cabinet.

Herbert was a mainstay in the Nursing/ Allied Health office from 1971-95. She said her "experience has been personally and professionally rewarding. I hope I have contributed positively to the functions and growth" of the department.

The award-winner and her husband, Bud, reside in Mt. Vernon. They are the parents of three adult children and have six grandchildren. It became a holiday tradition for all family members to receive a Rend Lake College shirt or sweatshirt as one of their gifts from Betty.

Two-timing (departments, tenure) Colvin friendly in professional way

The Sixth Annual "Outstanding Staff" Award was presented in 1986 to Jill Colvin, who serves as the Faculty Secretary for two departments, by the Rend Lake College Foundation.

Colvin was rewarded for her job performance, dedication and cooperation and the "ability to represent her college and peers in a friendly and professional manner."

The award has been given each year since 1981 to a full-time member of either the classified or physical plant (maintenance/custodial) staff at Rend Lake College. Making the presentation to Colvin was Howard L. Payne, President of the RLC Foundation.

The West Frankfort native has worked at the college for seven years, serving at the present time in the dual role of Secretary to both the Business and Social Science Department and the Science, Math and Education Department.

Colvin is pursuing an Associate Degree in Business. In her spare time, she is an avid softball player and follower of the World Champion Kansas City Royals baseball team.

Her husband, Greg, is a coal miner for Old Ben Coal Co. They are the parents of 15-month-old Lauren.

Past winners of the RLC Foundation "Outstanding Staff" Award are Betty Herbert, Rosemary Carnes, Jerri Ruemmler, Jean Estes and Jim Peeples.

The sister of the former Jill Duff, Jean (Duff) Huie, received the Staff Award in 1996. Jean came to RLC a year after Jill left in 1988. Colvin worked at the college from 1978-79 and 1980-88.

OUTSTANDING STAFF 1986



JILL COLVIN
OFFICE SUPPORT

Need 'pep talk?' Caring Sanders combines secretarial, P.R. skills

June Sanders, Secretary for the Developmental Skills Center at Rend Lake College, was presented the Eighth Annual RLC Foundation "Outstanding Staff" Award in 1988 during the Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner on-campus. The announcement was made by Dean Ron Appuhn.

The award "in recognition of excellence and dedicated service," goes to a member of the classified or physical plant staff. Previous winners: Betty Herbert, Rosemary Carnes, Jerri Ruemmler, Jean Estes, Jimmie Peeples, Jill Colvin and Sherry Somers.

Sanders joined the classified staff in October 1979. "In addition to her excellent secretarial skills, she is an asset to the college, and especially to her department, because of her personal relations skills," Appuhn commented. "She provides excellent first contact with individuals.

"Many of the people contacting her area are extremely nervous about not having a high school diploma or other skills," continued Appuhn. "She has a calming effect on these people, gives them the information they need and perhaps even a little 'pep talk.' She also is concerned with the retention of the students and always is supportive in the same manner."

A resident of West Frankfort, Sanders is active in her church, plays the piano for a gospel group and often is contacted by other area churches to serve as a pianist on a supply basis.

Nominations for the annual award are submitted by peers. The final selection is made by a committee comprised of past winners.

OUTSTANDING STAFF 1988



JUNE SANDERS
OFFICE SUPPORT

Veteran Executive Assistant J. Estes aids President, Board, Title III, peers

The Fourth Annual Rend Lake College Foundation "Outstanding Staff" Award for excellence and dedicated service was bestowed recently on Jean Estes, Executive Secretary to the President for the past five years.

Ruby Webb, President of the RLC Foundation, made the presentation at the Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner.

Prior to her employment at the college, Estes was a Customer Representative for GMAC for nine years and Secretary to the President at Nelson Concrete in Mt. Vernon for another nine years.

Three of her four children – DeAnn Cash, Richard Estes, Jana Rister and Alan Estes – are Rend Lake College graduates. She and her husband, Wayne, also have six grandchildren.

Jean Estes likewise is a graduate of RLC. She has taken classes part-time since joining the staff and two years ago earned her Associate of Arts Degree. She currently is pursuing a four-year degree from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Throughout her tenure at Rend Lake College – she retired in 1994 – Estes also served as Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

As Executive Assistant to President Harry J. Braun and Mark S. Kern, she headed the Classified Staff and was named Director of the first Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant.



JEAN ESTES
OFFICE SUPPORT

'Worthy' Purchasing Clerk S. Somers: knowledge, reliability, people skills

Rend Lake College Purchasing Clerk Sherry Somers walked away with the Seventh Annual "Outstanding Staff" Award at the 1987 Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner. The RLC Foundation sponsors the award, which goes to a full-time member of either the Classified or Physical Plant staff.

Somers, a resident of Ewing, joined the college staff six years ago. She worked in the Financial Aid Office before becoming Purchasing Clerk in January 1982.

The award "is in recognition of excellence and dedicated service to Rend Lake College," noted a peer in making the recommendation, and this year's recipient "is worthy of both categories. She has exceptional knowledge of her job; her judgment and initiative are very reliable. Sherry is considerate and cooperative with staff and students and has a good working relationship with co-workers."

RLCF President Howard Payne made the presentation. Somers was a member of the college's 20th graduating class. She attended classes on a part-time basis since joining the staff and received her Associate in Science Degree in 1987, then earned her Bachelor's Degree from SIUC.

She worked with Child Care Resource and Referral for several years before retiring in 2003.

Sherry and 1997 Staff Award-winner Ron Somers have two daughters and two grandchildren.



SHERRY SOMERS
OFFICE SUPPORT

Business Office Assistant R. Carnes serves five financial leaders

Who would have thought they were starting a trend when they chose the winner of the Second Annual RLC Foundation "Outstanding Staff" Award in 1982?

But that is what college officials unknowingly did when they tabbed Business Office Assistant Rosemary Carnes.

Rosemary was the first of the Carnes to be so recognized, followed by husband Dennis in 1993. But that was not the only precedent established. Another husband-wife team was cited 10 years apart – Sherry and Ron Somers (1987/'97) – and David Davis and Phyllis Rice Davis ('95/'99) got together officially after the fact. And there has even been a sister act – Jill Colvin and Jean Huie with yet another 10 years in between ('86/'96).

Rosemary Carnes, who was nominated by her peers, had been employed in the Business Office since 1968. During her tenure she served under Paul Fitch, Skip Witunski, Bob Spuhler, Ron Appuhn and Bob Carlock. She later worked in the Center for Business and Community Services and the RLC Bookstore.

She was saluted in 1993 (along with LRC Director David Patton) for 25 years of service – only five instructors who had been with RLC since the beginning had been so recognized the previous year – before retiring in 1994.

The Carnes reside on a Mt. Vernon rural route and are the parents of a son, Dennis, and have two grandchildren. Rosemary is well-known for her quilting skills.



ROSEMARY CARNES
OFFICE SUPPORT

Smiles accompany Hughey, Scattone down similar career paths

Professional competence interspersed with an outgoing, fun-loving attitude does not go unnoticed.

Case in point x 2: Accounts Payable specialist Sue Scattone and Physical Plant representative Frank Hughey.

Both joined the RLC staff in 1998. Four years later, their careers continued to travel a similar path. The Business Office's Scattone and Maintenance Painter/Groundskeeper Hughey shared the 2002 "Outstanding Staff" Award.

Years later, around the time of publication, both were still carrying out their duties in award-winning fashion.

Scattone was named Business Office Cashier in August

and became Accounts Payable Specialist the following April.

The former Sue Biggerstaff graduated from RLC in Early Childhood Education and taught 3-year-olds at Happy Time Day Care in Mt. Vernon before departing for Hamilton County Hospital from 1992-98 as a Pharmacy Technician (two years) and member of the Business Office (four years).

Husband Jonathan is an Auto Technician for Taylor Motors. Son Jacob, 1 when she joined the staff, was a regular at the RLCF Children's Center in their formative years.

Scattone is a native of the Chicago area (Brookfield) who moved to Southern Illinois while in junior high. She enjoys swimming, reading, painting ceramic crafts and raising coon hunting dogs and German shepherds.

Mt. Vernon native Hughey, a self-employed painter and landscaper for 20 years, was hired as a temporary full-time painter by RLC in April, quickly proved himself and the temporary tag was dropped five months later.

Prior to his September hiring, the former Webber Township High School basketball player worked for Western Staff Service and Southern Illinois Door and Guttering.

He obtained his GED with help from Rend Lake College.

Hughey and his wife, Faith, a Certified Nurse Assistant, reside in Belle Rive with their son, Tommy Lee, 14 at the time Frank was honored, and daughter Hannah, 12. He spends his leisure time working for and helping senior citizens, fishing, camping and hiking.



FRANK HUGHEY
MAINTENANCE



SUE SCATTON
OFFICE SUPPORT

Physical Plant doubly proud of 'Outstanding' staffers Rice and Sink

At no time before or since have two people from the same department shared the "Outstanding Staff" Award. But Physical Plant reps Phyllis Rice and Gib Sink did in 1999.

Rice was front and center as the college's Receptionist for three years, from her hiring in March 1981 until March 1984, when she was hired into another high-profile job in the Administration Building, as Business Office Cashier.

Two years later, she transferred to the position of Physical Plant Secretary and quickly gained the confidence and respect of the staff as the "right-hand man" for Directors Leroy Spotsanski (1983-87), Dow Smith (1987-95) and Randall Shively (1995-). She could be a tough-minded taskmaster while making friends and trading barbs with the best of them.

The Administrative Assistant, who in 2006 married Maintenance co-worker and longtime mate David Davis, the "Outstanding Staff" Award-recipient four years earlier, was best-known for her efforts coordinating recycling efforts on campus. The college received its first recycling grant in 1992 and greening endeavors were still ongoing at the time Thompsonville resident Phyllis Davis retired in 2010 after 29 years.

Sink, a Sesser resident, was approved at the February 1989 Board meeting as a Maintenance I Electrician.

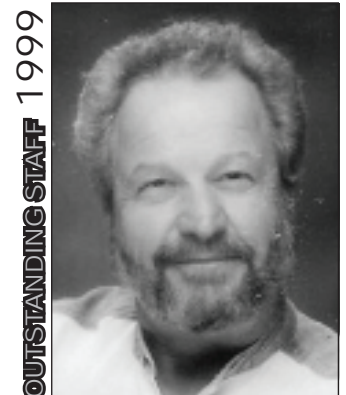
Time rarely stood still on the RLC campus after the hiring of Gilbert E. Sink. That fall, he and colleague Jim Peeples completed work on the master clock renovation

project . . . a "timely" project, according to Physical Plant Director Dow Smith, "due to the fact the old master clock had not been keeping its subordinates in line" for quite some time. Parking lot and road lights were added to the timing system before they were through.

Like another Sesser native before him (Wayne Arnold), Sink did not really retire when he retired after 18 years, in 2007. Following the required time away, Sink returned as a part-time employee to continue sharing his electrical/maintenance talents and outgoing personality.



PHYLLIS RICE
OFFICE SUPPORT



GIB SINK
MAINTENANCE

History repeats itself over and over and over again for 'Outstanding' Sveda

If ever there were an individual with "déjà vu" all over again stamped all over him or her, this is the one.

As a Rend Lake College student from Christopher between 2004-06, Rachel Sveda rated membership in the local Rho Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society for two-year community colleges, based on a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or better. She even served as its President as a sophomore.

She also was recognized as the PTK Academic All-Illinois/USA Nominee for 2005-06.

Fast forward five years, and Sveda had returned to the Ina campus and was filling the role of Phi Theta Kappa Advisor for the 2009-10 and '10-11 academic years.

Did we mention Sveda was a student-worker in the Financial Aid Office during her undergraduate days at RLC? Or that she was back by 2008, as a full-time employee in the Financial Aid Office? Or that she received recognition in her capacity as Financial Aid and Admissions Coordinator

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2014



RACHEL SVEDA
FINANCIAL AID AND
ADMISSIONS COORDINATOR

as the 2014 "Outstanding Staff" Award recipient?

Sveda was a high-achiever both before her arrival and during her two-year commute while continuing her education. She entered with Illinois Merit Recognition status and received High Achiever Scholastic Awards for two years. While here, she was named a Student Ambassador by college administrators and voted Student Representative to the RLC Board of Trustees by her peers.

For the record, she still found time to earn two degrees from Rend Lake College – Associate in Arts and Associate in Science – and claimed two more from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale – B.S. and M.S.Ed.

Marketers took advantage of this extraordinary young lady to feature her thoughts in a Student Prospective a year after her graduation: "I decided to attend Rend Lake College because I went to a very small high school and thought attending a small community college would make for an easier transition. It also helped financially because I received a tuition waiver that covered all of my direct expenses. After attending RLC, I realized there are many additional advantages. The faculty and staff are so committed to providing an encouraging atmosphere that makes it more possible for students to succeed. All of the college's employees make sure they are available when students have questions or need extra help. My experience at Rend Lake College has been extremely positive."

Wheeler takes little credit for Marketing impact: 'He lived it; I just wrote about it'

The "Outstanding Staff" Award-winner has made quite an impact in nine years as a valued member of the Rend Lake College family. The recognition would imply as much.

But Nathan Wheeler would be the first to inform everyone . . . that is his job. He is supposed to make sure the impact Rend Lake College is making on the community is common knowledge as the Assistant Director of Marketing and Public Information (from his hiring in 2006) and Marketing Specialist (more recent designation).

Typical was his response five years ago, when his heartfelt story on a student-athlete with African roots, "The Long Journey of Dey Tuach Dey," in the *Southern Illinois Sports Connection* magazine earned him the Bronze Medallion of Merit by his peers in the five-state (and Ontario) National Council for Marketing and Public Relations.

His modest response: "I am really honored. A lot of stories come across my desk. And while most are good in one way or another, none have compared to Dey Tuach Dey. His story is wrenching and uplifting; I'd like to think he shares this honor with me. I mean, he lived it. I just wrote about it. That was enough pressure, just to get it right and write it well. I really thank him for telling it to me. It's one of those stories with great lessons around every turn."

About the same time, he was sharing his expertise with a newly formed, 19-person Branding Committee, tasked initially to develop an identifiable logo to serve all of RLC.

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2015



NATHAN WHEELER
MARKETING SPECIALIST

Administrators selected him to join the second class of the college's Emerging Leaders Institute, training for an elite group of up-and-coming employees.

And Wheeler was one of the first 25 members of Southern Illinois NeXt Professionals, an extension of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce formed in 2008 "to bring together diverse and dynamic professionals ages 21-40 with a

shared interest in Southern Illinois as their place to live, work and play." SINP's mission is to engage talented young professionals through professional development, networking and community service opportunities.

Much like his Marketing colleague, Chad Copple, Wheeler was a News Reporter from 2004-06 for the *Morning Sentinel* newspaper in Mt. Vernon and frequently covered RLC Board meetings and other events. Now he oversees the student publication, *The Clocktower Chronicle*.

He is a graduate of Lake Land College in Mattoon and Eastern Illinois University.

Clark and Shelton recognized as 'Outstanding' four years after hirings

Officials from Rend Lake College and the RLC Foundation presented the 2012 RLCF Outstanding Staff Member Award to Perkins and Community Education Coordinator Kristina Shelton of Bonnie and Programmer and Analyst Brian Clark of Mount Vernon. The awards were presented during the Board, Faculty and Staff recognition ceremony.

As Community Ed Coordinator, Shelton develops and markets programming for all ages and coordinates summer youth programs. As Perkins Coordinator, she generates meetings and projects related to Programs of Study, Pathways to Results and the Perkins Online Data System.

She has served on multiple college committees, as well as one to help develop a massive Enterprise Resource Planning system. Her knowledge of Perkins grant requirements

led to the improvement of college data for state reports.

In her letter nominating Shelton, Community and Corporate Education Director Lori Ragland wrote, "Kristina has been instrumental in learning, sharing and taking action for the betterment of Rend Lake College . . . Kristina is a team player and is willing to help in any way she can."

Shelton was named Assistant Director of Community Education a week after Ragland began her tenure as Director July 1, 2008. She boasts an Associate in Arts Degree from Rend Lake College and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Journalism from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Clark has been an integral part of the RLC Information Technology team since 2008. He was hired as Help Desk / Web Assistant Technician; eight months later, in April 2009, he was named Programmer / Analyst.

His skills are essential in the college's conversion to the ERP system. He was nominated for the award by departments outside of IT . . . a testament to Clark's skill set and ability to communicate cutting-edge aspects of technology to those who use it every day to increase their productivity and effectiveness. Nominees noted, "He has continually stepped up to the plate to assist us during our many moments of frustration . . . Brian has never once backed away from any challenge . . . He goes above and beyond to assist those lost in the electronic world . . . He is truly an asset to the college and exemplifies what it means to be outstanding."

A 2007 graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Clark taught Computer classes part-time for RLC Spring Semester 2008.



BRIAN CLARK
PROGRAMMER / ANALYST



KRISTINA SHELTON
COMMUNITY ED / PERKINS

Five Chairs later, fun-loving Stevens still takes her 'Nursing' job seriously

When Betty Herbert retired as Allied Health Department Secretary after 24 years (1971-95), she was replaced by recent grad Beth Mitchell. Five Department Chairs later, Beth (Mitchell) Stevens is working on an impressive longevity stretch of her own – 18 years – and her 2013 RLCF Outstanding Staff Award was long overdue. Herbert was recipient of the first such honors doled out in 1981.

Stevens has proven to be invaluable assistance for Wilanna Patton Kiefer, Dr. Sharon Beasley, Kelli Lewis, Gynelle Baccus, Kim Robert and the entire Nursing staff.

Not everyone sets out to be a member of the RLC Office Support Staff (surprise!). In a Secretaries Week salute in April 1997, the internal publication Rend Lake College F.Y.I. posed the question, "What do/did you want to be when you grow/were growing up?" Beth Mitchell's response, "When I was little, I wanted to be a nurse. Now I'm here, and I can't because I'm working."

The McLeansboro native earned her AAS Degree in Secretarial Science / Document Processing in Spring 1994. The following January, the former student-worker for the Arts and Communications Dept. was a temporary part-time secretary for Allied Health. She was hired full-time at the June Board meeting, effective July 5; Randall Shively,



BETH STEVENS
ALLIED HEALTH

Physical Plant Director, was hired at the same time.

Prior to that, she was a Secretary for Century 21 Realtors and Re/Max Real Estate. Her interests at the time? Reading (everything) and cooking (anything).

Stevens no doubt would be the first to describe herself as fun-loving. Put her in a boat (or a tube) on a lake somewhere – anywhere – and she would be in her own perfect place.

In a similar Secretarial Salute in '96, RLC's leading ladies were asked: 1) Who would you like to see cast in a starring role in your life story? 2) Who should play the romantic lead opposite? 3) What's the plot? Her answers . . . THE BETH MITCHELL STORY / Starring Nicole Kidman with Stephen Baldwin / Rating ★★★★★ / A mystery movie, full of suspense and surprises; You won't want to miss the many hot, steamy scenes!

Peers recognize exceptional work ethic of Fitts, McKown and Murray

Three valued Rend Lake College employees shared Staff Excellence Awards for their exceptional work ethic during the 2015-16 academic year.

They are Joy Fitts, Administrative Assistant for the Applied Science and Technology Division, and two members of the Information Technology team, Network Specialist Kent McKown, and Information Systems Specialist Ron Murray.

Fitts, a Rend Lake College staff member since October 2013 and resident of Mt. Vernon, was nominated by 19 faculty and staff members from the Applied Science and Technology Division.

In the nomination letter, these 19 individuals testified Fitts works well with all faculty, staff and students, and is always eager to assist with top-notch motivation, dedication and trustworthiness.

“As Administrative Assistant to the largest instructional department on campus, Mrs. Fitts serves many roles and takes on each role with utmost professionalism. Not only does she fulfill the daily clerical and academic responsibilities for the division; one will also find her planning and organizing department and campus events, advising and providing support for students, assisting wherever needed and basically being a problem-solver for the department. Not sure of something? Ask Joy,” the letter reads.

Award-winner McKown, an RLC veteran since February 2005, was nominated by two-dozen faculty, staff and administrators in the Information Technology (IT) Department. The Herrin native is described as patient, helpful and professional in his nomination letter.

“Kent is always willing to help other members of the IT staff complete a project or offer advice when needed,

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2016



JOY FITTS
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2016



KENT MCKOWN
NETWORK SPECIALIST

OUTSTANDING STAFF 2016



RON MURRAY
INFORMATION SYSTEMS

regardless of how many other projects he is working on. Kent maintains a professional attitude, even under the most stressful of conditions, and is able to think through the issues and determine a course of action that is the most expedient for the college. Kent works diligently to prevent hacks from outside sources and still manages to be patient with internal sources,” the letter reads.

Last, but certainly not least, is another excellent staff member from the IT Department. Buckner’s Murray, an RLC staff member since December 2008, was nominated by four faculty and staff members in the department for his behind-the-scenes work keeping the college up and running, among many other notable accomplishments.

“Ron has earned the respect of his peers by his work ethic and his technical knowledge. Much of the work and service Ron provides will never be noticed. That’s because when there is a hard drive in the server that fails, he will receive an automated alert and initiate the vendor protocol. He is always monitoring the backup system to ensure that all Rend Lake College data is being properly saved and retained in the event that something should happen and data has to be restored. If something goes awry, he is quick to log in and find a remedy, or else he is in his truck on the way to campus to fix the issue,” the letter reads.

OUTSTANDING STAFF AWARD REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

OPEN TO ALL STAFF WITH EXCEPTION
OF PRESIDENT'S CABINET MEMBERS

- ▲ 2016 - **Joy Fitts**
(Ad. Asst. / Applied Science-Tech)
- 2016 - **Kent McKown**
(Network Specialist)
- 2016 - **Ronald Murray**
(Information Systems Specialist)
- ▲ 2015 - **Nathan Wheeler**
(Marketing Specialist)
- ▲ 2014 - **Rachel Sveda**
(Financial Aid / Admissions Coord.)
- ▲ 2013 - **Beth Stevens**
(Admin. Assistant / Allied Health)
- ▲ 2012 - **Brian Clark**
(Programmer / Analyst)
- 2012 - **Kristina Shelton**
(Comm. Ed. / Perkins Coordinator)
- ▲ 2011 - **Angie Kistner**
(Controller)
- 2011 - **Stephanie McKinney**
(Subsidized Child Care Specialist)
- 2011 - **Donnie Millenbine**
(Grounds Supervisor)
- ▲ 2010 - **Brenda Garvin**
(Assistant to V-P / Info Tech)
- ▲ 2009 - **Chad Cople**
(Director of Marketing / Public Info)
- 2009 - **Ed Ruffino**
(Director of STARS Program)
- ▲ 2008 - **Cheri Rushing**
(Financial Aid Advisor)
- ▲ 2007 - **Brent McLain**
(Assistant to President / Athletics)
- 2007 - **Lisa Price**
(Director of Counseling and K-12)
- ▲ 2006 - **Kelly Downes**
(Assistant to V-P / Information Tech)
- 2006 - **Trudee Wynn**
(Resource Development)
- ▲ 2005 - **Bob Kelley**
(Director of Marketing)
- 2005 - **Beth Mandrell**
(Reference Librarian)
- ▲ 2004 - **Dorothy Feira**
(Bookstore Manager)
- 2004 - **Dawn Gibson**
(Director of Community Ed)
- ▲ 2003 - **Lori Ragland**
(RLC Foundation Assistant)
- 2003 - **Randall Shively**
(Director of Physical Plant)

OPEN TO OFFICE SUPPORT STAFF
AND PHYSICAL PLANT STAFF ONLY

- ▲ 2002 - **Sue Scatone**
(Office Support / Business Office)
- 2002 - **Frank Hughey**
(Physical Plant / Painting)
- ▲ 2001 - **Kim Davis**
(Office Support / LRC Circulation)
- 2001 - **Dennis Richards**
(Physical Plant / Maintenance)

- ▲ 2000 - **Shari Carpenter**
(Office Support / Title III)
- 2000 - **Mike Sevenski**
(Physical Plant / Custodian)
- ▲ 1999 - **Phyllis Rice**
(Office Support / Physical Plant)
- 1999 - **Gib Sink**
(Physical Plant / Maintenance)
- ▲ 1998 - **Becky Williamson**
(Office Support / Vice President)
- 1998 - **Danny Broy**
(Physical Plant / Groundskeeper)
- ▲ 1997 - **Janice Dillon**
(Office Support / Admissions)
- 1997 - **Ron Somers**
(Physical Plant Staff)
- ▲ 1996 - **Cathy Cross**
(Office Support / Liberal Arts Dept.)
- 1996 - **Jean Huie**
(Office Support / AAA Dept.)
- 1996 - **Carl Helverson**
(Physical Plant / Custodian)
- ▲ 1995 - **Julie Oxford**
(Office Support / Health-Athletics)
- 1995 - **David Davis**
(Physical Plant / Maintenance)
- ▲ 1994 - **Mary Ann Lewis**
(Office Support / Admissions)
- 1994 - **Jane Spencer**
(Office Support / Receptionist)
- 1994 - **Glenda Atkins**
(Physical Plant / Housekeeper)
- ▲ 1993 - **Dennis Carnes**
(Physical Plant / Maintenance)
- ▲ 1992 - **Paul Ossig**
(Physical Plant / Custodian)
- ▲ 1991 - **Conetta Swift**
(Physical Plant / Housekeeper)
- ▲ 1990 - **Connie Sample**
(Office Support Staff)
- ▲ 1989 - **Roger Treece**
(Physical Plant / Shipping)
- ▲ 1988 - **June Sanders**
(Office Support Staff)
- ▲ 1987 - **Sherry Somers**
(Office Support Staff)
- ▲ 1986 - **Jill Colvin**
(Office Support / Business Dept.)
- ▲ 1985 - **Jim Peeples**
(Physical Plant / Maintenance)

OPEN TO OFFICE SUPPORT STAFF ONLY

- ▲ 1984 - **Jean Estes**
(President's Secretary)
- ▲ 1983 - **Jerri Ruemmler**
(Office Support / Vocational Dean)
- ▲ 1982 - **Rosemary Carnes**
(Office Support / Business Office)
- ▲ 1981 - **Betty Herbert**
(Office Support / Allied Health)

ADMINISTRATION

Rend Lake College Full-Time Employees

- ▲ **Michelle Allen**
RLCF Children's Ctr. / 2003-10
- ▲ **Ronald Edward Appuhn**
Dean • Comptroller / 1981-91
- ▲ **C. Wayne Arnold ***
Chair, Health-P.E. / 1988-2000
- ▲ **Dr. Jonathan M. Astroth**
President / 1989-91
- ▲ **Gynelle Baccus**
Acting Chair, Allied Health / 2009-11
- ▲ **Andrea Banach**
Dean, Math-Sciences • PCC / 2004-
- ▲ **Barbara Bauernfeind**
Chair, Dev. Skills / 1988-2001
- ▲ **Heather Stanton Bauersachs**
Pinckneyville Campus / 2002-
- ▲ **Dr. Sharon Beasley ***
Chair, Allied Health / 2003-06
- ▲ **Charles "Chuck" Bender**
Interim Dept. Chair, Mining / 1978-79
- ▲ **Melisa Lee Berendson ***
Director of Nursing / 2014-
- ▲ **Eddie Billingsley**
Chair, AAA / 1997-2004
- ▲ **Dr. Sarah Helmers Ochs Bond**
Chair, Applied Science / 2004-08
- ▲ **Imogene I. Book**
Librarian / 1967-84
- ▲ **Mary Bornheimer ***
Int. Dean • Research / 1999-2007
- ▲ **Andrea K. Colp Boucher**
Controller / 1993-2003
- ▲ **Jeffrey Bovee**
MIS Director / 1995
- ▲ **Nicki Gray Bowlin**
Counselor • Up. Bound / 1998-2013
- ▲ **Dr. Harry J. Braun**
President / 1978-89
- ▲ **Tranae Eidson Brockhouse**
Director, CCR&R / 1995-
- ▲ **Jay Brooks**
Adult Ed. • Future Focus / 2000-06
- ▲ **Gerald H. Buchanan**
Public Information Officer / 1979
- ▲ **Shawna Manion Hall Bullard**
RLCF CEO • Assistant / 2009-
- ▲ **D. Ann Bullock**
Director, Counseling / 1999-2003
- ▲ **Robert Paterson Carlock**
V-P, Finance / 1986-2008 • 2010-13
- ▲ **Douglas Carlson**
Director, Financial Aids / 1980-2012
- ▲ **Dr. Homer L. Cissell**
Dean of Instruction / 1999-2002
- ▲ **Terry Clark ***
Dean / Chair, AAA / 1991-2002
- ▲ **Dr. Evelyn E. Claxton ***
Dept. Chair, Arts / 1978-83
- ▲ **David R. Cole**
Resource Dev. • RLCF / 2007-08
- ▲ **Chad Cople**
Marketing • Public Info / 2003-
- ▲ **Mary Cornett**
Exec. Assistant to President / 2014-
- ▲ **Dara Cox**
Academic Coord. - Adult Ed. / 2014-
- ▲ **Linda L. Cox**
Adult Education / 1995-2004
- ▲ **Kathryn Craig ***
Business Services / 2003-09
- ▲ **Barbara Crouse ***
Director of Nursing / 2011-14
- ▲ **Susan Cunningham**
Learning Enhance. • Kumon / 2007-
- ▲ **Charles Dame Jr.**
Big Muddy River C.C. Director / 1997
- ▲ **Lindsay Yunkus Darnell**
Registrar / 2007-08
- ▲ **Barbara J. Davenport ***
Chair, Math-Science / 1998-2011
- ▲ **Sara Jo Davenport**
Advising Dir. • Counselor / 1979-98
- ▲ **Valerie B. Dawkins**
Director, CCR&R / 1990-98
- ▲ **Dorothy Feira DeAngelo**
Manager, Bookstore • Retail / '95-'12
- ▲ **Catherine DeJarnette**
Exec. Asst. to President / 2011-14
- ▲ **William P. "Bill" Dill ***
Chair, Industrial Tech / 1996-2005
- ▲ **Arthur Dobrzynski**
Chief, Security / 1999-2005
- ▲ **Margaret "Peggy" Dolce**
Children's Center / 2002-09
- ▲ **Kelly Johnston Downes**
Student Records • Asst. to V-P / 2001-
- ▲ **John Rex Duncan**
Cooperative Education / 1986-2000
- ▲ **Robert Donald Englander**
Director of Advising / 1981-83
- ▲ **Myra Jean Estes**
Asst. to President • Title III / 1979-94
- ▲ **Tony Etnier**
Academic Advisor • Fitness Ctr. / 2006-
- ▲ **Brad Evilsizer**
Chair, Mining Technology / 1974-77
- ▲ **Charles W. Fink**
Resource Development / 1983-85
- ▲ **Harold E. Finn**
Chair, Mining Technology / 1985-94
- ▲ **Paul M. Fitch**
Business Manager / 1966-73
- ▲ **Cheryl Foley ***
Dean, Community Service / 1978-84
- ▲ **Myron G. Foley ***
Chair, Business / 1976-81
- ▲ **Dawn Gibson**
Comm. Ed. • Chair / 1999-2008
- ▲ **Dr. Nina Goloubeva**
Director, Medical Assistant / 2015-
- ▲ **Timothy Gould**
Menard Director / 1990-96
- ▲ **Robert L. Graham**
Dean, Student Services / 1975-80
- ▲ **Jana Groh**
Adult Ed. • AmeriCorps / 1994-2001
- ▲ **Kimberly M. Harvey**
Director, Student Records / 2000-04

ADMINISTRATION (CONT.)

- ▲ **Jay Mitchell Haskins ***
A.D. • Health/P.E. Dept. / 1981-91
- ▲ **Brenda Hamsen Heinzmann ***
Children's Center / 1998-2001
- ▲ **Traci R. Hemen**
Pinckneyville C.C. / 1998-2004
- ▲ **Charlotte Henry**
Director, Health Info Tech / 2014-
- ▲ **Kelli Hill-Stover**
Area Health Education Ctr. / 2013-14
- ▲ **Charley Holstein**
President • V-P Student Srv. / 2008-12
- ▲ **Dr. John Homan Jr. ***
Resource Development / 1981-82
Chair, Arts and Comm. / 1992-98
- ▲ **Dr. William E. "Bill" Hudson**
Chair, AAA / 1977-79
- ▲ **Dr. James R. Hull**
V-P of Instruction / 2002-08
- ▲ **Christina Hutcheson**
Adult Ed/Literacy • Research / 2008-
- ▲ **Jerry Jensen**
Acting Chair, AAA / 1976-77
- ▲ **Elaine S. Griffith Johnson**
Comm. Dev. • Nontraditional / '88-'00
- ▲ **Jody A. Johnson ***
Director, BMRCC Ed. / 2000-03
- ▲ **Howard L. Jones**
Vocational-Technical / 1967-68
- ▲ **John Edward Jones**
Chair, Mining / 1979
- ▲ **Sharon L. "Sherry" Jones**
Skills Center Director / 1985-91
- ▲ **Robert A. "Bob" Kelley**
Marketing • Public Info / 1979-2006
- ▲ **Mark S. Kern ***
President • Dean / 1978-2008
- ▲ **Patricia Mitchell Kern**
Foundation • Admissions / 1992-2011
- ▲ **Wilanna Patton Kiefer ***
Chair, Allied Health / 1992-2002
- ▲ **Ardell W. Kimmel ***
Dean, Vocational-Technical / 1970-81
- ▲ **Brent King Jr.**
Director, BMRCC / 1997-2000
- ▲ **Nancy Kinsey**
Admissions • Research / 1997-2001
- ▲ **Angie Trader Kistner**
V-P, Finance-Ad. • Controller / 1992-
- ▲ **Ronald C. Kruppa**
Dean, Vocational Tech / 1968-70
- ▲ **Christina R. Kuberski ***
V-P Academic • Lib. Arts / 1998-2015
- ▲ **Shelly Kuhns**
Allied Health Division Chair / 2010-11
- ▲ **Dr. Keith R. Lape**
Vice President / 1988-92
- ▲ **Dr. Kenneth J. LaSalle**
Dean, Instruction / 1977-78
- ▲ **H. Douglas Leeck ***
Chair, AAA / 1979 • 1996-97
- ▲ **Henry "Buster" Leeck ***
Chair/Dean, Liberal Arts / 2008-
- ▲ **Jay Lewis**
Director, Counseling • Co-Op / 1994-98
- ▲ **Kelli Lewis ***
Chair, Allied Health / 2006-09
- ▲ **Barbara Liles**
Affirmative Action Officer / 1977-80
- ▲ **Clarence C. Lowery**
BRAC • Voc. Counseling / 1978-86
- ▲ **Pamela Jo Luttmers**
Counseling / 1980-81
Director of Advising / 1983-86
- ▲ **Mary Eubanks Braden Mandrell**
Bookstore / 1976-99
- ▲ **Dr. W. Travis Martin**
President / 1975-78
- ▲ **Dale Mason**
Chair, Mining Technology / 1977-78
- ▲ **Brooke Pulke May**
RLCF Children's Ctr. Director / 2010-
- ▲ **George McArdle**
Menard Education Director / 1986-88
- ▲ **Christopher McCann**
Director, BMRCC Corr. Ed. / 2010-12
- ▲ **James R. McGhee ***
Dean, Adult Education / 1969-78
- ▲ **Gary McGill**
Chief of Police / 2003-
- ▲ **Shirley McHaney ***
Chair, Nursing • Allied Health / '75-94
- ▲ **Brent McLain**
Asst. to President • A.D. / 1999-2009
- ▲ **Dr. Julie K. Meents**
Dean of Instruction / 1998-99
- ▲ **Willis J. "Butch" Milam**
Controller / 1990-95
- ▲ **Donnie Millenbine**
Director, Phy. Plant • Grounds / 2002-
- ▲ **Janet Miller ***
Interim Chair, Business / 1998
- ▲ **Kenneth R. Miller**
Resource Development / 1985-88
- ▲ **Daphne Mitchell ***
Studio RLC / 2005-
- ▲ **Chris A. Modellmog**
Hitting Zone • Special Pops / 2001-03
- ▲ **Dr. Walter Montgomery**
Alternative Education / 1996-
- ▲ **Curt D. Mowrer**
RLC MarketPlace • SBDC / '99-2015
- ▲ **Julie Mumbower**
STARS / 1995-2006
- ▲ **Penny Murphy**
BMRCC Director / Counselor / 2001-10
- ▲ **Paula Gibbons Castagna Myers**
WIA • JTPA • Co-Op Ed. / 1988-2014
- ▲ **Chris Nielsen ***
Chair/Dean, Applied Science / 2012-18
- ▲ **Jennifer O'Daniel**
Co-Op • Business Services / 2006-07
- ▲ **William Otterson**
Business Trainer / 2003
- ▲ **William David Patton**
Director, LRC • A-V / 1968-98
- ▲ **Arlisa N. "Lisa" Payne**
V-P Career • Bus. Ctr. / 1985-2014
- ▲ **Larry Phifer ***
Chair, Arts and Comm. / 1970-78
- ▲ **Corey Phillips**
MarketPlace • Golf Outlet / 2005-
- ▲ **Lisa Price**
V-P Student Srv. • Counseling / 1994-
- ▲ **Lori Ragland**
V-P, Career Tech • Dean • RLCF / 2000-
- ▲ **Dr. Howard E. Rawlinson**
Dean of College / 1967-72
- ▲ **Casey Rhine**
Manager, Bookstore-Retail / 2007-
- ▲ **Sandra Book Rhoads**
Cooperative Education / 1980-90
- ▲ **Larry M. Richmond**
Chair, Science-Math-Health / 1981-84
- ▲ **Mary M. Roe**
Vice President • STARS / 1988-2004
- ▲ **Terry Roedl**
Information Technology / 2007-12
- ▲ **Dr. Kathy Rosa**
Director, Learning Resources / 1999
- ▲ **Robert Ross**
Resource Dev. • ESL / 1981-2000
- ▲ **Charles Ed Ruffino**
Business • STARS / 1984-2009
- ▲ **Cheri Rushing**
Financial Aid Director • Advisor / 1999-
- ▲ **Heather Sample**
Retail • CRRR Asst. / 1998-2003
- ▲ **Ronald L. Sanderson**
Chair, Mining Technology / 1981-85
- ▲ **Gina Schenk**
Tech Integration • Exec. Asst. / 2012-
- ▲ **Leah Conner Schlag**
Aca. Advisor • Records / 2012-14
- ▲ **Vickie Schulte**
Inst. Research • Stu. Records / 2007-
- ▲ **David B. Schwartz**
Admissions Director • MIS / 1991-96
- ▲ **David L. Scott ***
Chair, AAA / 1979-94
- ▲ **Salah S. Shakir**
V-P Information Tech. / 1996-2010
V-P Student Srv. / 1997-99 • 2004-06
- ▲ **Charles Randall Shively**
Director, Physical Plant / 1995-2016
- ▲ **Bobby Simpson**
Hitting Zone Director / 2003-06
- ▲ **Marya J. Simpson Smith**
CCR&R Specialist / 1992-94
Director RLCF C.C. / 1998-99
- ▲ **Pamela Sharp Archer Smith**
Dean • Skills Ctr. / 1979-93
- ▲ **Raymond Dow Smith**
Director, Physical Plant / 1983-95
- ▲ **Wendy Smith**
Controller • Accountant / 1999-
- ▲ **Dr. James M. Snyder**
President / 1967-75
- ▲ **Leroy Spotanski**
Physical Plant / 1970-87
- ▲ **Dr. Robert H. Spuhler**
Dean, Student-Admin. Srv. / 1980-84
- ▲ **Mary Stark**
Big Muddy River C.C. / 2003-06
- ▲ **Jamil Steele**
Director, Adult Ed./Literacy / 2011-12
- ▲ **Jason Swann**
Dean, Admissions • Recruiter / 2005-
- ▲ **Brandon Swarms**
Information Technology / 2004-07
- ▲ **Sheila Tackitt**
Assistant to President / 2004-11
- ▲ **Tamara L. Tadlock**
Student Records • STARS / 1998-2007
- ▲ **Stacy Tessone**
Children's Center / 2000-03
- ▲ **Jamie Thomas**
Community Services / 1999
- ▲ **Dr. Stephen Tietz ***
V-P • Chair, Arts / 1982-98
- ▲ **Ronald E. Tremmel**
Chair, Business-S.S. / 1981-98
- ▲ **Carroll Turner ***
Chair, AAA Department / 1974-77
Dean, Vocational Tech. / 1979-96
- ▲ **David M. Vinyard**
Menard • BMR / 1988-90 • '93-97
Director, Counseling / 1997-99
- ▲ **Gary L. Wade ***
Chair, Mining Technology / 1979-81
Chair, AAA / 1988-90
- ▲ **Margo Wagner**
Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps / 2013-
- ▲ **Betty Ann Ward ***
Counseling / 1967-88
- ▲ **Dr. Philip G. Ward**
College Dean / 1972-76
- ▲ **David A. Warner**
AmeriCorps • JTPA / 1989-2013
- ▲ **James Waugh ***
Athletic Director / 1967-81
- ▲ **Robert Q. Webb**
Building and Grounds / 1970-81
- ▲ **Sue Upchurch Wells**
Dean • Registrar / 1976-2004
- ▲ **Joseph H. West**
Director, Upward Bound / 1999-2004
- ▲ **Larry West**
V-P Finance-Administration / 2008-10
- ▲ **Kim Robert Wilkerson ***
Dean, Allied Health • Radiologic / 2007-
- ▲ **Terry Wilkerson ***
President / 2012-
Chair, Applied Science / 2008-12
- ▲ **Larry Williams ***
Chair, Science / 1986-98
- ▲ **Rebecca Williamson**
Executive Admin. Asst. / 1990-2009
- ▲ **Tim Wills ***
Athletic Director / 1992-2008 • 2010-
- ▲ **Herbert Lee Winemiller Jr.**
RLC Foundation / 1992-97
- ▲ **Lawrence Winemiller**
Physical Plant / 1971-1982
- ▲ **Andrea Witthoft**
Vice President • LRC / 1999-2016
- ▲ **B.J. "Skip" Witunski**
Business Manager / 1971-81
- ▲ **Trudee Wynn**
Resource Development / 2001-07
- ▲ **James F. Yates**
Dean, Student Services / 1967-76
- ▲ **Kathleen "Kay" Zibby-Damron**
RLC Foundation CEO / 2016-
- ▲ **Ted Zwayer, J.D.**
Chair, Business / 1998-2000

REND LAKE COLLEGE STAFF

Full-Time Employees

- ▲ **Janette E. Aaron**
Bookkeeper / 1974-81
Co-Op Ed. Secretary / 1987-89
- ▲ **Heather Adams**
Title III Project Assistant / 2015-
- ▲ **Aws M. Ahmad**
Programmer Analyst / 2007-09
- ▲ **Ashley Allen**
STARS Counselor / 2008-11
- ▲ **Pamela M. Clinton Allen**
Co-Op • Fin. Aid / 1982-84 / 1987-96
- ▲ **Pete Allen**
WIN Coordinator / 1982
- ▲ **Rhonda Allen**
Records Specialist / 2010-11
- ▲ **Sara Alstat ***
Music Coordinator / 2005-07
- ▲ **Gary Joseph Anderton**
Registrar / 1998
- ▲ **Tad Anglin**
Educational Technology / 2005-06
- ▲ **Jacquelyn Anselment**
CCRRC Provider Recruitment / 2014-
- ▲ **Ruth Asper**
Library Assistant / 1976-77
- ▲ **Glenda S. Atkins**
Housekeeper / 1976-2002
- ▲ **Amanda L. Austin**
CCRRC / 2000-01
- ▲ **Sandra Aydt**
RLCF C.C. Teacher / 2006
- ▲ **Alice Badger**
CCRRC Recruitment / 1996-98
- ▲ **Bobbie Barmes**
RLC C.C. Asst. Provider / 2009-11
- ▲ **Vickie Barnard**
Future Focus Counselor / 2000-07
- ▲ **Fred Basolo**
Custodian / 2001-07
- ▲ **Gerald W. "Jerry" Bate**
Security / 1989-2000
- ▲ **Rhonda Bathon**
RLC C.C. MP Provider / 2006-09
- ▲ **Lee Ann Bayless**
Administrative Assistant / 2002-04
- ▲ **Troy Becker**
MIS Programmer / 1995-98
- ▲ **Jan E. Belva**
Faculty Secretary / 1975-79
- ▲ **Chelsea Benedict**
Admin. Asst., Physical Plant / 2010
- ▲ **Georjanna "Jan" Isom Bennett**
Data Entry / 1980
- ▲ **Roberta Ann Bennett**
Co-op Ed. Secretary / 1979-80
- ▲ **Elliott G. Bevis**
Copy Service / 1976-80
- ▲ **Carol Ann Bicanich**
Faculty Secretary / 1981-83
- ▲ **Lisa Bicanich**
CCRRC Financial-Program / 2008-11
- ▲ **Martha Sue Biggs**
Financial Aid / 1982-83
- ▲ **Rebecca Biggs ***
STARS / 1997-99
- ▲ **Tammy Bigler**
Literacy • Even Start / 1997-98
- ▲ **Sarah McCormick Bilderbeck ***
Administrative Asst / 2001-04 / 2006
- ▲ **Olga Birkner**
Administrative Assistant / 1994-95
- ▲ **Crista Birtcher**
RLCF Children's Ctr. / 1999-2000
- ▲ **Susan Lowe Blevins**
STIP Aide / 1978-79
- ▲ **Vicki Bond**
Administrative Assistant / 1998-2002
- ▲ **Bruce Bowen**
Custodian / 1994-
- ▲ **Sharon Bowman**
Industrial Training Coord. / 2005-10
- ▲ **Glenn Box**
STARS Counselor / 2004-08
- ▲ **Annette Braden**
Counselor / 2001-05
- ▲ **Clayton F. Braden**
Custodian / 1976-85
- ▲ **Summer Bridwell Braden**
Records Spclt. • Admin. Asst. / 2004-
- ▲ **Kyle Lynn Brand**
PCC Administrative Asst. / 1999-05
- ▲ **Eric Breeze**
Police Officer / 2013-14
- ▲ **Mollie Humm Bremer**
Title III Health Studies • STARS / 2012-
- ▲ **Beth Brennan**
LRC Technical Services / 2002
- ▲ **Marvin Briscoe**
Custodial Supervisor / 2014
- ▲ **Barbara Jeannie Brockett**
Administrative Assistant / 1989-2000
- ▲ **Penny L. Spencer Brookins**
LRC Secretary / 1979-88
- ▲ **Phillip Brooks**
Career Education / 2002-03
- ▲ **Catherine Ellen Brown**
Faculty Secretary / 1979
- ▲ **Charles Brown**
Security Guard / 2012-
- ▲ **David M. Brown**
Audio-Visual Technician / 1990-98
- ▲ **Natalie Brown**
Records Specialist / 2012-
- ▲ **Valeria E. Brown**
STIP Aide / 1979-80
- ▲ **Danny Broy**
Grounds / 1993-2002
- ▲ **Rebecca G. Brymer**
Workshops / 1980-82
- ▲ **Darlene Buchanan**
Housekeeper / 1979
- ▲ **Robert S. Buffington**
Graphics-Media Services / 1980-90
- ▲ **Mimi Bullock**
Future Focus / 1998
- ▲ **Thomas R. Burke ***
Counselor • Special Projects / 1967-89
- ▲ **Tyler Burkholder**
Groundskeeper / 2003-04
- ▲ **Nathan Burkitt**
Computer Technician / 2014-
- ▲ **Mike Burris ***
AAA Lab Assistant / 1999-2001
- ▲ **Paula Burris**
CCRRC Provider Services / 1997-
- ▲ **Rita Busby**
CCRRC Subsidized Care / 1998-2012
- ▲ **Kathryn Byars**
CCRRC Subsidized Care / 1998-
- ▲ **Jeannie Byassee**
Resource Dev. Secretary / 1992-95
- ▲ **Belton E. Caldwell**
Custodian / 1986-88
- ▲ **Chad Caldwell**
Programmer / Analyst / 2011-12
- ▲ **Curtis Caldwell**
Custodial Supervisor / 2013-14
- ▲ **Jamie Cambron**
RLCF C.C. Lead Provider / 2007-
- ▲ **Richard Campbell ***
ESL • Co-Op Education / 1992-2001
- ▲ **Wayne Caplinger**
Maintenance • Grounds / 1999-2014
- ▲ **Clarissa Carlton**
RLCF C.C. Asst. Teacher / 2006-07
- ▲ **Rhonda Carlton**
Keep-Focused Counselor / 2003-06
- ▲ **Dennis H. Carnes**
Maintenance / 1977-94
- ▲ **Rosemary Carnes**
Business Assistant / 1968-94
- ▲ **Shari Carpenter ***
Administrative Assistant / 1995-2001
Title III Instructional Designer / 2014-
- ▲ **Kathy Carr**
CCRRC Subsidized Care / 2014-
- ▲ **Mavis Carter**
President's Secretary / 1967-71
- ▲ **Phyllis Jean Carter**
Library Assistant / 1977
- ▲ **Jerry Case**
Recruitment Specialist / 2000-04
- ▲ **CiCi L. Fisher Chalus**
AmeriCorps / 2000-02
- ▲ **Catherine L. Chambers**
Faculty Secretary / 1978-81
- ▲ **Kirk Champion**
Early School Leaver / 1981-85
- ▲ **Connie E. Chapman**
Audiovisual Clerk / 1978-79
- ▲ **Whitney Chaudoin**
Administrative Assistant / 2013
- ▲ **Jacqueline G. Chestosky**
Library Assistant / 1978-81
- ▲ **Virginia Chinn**
Even Start / 2003
- ▲ **Beverly Chismar**
BMRCC Admin. Assistant / 1997-98
- ▲ **Brian Clark**
Programmer • Help Desk / 2008-
- ▲ **Mark A. Clark**
Co-Op Education / 2000-05
- ▲ **Monica Belford Clark**
Counselor • Future Focus / 1998-2004
- ▲ **Ruth Ann Clarke**
President's Secretary / 1979
- ▲ **James Clinton**
Maintenance / 1972-74
- ▲ **Judith Moore Cockrum**
Faculty Secretary / 1979-83
- ▲ **Richard Dennis Cody**
BRAC Assistant / 1988-89
- ▲ **Richard W. Cole Sr.**
Counselor / 1994-2001
- ▲ **Garrett Collier**
Network Specialist • Web Dev. / 2011-
- ▲ **Lisa A. Collier**
Cashier • Admin. Asst. / 1982-2002
- ▲ **Carolyn Jill Duff Colvin**
Faculty Secretary / 1978-79 / '80-88
- ▲ **Jared Conner**
STARS Academic Spclt. / 2004-05
- ▲ **Judith Anne Skelton Fullerton Conner**
Nurse / 1981-93
- ▲ **Lisa Marlow Conner**
Help Desk Technician / 2003-06
- ▲ **Amy Cook**
STARS Advisor / 2009-
- ▲ **Bobby Joe Cook**
Custodian / 2000-02
- ▲ **Leslie Cox**
Financial Aid / 1976
- ▲ **Tiffany Arvieu Cox**
Upward Bound Advisor / 2005-07
- ▲ **Sue Craig**
Financial Aid / 1984-94
- ▲ **Cynthia Karcher Cravens**
Faculty Secretary / 1988-93
- ▲ **Claire Creedmore**
RLC Foundation / 2007-09
- ▲ **Rachel Cristaudo**
VESTA Project Coordinator / 2008-10
- ▲ **Cathy E. Cross**
Administrative Assistant / 1983-2014
- ▲ **Sheryl Ann Cross**
STIP Secretary / 1978-79
- ▲ **Monica "Rene" Crouse**
RLCF Children's Ctr. Pre-K / 2002-
- ▲ **Myrna D. Cummings**
Housekeeper / 1980
- ▲ **Melissa Curt**
Even Start Literacy / 2004
- ▲ **Linda Czerwinski**
Nursing Secretary / 1968
- ▲ **Kimberly Damron**
Future Focus Counselor / 1998-2000
- ▲ **Angela Darnell**
Literacy / Even Start / 2001-03
- ▲ **Don Darnell**
Network Specialist / 1995-2005
- ▲ **Janet Lynn Darnell**
Dean's Secretary / 1979
- ▲ **David Davenport**
Community Srv. / Trainer / 1992-97
- ▲ **Gayla Davenport**
CCRRC Subsidized Care / 2001-
- ▲ **David W. Davis**
Maintenance Supervisor / 1987-2012

REND LAKE COLLEGE STAFF (CONT.)

- ▲ **Kimberly Diane Schram Davis**
LRC Asst. • Circulation / 1980-2010
- ▲ **Phyllis Jean Rice Davis**
Administrative Assistant / 1981-2010
- ▲ **George Dawe**
Community Srv. • Training / 1997-99
- ▲ **Charles Dees**
Custodian / 1994
- ▲ **Joshua DeJarnette**
Help Desk Technician / 2006-08
- ▲ **Melvin L. Delaney**
Custodian / 1977-87
- ▲ **Jeffrey DeMattei**
Computing • Audiovisual / 2006- / '09-
- ▲ **Mary Denham**
Secretary / 1986-87
- ▲ **Bill Derges**
Veterans Affairs Coord. / 1974
- ▲ **Lester E. Derry**
Maintenance / 1971-79
- ▲ **Tracy Devoy**
Administrative Assistant / 2002-10
- ▲ **Jo Ann Dick**
Assistant to Dean • RLCF / 2005-
- ▲ **Destry Diefenbach**
Programmer Analyst / 2006-07
- ▲ **Patricia Dietrich**
Counseling Admin. Asst. / 1988-2010
- ▲ **Marcia Dill**
Purchasing • Pres. Sec. / 1977-79
- ▲ **Janice Lee Rombough Dillon**
Records Specialist / 1980-2010
- ▲ **Peggy M. Dommermuth**
Literacy / 1986-88
- ▲ **John Donaldson**
Counselor / 1989-90
- ▲ **Susan Donckers**
ADN Coordinator / 1977-78
- ▲ **Kathy Donoho**
JTPA Coordinator / 1987-88
- ▲ **Steve W. Doty**
Custodian / 1987-
- ▲ **Danyelle Simmons Douglass**
Upward Bound Advisor / 2001-04
- ▲ **Russell "Rusty" Downen Jr.**
Maintenance Technician / 2002-
- ▲ **John A. Downey**
Custodian / 1977- / 1984-87
- ▲ **Mary Drew**
Faculty Secretary / 1970-72
- ▲ **Paula "Polly" Dulaney**
Library Assistant / 1967-82
- ▲ **Victoria Duncan**
Resource Development / 2000-01
- ▲ **Amy B. Durfee**
Literacy / 1998-2000
- ▲ **Monica Lynne Edwards**
Business Office / 1979-80
- ▲ **Robert Eggertsen**
BMRCC Student Services / 1993-95
- ▲ **Jim Elder**
Librarian / 1980-81
- ▲ **Alan Elliott**
Custodian / 2003-04
- ▲ **Marilea Elliott**
Library Assistant / 1976-78
- ▲ **Patricia L. Elliott**
JTPA Assessment / 1990-96
- ▲ **Macey Ellis**
Bus. Office / H.R. Specialist / 2013-
- ▲ **Tyson Ellis**
Records Specialist / 2011-
- ▲ **Dee Ann Endsley**
Secretary / 1987
- ▲ **Amy Epplin**
Financial Aid Specialist / 2013-
- ▲ **Shannon Epplin**
Child Care Provider / 2012-13
- ▲ **Connie Eubanks**
Audiovisual Clerk / 1978
- ▲ **Kelly B. Eubanks**
Custodian • Security / 1998-
- ▲ **Marsha Eubanks**
Employment Specialist / 1998-2000
- ▲ **Rhonda Louise Eubanks**
Secretary / 1979
- ▲ **Kathy Evans**
Grants • Title III Curriculum / 2014-
- ▲ **Paul A. Evans**
Early School Leaver / 1985-88
- ▲ **James Featherstone**
Report Writer / 2013-
- ▲ **Kelly Fenton ***
Business-Industry Trainer / 1995-97
- ▲ **Rebecca Ferguson**
RLCF Children's Ctr. / 1998-99
- ▲ **Catherine Karcher Ferrari**
Library Clerk / 1975
- ▲ **Rhonda Ferrari**
RLCF C.C. Asst. Teacher / 2006
- ▲ **Joy Fitts**
Administrative Assistant / 2013-
- ▲ **Don Flint**
Custodial Job Coach / 1999
- ▲ **Carol Ann Foley**
Audiovisual Clerk / 1979
- ▲ **Felicia Follmer**
Admin. Asst. to President / 2014-
- ▲ **Dorothy Foster**
Faculty Secretary / 1974
- ▲ **Myrtle Fredricks**
Bookstore Manager / 1969-74
- ▲ **Heather "Nicci" Lampley Fuller**
RLCF Children's Ctr. / 2003-08
- ▲ **Jack E. Fyke**
Cooperative Education / 1978-79
- ▲ **Michelle Gaede**
MarketPlace Childhood Ctr. / 2008-09
- ▲ **Michelle Renee Garrett**
Counselor • AmeriCorps / 1999-2004
- ▲ **Nicole Short Garrett**
AmeriCorps / 1995-99 • 2002-03
- ▲ **Brenda J. Garvin**
Bookstore • CCRR / 1991-95
Asst. to Vice President / 1997-2011
- ▲ **Nasrrien "Nina" Gaspar**
Computer Programmer / 1997-2005
- ▲ **Kaitlyn Gatimu**
RLCF Children's Ctr. / 2014-16
- ▲ **Brian Gibson**
Custodian / 2002-05
- ▲ **Lyndy Girten**
Adult Education / 1997-2002
- ▲ **Sue Glasco**
Family Literacy / 1993-98
- ▲ **Cheryl Glover**
BMRCC Admin. Asst. / 1998-2010
- ▲ **Phyllis Carter Goforth**
Library Assistant / 1976-78
- ▲ **Melissa Goin**
Administrative Assistant / 1996-97
Accounts Receivable / 2014-15
- ▲ **Vickie Gollither**
Adult Education / 1999-
- ▲ **Carolyn Gostowski**
Family Literacy / 1993-97
- ▲ **Tina Evans Greenwood**
Reference Librarian / 1993-94
- ▲ **Larry D. Greif**
Maintenance / 1983-89
- ▲ **Catherine M. "Cay" Grenfell**
Menard Advisor / 1986-89
- ▲ **Bettie Griffith**
Receptionist / 1975-77
- ▲ **Monique Grizzell**
CCRR Parent Services / 1994-96
- ▲ **Tina Grounds ***
Literacy Project / 1991-96
- ▲ **Mary Ann "Miki" Gudermuth**
Secretary / 1980-81
- ▲ **Nancy Gulley**
RLC MP Pre-K Provider / 2007-09
- ▲ **Tammi Gulliksen**
Business Office Accountant / 2013-14
- ▲ **Rosalyn Guyton**
Registrar Assistant / 1968-77
- ▲ **Robert G. Hagen Jr.**
Police Officer / 2001-02
- ▲ **Anne E. Hale**
CCRR Subsidy Asst. / 2000-01
- ▲ **Yvonne Hallam**
Adult Education / 2003-08
- ▲ **Hillary Halsey**
1st-Yr. Experience • Testing / 2012-
- ▲ **Christy Hamilton**
Teen Parents / 1998-2000
PCC Counselor / 1999-2004
- ▲ **Cynthia Hamilton**
Financial Aid • BMR / 1993-98
- ▲ **Peggy Hammond-Bixler**
PCC Counselor / 2004-12
- ▲ **Gretchen Ray Hampsey**
Asst. to Dean • Studio RLC / 2004-10
- ▲ **Dennis Hamson**
Custodian / 2001-11
- ▲ **Vanessa Hanson**
RLC MP Pre-K / 2005 / 2007-08
- ▲ **Tara Hargraves**
Upward Bound Advisor / 2010-12
- ▲ **Morgan Gravatt Harner**
Title III Project Assistant / 2014-15
- ▲ **Richard Harris**
Custodian / 1976-80
- ▲ **Mary Denise Harrison**
IL ChildCorps / 1995-97 • 2000
- ▲ **Rita S. Harriss**
Financial Aid • JTPA / 1990-2007
- ▲ **Charles Harwick ***
ESL Coordinator / 1972
- ▲ **Kathleen A. Hayes**
JTPA Specialist / 1989-90
- ▲ **Mary K. Hays**
CCRR Subsidy / 1999-2004
- ▲ **Ruth Heiderscheit**
Secretary / 1971-72
- ▲ **Allyson Heitmeyer**
Music Program Coord. / 2004-05
- ▲ **Trinda Heitmeyer ***
CCRR / RLCF / 1998-2001 / 2001-
- ▲ **Ruby Helm**
CCRR Specialist / 1991
- ▲ **Carl M. Helverson**
Custodian / 1970-76 / 1985-2005
- ▲ **Andrea Henley**
Co-Op Secretary / 1976-82
- ▲ **Jill Hennessey**
Literacy / 2000-03
- ▲ **Renee Henshaw**
Admin. Asst. • Bookstore / 1987-98
- ▲ **Lynette Heppe**
Adult Learning / 1995-96
- ▲ **Betty J. Herbert**
Faculty Secretary / 1971-95
- ▲ **Jordan Hicks**
Academic Advisor / 2014-
- ▲ **Rosemary Hicks-Lay**
IL ChildCorps / 1997-2000
- ▲ **Mary Hiller**
PCC Administrative Asst. / 1999
- ▲ **Dana Sue Hills**
Community Service / 1989-94
- ▲ **Cynthia Hoard**
Retail Manager / 2003-06
- ▲ **Amanda Hocking**
Even Start Literacy / 2004
- ▲ **Beth Hoffman**
Upward Bound • Counselor / 2004-
- ▲ **Ginger Kondritz Hogan**
Receptionist • Title III / 1994-2011
- ▲ **Cecil Holland**
Veterans Counselor / 1976-82
- ▲ **Thomas Clay Holman**
Maintenance Technician / 2000-12
- ▲ **Norman W. Hopkins**
Custodian / 1996-2000
Maintenance Technician / 2001-13
- ▲ **Daniel Horton**
Security / 1997-99
- ▲ **Melissa Houghland**
PCC Administrative Asst. / 2005-06
- ▲ **Dallas M. Houseworth**
Custodian / 1980-98
- ▲ **Mallory Howell**
Business Office Accountant / 2012-
- ▲ **Lisa A. Lowry Huckelberry**
Dean's Secretary / 1977-78
- ▲ **Ronald Hudson**
Police Officer / 2013-14
- ▲ **Frank L. Hughey**
Maintenance • Grounds / 1998-
- ▲ **Kimberly J. Hugo**
BMRCC Admin. Asst. / 1994-95
- ▲ **Jean A. Huie**
Assistant to V-P / AAA / 1989-

REND LAKE COLLEGE STAFF (CONT.)

- ▲ **Celeste P. Hunt**
Teen Parent • Marketing / 2001-07
- ▲ **Katherine “Kacie” Hunter**
Accounts Rec. • Admin. Asst. / 2014-
- ▲ **Lori J. Irvin**
CCRR Subsidy / 1996-2000
- ▲ **Catherine Jackson**
CCRR Subsidized Care / 1996-
- ▲ **Matthew Jackson**
Industrial Trainer • IGEN / 2012-
- ▲ **Billiejean Jamerson**
Co-Op Ed Secretary / 1980
- ▲ **Mary Gayle “Meg” Jany**
Adult Education / 1998-99 / 2001-04
- ▲ **Christy Jean**
Child Development / 1997-2002
- ▲ **Cynthia Jenkins**
Registrar / 1996-98
- ▲ **Jena Jensik**
Counselor • In-Focus / 2004-
- ▲ **Kimberly Y. Johnson**
LRC Secretary / 1990
- ▲ **Jan Johnston**
Administrative Assistant / 1996-99
- ▲ **Laura Johnston**
Aquatics Center / 2000-
- ▲ **Camille A. Jones**
Project First Class / 1989-2001
- ▲ **Michael T. Joplin ***
Custodial Supervisor / 1998-99
- ▲ **Mary Antoinette Jurich**
Library Assistant / 1980
- ▲ **Mitcheal E. Kane**
Custodial Job Coach / 1998-99
- ▲ **Cathy Karcher**
Library Assistant / 1972
- ▲ **Juliana Karcher**
Records Specialist / 2015-
- ▲ **Terri Karnes**
Secretary / 1977
- ▲ **Abbi Carman Kash**
Records Specialist / 2013-
- ▲ **Caitlin Keele**
RLCF Administrative Asst. / 2014-
- ▲ **Kathleen Kelley**
Dean’s Executive Secretary / 1967-76
- ▲ **Mary Kelso**
Testing Services / 1993-97
- ▲ **Laura L. Kern**
Teen Parents • Title III • Transition / '99-
- ▲ **James Kertz**
Police Officer / 2003-07
- ▲ **Nancy Kertz**
School Nurse / 1993-94
- ▲ **Charles Kilgore**
Custodian • Shipping / 2002-05
- ▲ **Cheryl King**
Administrative Assistant / 1997-98
- ▲ **Kathy F. Kirkpatrick**
Counselor / 1990-91
- ▲ **Laura Linsley Kirkpatrick**
JTPA Specialist / 1990-96
- ▲ **Ellen Eilerts Kirsch**
Administrative Assistant / 1986-99
- ▲ **Helen M. Kite**
Housekeeper / 1974-79
- ▲ **Linda Kohlhaas**
Science Literacy / 1991-94
- ▲ **Brenda K. Kondritz**
Accounting / 1980-81
- ▲ **Steve Korris**
Public Information / 1975
- ▲ **Fred Kramer**
Custodian / 1974-75
- ▲ **Lori Kremiski-Bronder**
Title III Ed. Technology / 1997
- ▲ **John M. Kretz**
Financial Aid / 1977-80
- ▲ **Pat Kuhar**
Affirmative Action / 1977
- ▲ **Connie Lane**
Bookstore / 1968
- ▲ **Tracy Laskowski**
Business Ctr. Admin. Asst. / 2001
- ▲ **Roy Laur**
Custodian • Security / 1971-74
- ▲ **Trisha M. Lawrence**
Menard Secretary / 1990
- ▲ **Gerald Dean Lee**
Custodian / 1993-95
- ▲ **Virginia Ann Lee**
Library Assistant / 1972
- ▲ **Victoria M. Leitner**
Library Assistant / 1979
- ▲ **Nicholas LeMay**
Small Business Development / 2007-
- ▲ **Linda Diane Anderson Lentz**
Dean’s Secretary / 1976-
- ▲ **Keeli LeVart**
RLC Foundation Asst. Director / 2014-
- ▲ **Judy Lewis**
Admissions • Secretary / 1976-79
- ▲ **Karla Lewis**
Distance Learning / 1998-2008
- ▲ **Kimberly Ann Lewis**
Financial Aid / 1982
- ▲ **Mary Ann Lewis**
Records Officer / 1981-2010
- ▲ **Damon Lieke**
Shipping / 1999
- ▲ **Jennifer Tarantino Linsin ***
Marketing • Graphic Design / 2000-01
- ▲ **Alane D. Lintner**
Business Office Accountant / 1997-98
- ▲ **Clinton Liston**
Comp. Systems Trainer / 1998-2000
- ▲ **Cathy Sammons Little**
Receptionist / 1971-72
- ▲ **Darrell K. Little**
Welding Lab Assistant / 1980-82
- ▲ **Joan E. Long**
MUMS • Title III • Co-Op / 1991-2001
- ▲ **Charlotte Loquasto**
Testing • Records Specialist / 2013-
- ▲ **Linda Loss**
Admin. Asst. BMRCC / 1998
- ▲ **Twyla Kay Loucks**
Faculty Sec. • Purchasing / 1977-80
- ▲ **Gale Lowery**
Custodian / 2002-
- ▲ **Ida Lowery**
Administrative Assistant / 1994-2002
- ▲ **Tiffany Lowther**
Even Start Literacy / 2002-04
- ▲ **W. Donald Luceford**
Reference Librarian / 1990
- ▲ **Diane L. Lutes**
STIP Coordinator / 1978-80
- ▲ **Meridy Lynn Lutheran**
JTPA • Women Initiative / 1989-92
- ▲ **Lee Maddox**
Custodian / 1971
- ▲ **Virginia Magbee**
Dean’s Secretary / 1968
- ▲ **Beth Mandrell**
Reference Librarian / 1999-
- ▲ **Kara Mandrell**
STARS Administrative Asst. / 2000-02
- ▲ **Carolyn J. Manker**
Printing Services / 1985-99
- ▲ **Mary Kay Marcquenski**
Library Assistant / 1981-83
- ▲ **Danny J. Marks ***
Menard Special Needs / 1990-94
- ▲ **Cary S. Marshall**
CCRR Prof. Dev. • Subsidy / 1994-
- ▲ **Sarah F. Martin**
CCRR / 1990-92
- ▲ **Charles R. Massie**
Maintenance Technician / 2007-
- ▲ **David K. Mathis**
Maintenance Supervisor / 2007-
- ▲ **Raquel Maxey**
Upward Bound Advisor / 2012-14
- ▲ **Glenna D. Maxwell**
Payroll and Benefits / 1998-
- ▲ **John Christopher Maxwell**
Maintenance Technician / 2003-
- ▲ **James May**
Maintenance Technician / 2000-01
- ▲ **J. Michael McClure ***
Early School Leaver / 1971-81
- ▲ **April McCormick**
Financial Aid • Records / 2010-
- ▲ **Barbara McCowen**
Housekeeper / 1979
- ▲ **James R. McCrary**
Custodian / 1998-2000
- ▲ **Mary McEndree**
Academic Computers / 1997-2001
- ▲ **Kathryn L. McFarland**
Secretary • Business Office / 1979-80
- ▲ **James R. McGuire Jr.**
Early School Leaver / 1988-92
- ▲ **Catherine McInturff**
Executive Assistant to Dean / 2011
- ▲ **Michael McKee**
Learning Enhancement. / 2003-07
- ▲ **Stephanie McKinney**
CCRR Subsidized Care / 2000-
- ▲ **Kent McKown**
Network / Security Specialist / 2005-
- ▲ **Shelley J. Meacham**
Career Center / 1997-2000
- ▲ **Kristy Meagher**
Ctr. for Bus. Admin. Asst. / 2010-13
- ▲ **Kelly Ann Meier**
Reference Librarian / 1995-97
- ▲ **Mike Meinert**
Shipping / 1998-99
- ▲ **Cindi A. Meisenhelder**
Reference Librarian / 1994-95
- ▲ **Charles “Chuck” Mercer**
Security / 1996-2000
- ▲ **Karen Raye Metheny**
Dean’s Secretary / 1980-82
- ▲ **Rose Ann Mick**
Custodian / 1980-93
- ▲ **Tom Mikutis**
RLC Golf Outlet Manager / 2001-05
- ▲ **Karen Miller**
Copy Machine Operator / 1974-76
- ▲ **Lois Miller**
Dean’s Secretary / 1970-78
- ▲ **Cindy S. Minor**
Assistant to President / 1994-2000
- ▲ **Gregg Minor**
Custodian / 2002-05
- ▲ **Marvla K. Hutchens Minor**
Dean’s Secretary / 1978-88
- ▲ **Tanett Karch Mitchell**
Payroll Accountant / 1995-96
- ▲ **Jeannie Mitchell-Collins ***
Counselor / AmeriCorps / 1997-2001
- ▲ **Scott B. Mones**
Public Information / 1976-78
- ▲ **Rhonda D. Reece Monroe**
Cashier • Comm. Srv. / 1980-84
- ▲ **Malissa Copp Montoya**
CCRR Parent Services / 1997-2001
- ▲ **Brenda K. Moore**
Custodian / 1989-2012
- ▲ **Jennifer Moore**
BMRCC Counselor / 1998-2001
- ▲ **Lyndsey Moore**
In-Focus Counselor / 2006-07
- ▲ **Paula Arndt Morgan**
CCRR Subsidy Asst. / 2001-07
- ▲ **Kara Morgenstern**
Administrative Assistant / 2000-01
- ▲ **Erin Morris**
CCCE Specialist • Assistant / 2013-
- ▲ **Sherrie L. Morris**
Custodian / 1988-89
- ▲ **Shirley Muckley**
Counselor, PCHS / 1998-2000
- ▲ **Kelly Mumbower**
Early School Leaver / 1980-81
- ▲ **Robert Murphy**
STIP Instructor-Director / 1978-81
- ▲ **Ronald Murray**
Info. Systems • Network / 2008-
- ▲ **Denny Myers**
Fitness Center • STARS / 2006-09
- ▲ **Jackie Myers**
Registrar / 1998-2000
- ▲ **Ramona Lane Nelson**
Adult Education Recruiter / 1996-97
- ▲ **William “Butch” Nevious**
Administrative Assistant / 1976
- ▲ **Mickey Newell**
Auto Lab Assistant / 1989-93
- ▲ **Carrie Newman**
CCRR Subsidized Specialist / 2012-
- ▲ **Jamie Nichols**
CCRR Specialist / 2009-

REND LAKE COLLEGE STAFF (CONT.)

- ▲ **Dolly J. Nickel**
Title XX • Adult Ed / 1986-98
- ▲ **Nathan Nobbe**
Programmer Analyst / 2005-06
- ▲ **Gwendolyn Nussbaum**
Counseling Secretary / 1982-84
- ▲ **Tyler O'Daniel**
Director, Recreational Ctr. / 2014-
- ▲ **Linda D. Odle**
Business Ctr. / Sec. Lab / 1981-2010
- ▲ **Gloria A. Oliver**
Counselor • Assessment / 1988-2012
- ▲ **Jean Ondo**
IETC • JTPA Counselor / 1997-2001
- ▲ **Paul H. Ossig**
Custodian / 1975-94
- ▲ **Lloyd Owens**
Custodian / 2002-15
- ▲ **Julie A. Drone Oxford**
Administrative Assistant / 1987-
- ▲ **Carol Jeanne Page**
STIP • Title VII / 1979-82
- ▲ **ReAnne Palmer**
Public Information Specialist / 2013-
- ▲ **Jennifer Parker**
CCRR / 1994-2000
- ▲ **Sherry I. Parkhill**
Faculty Secretary / 1974-79
- ▲ **Klea Myla Parks**
Library Assistant / 1973-74
- ▲ **Alecia A. Pasquino**
Faculty Secretary / 1988-89
- ▲ **Barry L. Pate**
Custodian / 1980
- ▲ **Bill Don Patrick**
CETA Title VII / 1980
- ▲ **Jimmie T. Peeples**
Maintenance Technician / 1977-2000
- ▲ **Michelle Pepple**
RLCF C.C. Asst. Teacher / 2006
- ▲ **Shannon Perkins ***
AAA Lab / 1994-99
- ▲ **Marsha Peters**
President's Secretary / 1976
- ▲ **Geri L. Vaughan Phifer**
President's Secretary / 1972
- ▲ **Jessica Phillips**
Administrative Assistant / 2014-
- ▲ **Lora Phillips ***
Ex. Asst. V-P Career-Tech / 2011-13
- ▲ **Greg Poole**
Educational Technology / 2006-08
- ▲ **Jason Poole**
Custodian / 2002-04
- ▲ **Vida Price**
Library Assistant / 1975-76
- ▲ **Elena Pruitt**
STARS Admin. Assistant / 2011
- ▲ **Krystal Prusacki**
Distance Learning / 2008
- ▲ **Ralph J. Przygoda**
Custodian / 2002-05
- ▲ **Theda Shehorn Puckett**
Faculty Secretary / 1968-70
- ▲ **Robin Pytlinski**
RLCF Children's Center / 2007-
- ▲ **Emily Rancuret**
RLCF Children's Center / 2012-14
- ▲ **Carmen Randall**
RLCF Children's Center / 1998-99
- ▲ **Joann R. Wiggins Rauback**
President's Secretary / 1973-76
- ▲ **Ronnet M. Swartz Ray**
CCRR Recruitment / 1996-97
- ▲ **Krystal Reagan**
Tech Integration • D.L. • Media / 2005
- ▲ **Ronnie J. Ressel**
Fitness Centers / 1995-2001
- ▲ **Dennis Richards**
Maintenance / 1994-2011
- ▲ **Kenneth Richardson**
Security / 1996-98
- ▲ **Mary Ann Richardson**
Faculty Secretary / 1980
- ▲ **Sharon LeMay Richardson**
CCRR • Counselor • JTPA / 1989-2013
- ▲ **Mary L. Ridgway**
Menard C.C. Secretary / 1986-90
- ▲ **Cheryl Rieckenberg**
RLCF Children's Center / 2000-01
- ▲ **William M. Roberts**
Custodian / 1977-2001
- ▲ **Melissa Robinson**
CCRR / 2007
- ▲ **Stephanie S. Robinson**
Receptionist / 1980-81
- ▲ **Mary Roddy**
Faculty Secretary / 1972-75
- ▲ **Hannah Johnson Rodgers**
Studio RLC Srv. Leader / 2004-05
- ▲ **Kimberly Rogers**
H.R. Specialist • Accountant / 2002-
- ▲ **Matthew Robert Rogers**
Automotive Lab Assistant / 1987-89
- ▲ **Bruno Romani**
Maintenance / 1971-74
- ▲ **Sue Bond Rosancki**
Secretary / 1970-77
- ▲ **Megan Rounds**
Student Support Srv. Advisor / 2014
- ▲ **Jacqueline Rubach**
President's Secretary / 1972
- ▲ **Jerri J. Ruemmler**
Executive Secretary / 1971-2002
- ▲ **Connie S. Toms Ruffino**
Financial Aid / 1990-96
Accounts Receivable / 1999-2012
- ▲ **Wesley D. Rush**
Custodian • Security / 2000-
- ▲ **Dee Ann Russell**
Literacy / 1990-2004
- ▲ **Mary H. Sacco**
Library Assistant / 1978-79
- ▲ **Connie S. Sample**
CCRR / Exec. Sec. / 1988-2011
- ▲ **Heather Sample**
Retail / CCRR / 1998-2003
- ▲ **Christine Cochrane Sanders ***
Administrative Assistant / 2004-06
- ▲ **M. June Sanders**
Dev. Skills Secretary / 1979-96
- ▲ **Mary Eileen Hill Satterfield**
Accounting • Comm. Srv. / 1981-85
- ▲ **Sue Scattone**
Accounts Payable / 1998-
- ▲ **Paula Schatte**
RLCF C.C. Teacher / 1999-2000
- ▲ **Linda Schell**
Library Assistant / 2001-04
- ▲ **Cynthia Schott**
RLCF Assistant Director / 2012-14
- ▲ **Christina Burris Schuster**
CCRR Parent Services / 2001-14
- ▲ **Terry Schwitz**
Custodian • Security / 1973-78
- ▲ **Kathy Scott**
Administrative Assistant / 1998
- ▲ **Jean Ann Scroggins**
Faculty Secretary / 1975-77
- ▲ **Michael L. Sevenski**
Shipping • Custodian / 1994-2004
- ▲ **Guy Eugene Severs**
Custodian / 1974-80
- ▲ **Bobbi K. Miller Shadowens**
Literacy • Bookstore / 1999-2011
- ▲ **Jennifer Shafer-Robinson**
STARS • Upward Bound / 2001-05
- ▲ **Linda Shannon**
Mining Secretary / 1983
- ▲ **Debra Malone Shelby**
Receptionist • Co-Op / 1977-80
- ▲ **Kristina Shelton**
Community Ed. Assistant / 2008-
- ▲ **Sandra Shook**
Exec. Sec. • Counselor / 1985-2001
- ▲ **Cheryl Ann Siebert**
Co-Op Ed Secretary / 1980
- ▲ **Roy Simpkins**
Custodian / 1994-
- ▲ **Damon Sims**
Assistant Chief • Officer / 2008-
- ▲ **Gary L. Sims**
Groundskeeper / 1989-94
- ▲ **Gilbert E. "Gib" Sink**
Maintenance / 1989-2007
- ▲ **Peggy Slack**
Administrative Assistant / 1998-2002
- ▲ **Gloria J. Sloan-Reel**
Business Training / 1999-2003
- ▲ **Caroline Smith**
CCRR • RLCF C.C. / 2004-13
- ▲ **Dennis Smith**
Maintenance / 1998-99
- ▲ **Harriet Smith**
Secretary / 1966
- ▲ **Heather L. Smith**
CCRR • Quality Counts / 2001-02
- ▲ **Linda Smith**
M-W Pinckneyville Coord. / 2009
- ▲ **Stephanie Smith**
Community Ed Specialist / 2014-
- ▲ **Jana Smith-Caldwell**
Reference Librarian / 1985-90
- ▲ **Pamela Sue Sneed**
Dean's Sec. • Purchasing / 1980-84
- ▲ **Cindy Sniderwin**
Counselor • Teen Parent / 1997-2008
- ▲ **Ronald N. Somers**
Maintenance • Custodial / 1988-2002
- ▲ **Sherry L. Somers**
CCRR • Business Office / 1981-2003
- ▲ **Rhonda Sparks**
LRC Technology Services / 2002-03
- ▲ **A.W. Speake**
College Representative / 1981-83
- ▲ **M. Jane Spencer**
Receptionist / 1986-94
- ▲ **Leah Stallman**
Teen Parents / 1998-99
TRIO • Upward Bound / 2008-
- ▲ **Charles "Chip" Steckenrider**
Computer Technology / 2001-09
- ▲ **Walter Steele**
Bus. Process Analyst / 2009-12
- ▲ **Connie H. Steudel**
Reference Librarian / 1990-93
- ▲ **Beth Mitchell Stevens**
Testing • Records • Nursing / 1995-
- ▲ **Kathy J. Stewart**
Co-op Education • STIP / 1978-79
- ▲ **Lori Stites**
Custodian / 2002
- ▲ **Christie Stover**
Administrative Assistant / 2001-04
- ▲ **Keyla Stover**
Studio RLC Receptionist / 2004
- ▲ **Kay Francis Styve**
Physical Plant Secretary / 1981-86
- ▲ **Emily Sudlow**
RLCF C.C. Lead Provider / 2009
- ▲ **Shannon Suhr**
RLCF C.C. Asst. Teacher / 2007-08
- ▲ **Jeffrey V. Sulcer**
STARS Specialist / 1999-2000
- ▲ **Tara Sullivan**
Learning Enhancement / 2001-06
- ▲ **Sherry Summary**
Financial Aid / 1996-99
- ▲ **Kevin J. Summers**
Business Accountant / 1995-96
- ▲ **Rodney A. Summers ***
Maintenance Technician / 2013-
- ▲ **Ann Sutton**
Testing / Placement / 2013-14
- ▲ **Rachel Sveda**
Financial Aid Specialist / 2008-
- ▲ **Michelle R. Swain**
Reference Librarian / 1997-99
- ▲ **Lisa Swan**
Aquatic-Fitness Assistant / 2006
- ▲ **Staci Swartz**
MarketPlace C.C. / 2003-04
- ▲ **Betty Jo Sweet**
Printshop / 1982-85
- ▲ **Julie Sweetin**
STARS Counselor / 2008
- ▲ **Conetta M. Swift**
Housekeeper / 1981-2001
- ▲ **Oletha Taft ***
Continuing Education / 1997-99
- ▲ **Anna Rawls Talbert**
RLCF C.C. Asst. Teacher / 2006-09
- ▲ **Herman Leroy Talley**
Custodian / 1980-2003

REND LAKE COLLEGE STAFF (CONT.)

- ▲ **Dan Tanner**
Job Coach / 1998-99
- ▲ **Kimberly Y. Tate**
Secretary / 1992-94
- ▲ **Paula J. Tate**
Counseling Secretary / 1984-94
- ▲ **Brooke Taylor**
Upward Bound Advisor / 2007-09
- ▲ **Hollie M. Taylor ***
Administrative Assistant / 1994-
- ▲ **Joyce Taylor**
Bookstore Manager / 1974-76
- ▲ **Lori Ann Huffman Tedeschi**
Police Officer / 2001-05
- ▲ **Melinda Thomas**
CCRR Specialist / 1996-2000
- ▲ **Travis Thomason**
Computer Technician / 2014-
- ▲ **Kevin E. Thornburg**
PCC Counselor / 1998-99
- ▲ **J. Jason Thrash**
Aquatics Center Coord. / 1997-2004
- ▲ **Charles Threewitt**
Custodian / Security / 1996-98
- ▲ **Larry Thuilliez**
Aca. Computer Tech. / 1999-2014
- ▲ **Marianne Thuilliez**
President's Secretary / 1977-78
- ▲ **Barbara L. Tomek**
Counselor / 1969-79
- ▲ **Angela R. Tomlinson**
Assistant to Vice President / 2003
- ▲ **Deidra Steed Traylor**
CCRR • Upward Bound / 2000-
- ▲ **Roger A. Treece**
Custodian • Shipping / 1973-2004
- ▲ **Kimberly T. Miller Tremmel**
Dean's Secretary / 1988-89
- ▲ **Donnie Trogolo**
Custodial Supervisor / 1999-2013
- ▲ **Jeanette "Jan" Vikara**
Business Office • BMRCC / 1995-97
- ▲ **Harry Leroy Walker**
Custodian / 1974-85
- ▲ **Tonya R. Walter**
Co-Op Secretary / 1986-87
- ▲ **James N. Wangler**
Custodian / 1989-94
- ▲ **Dave Ward**
Custodian / 2002
- ▲ **Carol Ann Warren**
Faculty Secretary / 1979-80
- ▲ **Rickie Dean Wasson**
Maint. Tech • Shipping / 2007-16
- ▲ **Barbara Waterbury**
STARS / Asst. to V-P / 2000-08
- ▲ **Patricia Ann Watson**
Receptionist / 1984-85
- ▲ **Arvella Waugh**
Admin. Asst., LRC • Math / 2003-19
- ▲ **Hannah Webb**
RLC Bookstore Asst. Mgr. / 2014-
- ▲ **Tracey Brouillette Webb ***
Theatre Manager / 1998-2002
- ▲ **Michelle Welch**
RLCF Children's Center / 2000-04
- ▲ **LaDonna Wertz**
Faculty Secretary / 1977-78
- ▲ **Sandra West**
LRC Technical Services / 2001-
- ▲ **Leon Wheat**
Custodian / 1980-82
- ▲ **Charisse Hutton Wheeler**
Audio-Visual Technician / 1974-75
- ▲ **Nathan Wheeler**
Marketing • Public Info. / 2006-
- ▲ **Terry L. Wheeler**
Custodian • Maintenance / 1973-79
- ▲ **Charles "Sam" Whisenhunt**
Assistant Chief • Security / 2004-12
- ▲ **Barbara White**
Faculty Secretary / 1972
- ▲ **Kristin White**
RLCF Children's Center / 2005-07
- ▲ **Marcia Whitehead**
STARS • Administrative Asst. / 2001-
- ▲ **Charlotte T. Whittenburg**
Menard C.C. Advisor / 1989
- ▲ **Alisha Whittington**
Literacy and Data Mgmt. / 2011-16
- ▲ **David F. Wicks Jr.**
Title III Ed. Technology / 1997-2000
- ▲ **Paul Widicus**
CCRR Specialist / 1994-95
- ▲ **Lisa L. Wild**
In-Focus Counselor / 2003
- ▲ **David A. Wilson**
Network Specialist / 1998-2004
- ▲ **J. Diane Wilson**
Faculty Secretary / 1981-83
- ▲ **Lana Adams Wilson**
Business Office Accountant / 2012-
- ▲ **Derek Wintermann**
D.L. - Media Technology / 2012-14
- ▲ **Terry Witcher**
Maintenance / 1982-83
- ▲ **Debra Withrow**
Financial Aid Assistant / 1983
- ▲ **Bunny Wolfe**
Adult Learning / 1995-98
- ▲ **Helen Wood**
Housekeeper / 1970-76
- ▲ **Jeff Woolsey**
Police Officer / 2008-09
- ▲ **John J. Wooters II**
Copy Service / 1980-82
- ▲ **Glenn Wright**
Reading Lab / 1975
- ▲ **Terri Wright**
Menard C.C. Counselor / 1990
- ▲ **Tracey Wright**
Administration Assistant / 2000-01
- ▲ **Evelyn York**
Secretary / 1970
- ▲ **Keith Young**
Prtoگرامmer - Analyst / 2012-14
- ▲ **Evan R. Youngblood**
Educational Technology / 2004-05
- ▲ **Robin Yucus ***
Title III Educational Tech. / 2000-03
- ▲ **Dawn Yunkun**
Audio-Visual • Secretary / 1975-78
- ▲ **Matthew Yusko**
Counselor / 1992-94
- ▲ **Chelsea Zettler**
Exec. Asst. • Communications / 2011-
- ▲ **Jacqueline Zimbardo**
Secretary / 1983-85
- ▲ **Craig Zinzilieta ***
Cooperative Education / 2006
- ▲ **Jennifer Zinzilieta**
Community Service / 1998

* Also listed with Full-Time Faculty
EXCELLENCE IN FACULTY

HUMAN RESOURCES

Rend Lake College Employees

YEAR	▲ Full-Time		▲ Part-Time		▲ Total
2001-02	233	44%	293	56%	526
2002-03	223	48%	239	52%	462
2003-04	230	40%	338	60%	568
2004-05	221	38%	363	62%	584
2005-06	218	37%	374	63%	592
2006-07	219	37%	367	63%	586
2007-08	225	37%	380	63%	605
2008-09	212	35%	400	65%	612
2009-10	205	35%	383	65%	588
2010-11	191	42%	264	58%	455
2011-12	192	40%	291	60%	483
2012-13	196	40%	293	60%	489
2013-14	193	41%	276	59%	469
2014-15	203	38%	340	62%	543
2015-16	198	40%	297	60%	495

EMPLOYEE RESIDENCE

1987-88 Academic Year

COUNTY	PROFESSIONAL	CLASSIFIED	P. PLANT	TOTAL	PCT.
Franklin	28	14	8	50	39.7%
Hamilton	5	2	0	7	5.6%
Jefferson	33	7	8	48	38.1%
Perry	3	0	0	3	2.4%
Wayne	0	0	0	0	-
Williamson	8	0	0	8	6.3%
Marion	4	0	0	4	3.2%
Jackson	3	0	0	3	2.4%
Other	3	0	0	3	2.4%
TOTAL	87	23	16	126	100.0%

EMPLOYEE RESIDENCE

2004-05 Academic Year

COUNTY	PROFESSIONAL	CLASSIFIED	P. PLANT	TOTAL	PCT.
Franklin	65	15	12	92	41.6%
Hamilton	12	5	3	20	9.1%
Jefferson	33	12	7	52	23.5%
Perry	9	1	1	11	5.0%
Wayne	3	0	1	4	1.8%
Williamson	17	3	1	21	9.5%
Marion	7	0	0	7	3.2%
Jackson	3	0	0	3	1.4%
Other	11	0	0	11	5.0%
TOTAL	160	36	25	221	100.0%

REND LAKE COLLEGE DEPARTMENTS / DIVISIONS 1967-2016

BUSINESS • SOCIAL SCIENCE

HISTORY / SOCIAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Glenn Dare, 1968-70

SOCIAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Dr. Richard Doherty, 1970-76

BUSINESS / SECRETARIAL
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Gela Riley Goin, 1968-73

BUSINESS, MATHEMATICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Myron G. Foley, 1974-81

BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Ronald E. Tremmel, 1981-98

BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT INTERIM CHAIR
Janet Miller, 1998

BUSINESS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Ted Zwayer, J.D., 1999-2000

MATH • SCIENCE • EDUCATION

MATHEMATICS
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
William Meyers, 1968-73

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CHAIR / SCIENCE, P.E.,
HEALTH AND COSMETOLOGY DEPT. CHAIR
Edward Kownacki, 1968-76 / 1976-79

SCIENCE AND HEALTH
DEPARTMENT ACTING CHAIR
Dr. Richard Heaton, 1979-81

SCIENCE, MATH, HEALTH AND P.E.
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Larry Richmond, 1981-84

SCIENCE, MATH, HEALTH AND P.E.
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Dr. Richard Heaton, 1984-86

SCIENCE, MATH AND EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Larry Williams, 1986-98

MATH AND SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Barbara J. Davenport, 1998-2001

MATH, SCIENCE, BUSINESS, EDUCATION, HEALTH DEPT. CHAIR
/ MATH, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION DIVISION CHAIR
Barbara J. Davenport, 2001-05 / 2005-11

MATH AND SCIENCES
DIVISION CHAIR / DEAN
Andrea Banach, 2011-

ARTS • COMMUNICATIONS

ENGLISH / COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Dr. Barbara Luchsinger, 1968-75

ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Larry Phifer, 1976-78

FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Dr. Evelyn Claxton, 1978-83

ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Dr. Stephen B. Tietz, 1983-92

ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Dr. John Homan Jr., 1992-98

LIBERAL ARTS
DEPARTMENT / DIVISION CHAIR
Christina R. Kuberski, 1998-2008

LIBERAL ARTS DIVISION
CHAIR / DEAN
Henry "Buster" Leeck, 2008-

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR
Jim Waugh, 1967-81

ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR
Mitch Haskins, 1981-91

ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR
Jim Waugh, 1991-95

ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR
Tim Wills, 1995-2007

ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR
Denny Myers, 2007-08

ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR
Brent McLain, 2008-09

INTERIM
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
Jim Duncan, 2009-10

ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR
Tim Wills, 2010-

DEVELOPMENTAL SKILLS

DEVELOPMENTAL SKILLS CENTER
DIRECTOR
Pam Sharp, 1979-88

DEVELOPMENTAL SKILLS CENTER
DIRECTOR
Sherry Jones, 1985-91

DEVELOPMENTAL SKILLS CENTER
DIRECTOR / DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Barbara Bauernfeind, 1991-2000

ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY
DIRECTOR
Jana Groh, 2000-01

COLLEGE PREP AND ADULT ED DIRECTOR /
ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY DIRECTOR
Linda Cox, 2001-04

ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY
DIRECTOR
Jay Brooks, 2004-07

ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY
DIRECTOR
Christina Hutcheson, 2009-

REND LAKE COLLEGE DEPARTMENTS / DIVISIONS 1967-2016

NURSING • ALLIED HEALTH

MT. VERNON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
NURSING SCHOOL COORDINATOR
Mary E. Ksycki, 1961-68

NURSING SCHOOL
CHAIR
Mary E. Ksycki, 1968-74

PRACTICAL NURSING / ALLIED HEALTH
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Shirley McHaney, 1975-81 / 1981-94

ALLIED HEALTH
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Wilanna Patton Kiefer, 1994-2003

ALLIED HEALTH
DIVISION CHAIR
Sharon Beasley, 2003-06

ALLIED HEALTH
DIVISION CHAIR
Kelli Lewis, 2006-09

ALLIED HEALTH
DIVISION INTERIM CHAIR
Gynelle Baccus, 2009-11

ALLIED HEALTH
DIVISION CHAIR / DEAN
Kim Robert Wilkerson, 2011-

HEALTH • PHYSICAL ED

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Jim Waugh, 1970-

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
J. Mitch Haskins, 1986-91

HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION
AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Wayne Arnold, 1991-2000

HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION
AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Barbara Bauernfeind, 2000-01

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Dawn Gibson

APPLIED SCIENCES

AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Arnell Kimmel, 1968-70

AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Mark S. Kern, 1970-74

AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Carroll Turner, 1974-76

AUTOMOTIVE, ARCHITECTURE AND AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT ACTING CHAIR
Jerry Jensen, 1976-77

AGRICULTURE, ARCHITECTURE AND AUTOMOTIVE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Dr. Bill Hudson, 1977-79

AGRICULTURE, ARCHITECTURE AND AUTOMOTIVE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
David L. Scott, 1979-88

AGRICULTURE, ARCHITECTURE AND AUTOMOTIVE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Gary L. Wade, 1988-90

AGRICULTURE, ARCHITECTURE AND AUTOMOTIVE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Mark S. Kern, 1990-91

AGRICULTURE, ARCHITECTURE AND AUTOMOTIVE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Terry Clark, 1991-96

AGRICULTURE, AUTOMOTIVE AND ARCHITECTURE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
H. Douglas Leeck, 1996-97 (Acting, 1979)

AAA DEPARTMENT CHAIR /
APPLIED SCIENCE DIVISION CHAIR
Eddie Billingsley, 1997-2003 / 2003-04

APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DIVISION CHAIR
Dr. Sarah Helmers Ochs-Bond, 2004-08

APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DIVISION CHAIR
Terry Wilkerson, 2008-12

APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DIVISION CHAIR / DEAN
Chris Nielsen, 2012-

MINING • ADVANCED TECH

MINING TECH / AG / AUTO / LAW ENFORCEMENT
DEPARTMENT ACTING CHAIR
Jerry Jensen, 1976

MINING TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Brad Evilsizer, 1976-77

MINING TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
James A. Spiller, 1976-77

MINING TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Dale Mason, 1977-78

MINING TECHNOLOGY
INTERIM DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Charles "Chuck" Bender, 1978-79

MINING TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
John E. "Jack" Jones, 1979

MINING TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Gary L. Wade, 1979-81

MINING AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Ronald L. Sanderson, 1981-85

MINING AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Harold Finn, 1985-94

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY AND A.A.A.
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Terry Clark, 1994-96

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY DEPT. CHAIR /
ADVANCED TECH DEPT.-DIVISION CHAIR
William P. Dill, 1996-2001 / 2001-05

REND LAKE COLLEGE DEPARTMENTS / DIVISIONS 1967-2016

COUNSELING

COUNSELOR
Betty Ann Ward, 1967-

DIRECTOR OF ADVISING
Robert Englander, 1981-83

DIRECTOR OF ADVISING
AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT
Pamela Jo Luttmers, 1983-86

DIRECTOR OF ADVISING
AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT
Sara Davenport, 1986-94

DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING
Jay Lewis, 1994-97

DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING
David Vinyard, 1997-99

DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING
D. Ann Bullock, 1999-2003

DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING
Lisa Price, 2003-

PHYSICAL PLANT

PLANT SUPERINTENDENT
(MT. VERNON TOWNSHIP H.S. CAMPUS)
Robert Q. Webb, 1968-70

SUPERINTENDENT OF
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS
Robert Q. Webb, 1970-81

DIRECTOR OF
PHYSICAL PLANT
Lawrence Winemiller, 1981-83

DIRECTOR OF
PHYSICAL PLANT
Leroy Spotanski, 1983-87

DIRECTOR OF
PHYSICAL PLANT
R. Dow Smith, 1987-95

COMMUNITY SERVICES

DEAN / ADULT EDUCATION
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
James R. McGhee, 1969-73

DEAN OF
COMMUNITY SERVICE
Mark S. Kern, 1974-78

DEAN OF
COMMUNITY SERVICE
Cheryl Foley, 1978-83

COMMUNITY SERVICES
COORDINATOR
Eileen Satterfield, 1984-85

COMMUNITY SERVICES
COORDINATOR
Lisa Payne, 1985-89

COMMUNITY SERVICES
COORDINATOR
Dana Hils, 1989-94

COMMUNITY SERVICES
COORDINATOR
Dave Davenport, 1994-97

COMMUNITY SERVICES
COORDINATOR
Jennifer Zinzilieta, 1998

COMMUNITY SERVICES
COORDINATOR
Jamie Thomas, 1999

DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNITY EDUCATION / SERVICES
Dawn Gibson, 2001-08

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION /
DEAN OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE EDUCATION
Lori Ragland, 2008-15

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION /
DEAN OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE EDUCATION
Margo Wagner, 2015-

DIRECTOR OF
PHYSICAL PLANT
Randall Shively, 1995-2016

DIRECTOR OF
PHYSICAL PLANT
Donnie Millenbine, 2016-

CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION

MENARD CORRECTIONAL CENTER
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR
George McArdle, 1986-88

MENARD CORRECTIONAL CENTER
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR
David Vinyard, 1988-90

MENARD CORRECTIONAL CENTER
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Tim Gould, 1990-96

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BIG MUDDY RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTER
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR
David Vinyard, 1993-97

BIG MUDDY RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTER
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Charles Dame Jr., 1997

BIG MUDDY RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTER
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Brent King Jr., 1997-2000

BIG MUDDY RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTER
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Jody Johnson, 2000-03

BIG MUDDY RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTER
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Mary Stark, 2003-08

BIG MUDDY RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTER
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Penny Murphy, 2010

BIG MUDDY RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTER
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Christopher McCann, 2010-12

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PINCKNEYVILLE CORRECTIONAL CENTER
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Traci R. Hemen, 1998-2005

PINCKNEYVILLE CORRECTIONAL CENTER
DIRECTOR OF CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION
Andrea Banach, 2005-11

If colleges judged on quality of students ...

R.L.C. EARNS GRADE OF A+ FOR TURNING OUT WINNERS YEAR AFTER YEAR

Psst! Let you in on a little secret.

Coaches and Managers do not win championships without good players.

Producers and Directors can not win Oscars without an outstanding script, not to mention talented actors and actresses.

Platinum-selling singers and musical groups would be nothing without their adoring fans.

And colleges are judged on the quality of students they educate. Following that logic, Rend Lake College certainly is deserving of a grade of A-plus.

Did you catch that Saturday Night Live production in Season 17 (October 5, 1991)? You know the one featuring Community College Scholar Bowl competition, where every single question posed of two teams of four students each is met with clueless looks, silence instead of responses or incorrect answers. The one where there is no winner following a scoreless tie.

Even for someone who always has taken pride in his two-year diploma and years of employment at his Juco alma mater, Rend Lake College, the SNL script was hilarious. Never lose the ability to laugh at yourself.

But it was still a crock. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

The first year the Illinois Community College Trustees Association conducted a statewide Academic Olympics in 1992-93, a la the Illinois Community College Scholar Bowl, the Rend Lake College team recruited by Coach Richard Doherty may not have had all the answers but answered more than its share of questions and happily brought home the inaugural state championship.

Runner-up was Elgin Community College, followed by College of Lake County.

That team was typical of RLC College Bowl teams, a blend of nontraditional students who contribute mightily thanks to the wisdom of their experiences and fresh-faced traditional students just months removed from in-district high schools.

The obvious leaders were Academic Olympic All-Stars Glenda Wells (Dahlgren), the part-time housewife and librarian, and the well-read 62-year-old Sunshine Center discovery, Neil Linebaugh (Mt. Vernon), both of whom were college graduates taking more classes on a part-time basis.

Not far behind in terms of contributing points but a considerable distance behind in years were Tim Cripps (Benton) and Robert Schnicker, also from that thriving Academic Olympic State Championship scholar-producing community of Dahlgren.

Dr. Doherty and his Olympic champs were recognized later during a Chicago Cub game at Wrigley Field.

In the years since, RLC College Bowl representatives have won nine more South-East Region crowns and finished second (1999-2000, behind All-Star Marshall Mullins, the leading scorer in the tournament); third three times (1995-96, led by All-Stars Richard Doherty and Derek Steed; 2002-03, led by Alan Phelps, and 2009-10, behind the unassuming Jim Dreas, the tournament's fourth-leading scorer), and fourth twice (1998-99, led by All-Star and second-leading scorer Mullins, and 2001-02, when Phelps & Co. lost two matches by a total of 10 points, then denied Kaskaskia College a state championship by defeating their Centralia-based rivals for the first time all season in their tourney finale).

If you honestly believe junior college students, née community college students, fit the stereotypical mold of "losers" who can not get into a four-year school, then you may be too embarrassed to check out the section of this chapter which profiles recipients of the annual RLC Foundation "Alumnus of the Year" Award since its inception in 1982.

■ From Ina, IL, and Rend Lake College emerged a real-life American Hero, Mark E. Michalic (West Frankfort), Class of 1979.

Michalic made the computer match that first tied Timothy McVeigh to the Oklahoma City bombing which ripped through the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Spring 1995, killing 168 people. His quick-thinking action came moments before the suspect, stopped on traffic charges, was about to be released by authorities.

For his efforts, the 14-year Special Agent for the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms received the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award, presented by U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, and the ATF Distinguished Service Medal.

Michalic also was cited in the March 24,

* - * - *

What is a Student?

THE ILLINOIS TRUSTEE MAY / JUNE 1990

A STUDENT

is the most important person in any educational institution.

A STUDENT

is not dependent on us. We are dependent on the student.

A STUDENT

is not an interruption of our work. He/She is the purpose of it.

A STUDENT

does us a favor by enrolling. We are not doing the student a favor by waiting on him/her.

A STUDENT

is an essential part of our work – not an outsider.

A STUDENT

is not just a statistic or money in the cash register. He/She is a flesh-and-blood human being with feelings and emotions like ourselves and deserve to be treated with respect.

A STUDENT

is a person who comes to us with needs or wants. It is our responsibility to do our best to meet those needs.

A STUDENT

is deserving of the most courteous and attentive treatment we can give.

A STUDENT

is the life blood of this and every other educational institution. Students pay our salaries; without them, we would have to close our doors.

~ Source Unknown



BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 1990

"I went to a four-year university right out of high school . . . and I was not ready for it.

"If I could go to every high school in America and say, 'Go to a junior college,' I would. I've found out I needed that."

– Transfer student Joe Shaw of Mt. Vernon, explaining to the RLC Board of Trustees why he enrolled Fall Semester 1990 at Rend Lake College



A sampling of AACC 'Outstanding Alumni'

Geno Auriemma 2014
*Women's Basketball Coach, University of Connecticut
Montgomery County C.C. (PA)*

Ralph de la Vega 2011
*President and CEO, AT&T Mobility
Miami-Dade Community College (FL)*

Margaret Kelly 2005
*CEO, RE/Max International, Inc.
Oakland City C.C. (MI)*

Dr. Richard Carmona '04
*U.S. Surgeon General
Bronx Community College (NY)*

George Lucas 2004
*Film Director, Writer, Producer
Modesto Jr. College (CA), '64*

Bonnie Blair 2003
*Olympic Speedskater
Parkland College (IL), '87*

Gaddi Vasquez 2003
*Director, U.S. Peace Corps
Santa Ana College (CA)*

Rich Karlgaard 2000
*Publisher, Forbes Magazine
Bismarck State College (ND)*

James Belushi 1999
*Comedian and Actor
College of DuPage (IL)*

Kweisi Mfume 1998
*President, NAACP
Baltimore City C.C. (MD), '73*

Carol M. Browner 1997
*Admin., Environmental Protection Agency
Miami-Dade Community College (FL)*

Randy Owen 1997
*Lead Singer, Alabama
Northeast Alabama State C.C.*

Fred W. Haise Jr. 1996
*Astronaut-Lunar Module Pilot, Apollo 13
Mississippi Gulf Coast (Perkinston)*

1997, issue of *Newsweek* magazine, and from his colleagues with the Federal Bureau of Investigation he received the FBI Jefferson Cup inscribed, "To Mark E. Michalic with deep appreciation for your dedication, commitment and tireless efforts to protect the American people from crime and terrorism, and your extraordinary contributions to the cause of justice in the investigation and prosecution of the OKBOMB case. From your friends at the FBI."

The former RLC Student Trustee, campus leader and 1978 Christmas Dance King was "Alumnus of the Year" in 1998 and shared a similar honor, the "Distinguished Alumnus Award, from the ICCTA with Comedian Jim Belushi (a former College of DuPage Student Trustee) in August 1999.

After accepting the local award in front of some of his former RLC instructors, staff members and friends, Michalic said he was "going to accept this award for all of us," because "you never do anything alone. You do it as a team."

"All the other awards," he said in all seriousness, "pale in comparison to this, because it comes from the people who know me, and they still decided to award it to me anyway."

The humble recipient told his statewide audience his retirement "dream would be to be able to teach at a community college.

"I believe giving back to the community that has given so much to you is a duty and an obligation," Michalic said.

"I would love to be able to return to Rend Lake College and teach a Law or Law Enforcement course to those from my home area. If future aspirations are dreams, I truly hope this one will come true."

■ Naysayers might want others to believe the Michalics come around once in a lifetime of a community college.

Not so.

President Michalic was joined on the 1978-79 Rend Lake College Student Senate by classmate Cinda Chullen (Benton).

Chullen had the distinction of graduating with her mother, Ella Chullen.

But the 1992 "Alumna of the Year" has done all right on her own, a National Hero in her own right.

At the time she was recognized six years before Michalic, Chullen was working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston. She was the Technical Manager responsible for an Engineering

Support Services Contract involving 2,000 engineers and scientists and valued at \$1.059 billion (translation, \$1,059,000,000).

Chullen's Rend Lake College Foundation award could share space – pun intended – in a trophy case with her NASA "Outstanding and Superior Performance" Awards and "Outstanding Alumni" honors in 1991 from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

■ But a NASA Engineer comes around once in the lifetime of a community college. Right? Not so.

Peter Johnson (Mt. Vernon, RLC Class of 1985) already had his Silver Snoopy Award – recipients nominated annually by a real-life astronaut – when he was named RLC Foundation "Alumnus of the Year" in 2012.

The former janitor-turned-nontraditional student is based at the NASA Space Center in Florida and is an Instrumentation System Engineer for the Flight Avionics Division.

■ Prouder than ever to call yourself a Rend Lake College graduate or faculty / staff member or scholarship donor?

Commencement 1975 – more precisely, the Music Department – produced two more "Alumni of the Year" honorees of the highest quality.

Another former RLC Student Trustee, James Bradley Burzynski (Benton), was serving as an Illinois State Senator from the upstate 35th District when he was saluted by the RLC Foundation as "Alumnus of the Year" in 1993.

The 35th District includes DeKalb, Lee, Ogle and Winnebago counties and cities such as Belvidere, DeKalb, Genoa, Rochelle, Rockford, South Beloit and Sycamore, among others.

Burzynski, an 18-year Senate veteran, was Assistant Senate Republican Leader and Minority Caucus Chair at the time he retired in February 2011, two years before his term would expire, in order to spend time with an expanding family which included five grandchildren. Committee assignments included the Senate Committee as a Whole; Appropriations II; Education; Higher Education; Executive, and Senate Education Funding Reform.

When singled out by his Juco alma mater, Burzynski was a member of the Midwest Higher Education Commission and Vice Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Conservation Committee.

A one-time Pinckneyville Elementary Teacher, Burzynski also served in the State House of Representatives from 1990-93.

■ Sharing center stage from the RLC Class of 1975 is Carol Dilley-Jaudes (Mt. Vernon), who has spent her professional career as a stage actress in New York and St. Louis.

Among her credits: A Broadway debut at age 38 as only the fourth person to fill the very demanding role of Jennyanydots, the tap-dancing feline on "Cats," in 1993. Dilley-Jaudes joined the longest-running show on New York's Broadway after it started 11-plus years and 4,700 performances before.

In his feature story in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* in January 1994, Joe Pollack noted:

"During the St. Louis years, Dilley was a bright spot in a variety of productions at the Rep, mainly – but not always – musicals.

"She was a wonderful Annelle, the new assistant in the beauty shop, in 'Steel Magnolias,' and charming, innocent Minnie Fay, the assistant milliner, in 'The Matchmaker.' She also sparkled in 'Dames at Sea' and 'Tomfoolery,' and especially in 'A Day in Hollywood / A Night in the Ukraine,' where her work as Groucho Marx was hilarious.

"Dilley also worked at the Muny as Glinda, the Good Witch, in 'The Wizard of Oz,' and as Carlotta in the Music Company of St. Louis production of Arthur Kopit's 'Phantom' at Westport."

In their college days, Dilley was President and Burzynski was Vice President of the RLC Music Club, in conjunction with the Illinois Student Music Educators Association, and both were members of *Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges*.

The trumpet-playing Burzynski was recognized for "Outstanding Music Performance" and Dilley as "Outstanding Musician" during Spring 1975 Honors Day.

■ Not to be outdone were at least four other individuals who were sophomores when Burzynski and Dilley were freshmen, as well as three others who were freshmen when Burzynski-Dilley were sophomores.

The Rend Lake College Class of 1974 included future "Alumni of the Year" recipients Dr. Leslie Johnson (Thompsonville), in 1984; Gloria Sloan-Reel (McLeansboro), in 1990; Craig M. Sinclair (Mt. Vernon), in 1991, and Ron Smith (Benton), in 2011.

Class of '76 leaders included Flo Dudley (Bonnie), in 1994; Holly McCann (Benton), in 2000, and Donald H. Dame (Sesser), who was completing his second degree, in 2003.

Johnson, a Physician in Mt. Vernon who would later move his family practice to the Peoria area, and Sloan-Reel, Product Brand Manager for Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company of Research Triangle Park, NC, were the two Student Achievement Recognition (SAR) Award-winners for 1974.

Dudley was one of the two local recipients in 1976 and also earned SAR District distinction.

Dudley's claim to fame may lack the "star" qualities of classmates Burzynski and Dilley-Jaudes, unless one considers the virtues of an older student fulfilling the dreams of a lifetime by becoming a teacher later in life and staying home to help educate elementary students.

Others were successes in the business world – Sinclair, the Vice President of Advertising for The Walgreen Company; McCann, the Acting National Director, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Office of Interest and Penalty Administration, and Dame, a 1972 RLC graduate with an Associate in Arts Degree who returned for his Associate in Applied Science Degree in Mining Technology four years later and was serving as Vice President of Human Resources and Government Relations for Springfield-based Freeman United Coal Mining Company at the time of his recognition.

Smith represented the best of both worlds – Men's Basketball Associate Head Coach at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and Owner/Operator of USA Sports Tours and Events.

■ Like Dudley and Smith, there have been so many others who chose education as a vocation, many of whom also elected to stay close to home.

Two former classmates at forerunner Mt. Vernon Community College, Class of 1958, were RLC Foundation "Alumni" honorees Dr. Harl E. Ryder (Mt. Vernon), Professor of Economics and Director of Graduate Studies at the Ivy League's Brown University in Providence, RI, and Bill Shields (Mt.

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'Hero' to Class of '99: Support of others a must

RLC F.Y.I. AUGUST 1999

RLC "Alumnus of the Year" and statewide "Distinguished Alumnus Award" recipient Mark Michalic congratulated Rend Lake College graduates, Class of '99, in May and told those present at Commencement exercises, "I'm not a celebrity. I'm not rich or famous. I'm just a small town kid from West Frankfort, IL.

"You are me 20 years ago. But if there is anything I can tell you, it is that I have learned a few things in 20 years. Because of the good Lord and good luck, and just as importantly because I have been a member of a good team, I was able to do something that got me some attention individually. But you will never do anything by yourself; you always have to have that support of others."

In his letter of recommendation to the ICCTA, U.S. Attorney Patrick Ryan indicated he has known and worked with Michalic the past four years, observing him as he "supervised a major lead project involving 12 other agents.

"Mark exemplifies all the traits necessary to be an excellent agent and supervisor. He is a man of courage, judgment, dedication and integrity. In addition, he has a wonderful sense of humor and was extremely well-liked by those working on the task force."

Special Agent Michalic shared the "Distinguished Alumnus Award" with Comedian Jim Belushi, who was the first Student Trustee at College of DuPage.



Pharmacy student sings praises of RLC Instructor

FEBRUARY 1990

Former student Ruth Sonsini (Class of '86) felt compelled to write to President Jon Astroth while still in school elsewhere. She was one of four students in a small General Chemistry class at RLC taught by John Fisher who had gone on to Pharmacy School . . .

"We had quite a few teachers along the way . . . including too many chemistry professors! Not one, however, has even come close to Fish's enthusiasm, his talent for teaching and – most of all – his genuine interest in all his students as individuals. We truly feel that he has given us not only a strong foundation in the basics of chemistry, but also a way of reasoning that has served us well throughout our academic careers. I am convinced that his influence will extend into the practice of our profession as well."

[Editor's Note: Mt. Vernon product Sonsini graduated magna cum laude from St. Louis College of Pharmacy in Spring 1990. She was recipient of a Pfizer Pharmaceuticals Internship Award for outstanding performance.]



Architectural Students aid Habitat for Humanity

OCTOBER 1998

Members of the Rend Lake College Chapter of the American Institute of Architectural Students spent the three-day Columbus Day weekend putting up prefab walls, trusses and the roof as part of the volunteer labor crew for a Habitat for Humanity home in Mt. Vernon. The group is sponsored by Architectural Technology Instructor Kevin Weston.

Vernon), Assistant Professor and Workforce Education Coordinator for Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, in 2005.

Robert L. Brown (Mt. Vernon, MVTHS '66), Guidance Counselor at Mt. Vernon Township High School and longtime Rend Lake College General Education Development (GED) part-time Instructor, and Tim Wills (Benton, RLC '84), Associate Professor of Health Education, Athletic Director and Men's Basketball Head Coach for Rend Lake College, were cited as top "Alumni" in 1983 and 1996, respectively.

Jonathan W. Thomas (Sesser, RLC '71), CEO (Executive Dean) at Ivy Tech State College in Madison/Lawrenceburg, IN, followed Wills as the 1997 RLC Foundation "Alumnus of the Year."

Two more boast a niche in the Alumni/Education category.

Courtney Cox (Benton, RLC '72), at the time a Partner with Hart and Hart Attorneys-At-Law and later U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, returned to his Juco alma mater as a full-time Music Instructor from 1977-79, was saluted in 1995.

Dr. Mary Kay Witges Bengtson (Scheller, RLC '71) was employed as a Health Services Staff Physician at North Carolina State University and Athletic Physician for the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Team when she was recognized in 1987.

■ Linda L. Sanders (Mt. Vernon) was the first female athlete in Lady Warrior history to receive an athletic grant-in-aid from an NCAA Division I school when SIUC recruited her to play volleyball following her graduation as a two-sport standout at Rend Lake College in 1982.

When Sanders was singled out in 2004, she returned as the first female Federal Warden in the State of Kentucky between 2001 and February '04 and the first-year Warden of the newly created, 4,000-inmate Federal Correctional Complex in Forrest City, AR, near Memphis.

Also taking their Rend Lake College résumés on the road to success were "Alumnus of the Year" winners Dr. Gary R. Sweeten (Ina, MVCC '60), Minister of Christian Growth for College Hill Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, in 1986; Carl Rowley (Sesser, RLC '77), Team Leader/Building Management Systems for Panduit Corporation, a global company regarded as a world leader in network connectivity solutions, in 2001, and Rose M. Myles (Mt. Vernon, RLC '68), Manager of the multimil-

lion dollar Network Services operation for Atlanta-based AT&T.

Honored posthumously was Laird D. Wisely (Benton, RLC '71), who died at age 48 after a brief illness less than three months before his wife-business partner, Cathy Wisely, accepted the award in December 1999 in his memory. Wisely was a leader in rehabilitation in Southern Illinois, serving as a valuable consultant for RLC officials during the design process for the Aquatics Center. He was founder of Therapy Resource Associates and Physical Rehab Works, with modern facilities in both of his "hometowns," Benton and Mt. Vernon, and a Mobile Therapy Unit serving industry.

Other homegrown products who made their name by staying close to home – the first "Alumnus of the Year" recipient, David N. Junkins (Mt. Vernon, RLC '71), a Social Worker with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services when he was asked to step forward in 1982, and Kevin Davis (Mt. Vernon, RLC '72), Comptroller/Treasurer, Rend Lake Conservancy District, in 1989. [Junkins was named Women's Tennis Coach beginning Fall 2008.]

Also, Christopher Johnson (Valier, RLC '98), Distribution Center Manager for the Walgreens plant in Mt. Vernon, in 2006; Brad Gesell (Benton, RLC '80), co-owner of Gesell's Pump Sales and Service, Inc. located in Whittington and the 2006 Illinois Oil and Gas Association "Wildcatter of the Year" for the most significant oil discovery in the state, in 2007, and Randy Rubenacker (Dahlgren, RLC '78), co-Owner and Manager of Rubenacker Farms Partnership in Dahlgren and 4R Equipment, a McLeansboro farm equipment dealership which dates back to 1987, and a member of the RLC Foundation Board of Directors, in 2008.

Rubenacker was the second person to receive the college's "Outstanding Agriculture Student of the Year" Award.

Even more recent honorees include former Public Defender and current Fourth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Mike McHaney (Mt. Vernon, RLC '77) in 2010 and Southern Illinois Magazine Publisher/Radio Broadcaster Jim Muir (Benton, RLC '09) in 2009.

Accomplishment is not limited only to those acknowledged once a year during the RLC Foundation Annual Dinner.

Consider a few of those students featured herein . . .

• Jyl Pepple, a straight-A student from Bluford (Webber Township High School),

was saluted as a member of the All-USA 1998 Academic Third Team for Community and Junior Colleges, as presented by *The USA Today* newspaper, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and the American Association of Community Colleges.

The award included 20 First Team, 20 Second Team and 20 Third Team recipients nationwide. Both grades and community involvement were criteria which helped judges narrow the elite list of award-winners from approximately 1,300 applicants from across the country.

- Kristen Ann Clark (West Frankfort), the daughter of RLC Dean of Vocational-Technical Education Terry Clark and his wife, Judy, was one-in-a-million among statewide community college students as The Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate representing the Illinois Community College System for 1999-2000.

She was recognized for “outstanding achievement in curriculum and extracurricular activities.”

Gov. George Ryan and Mrs. Ryan presented Clark with the Lincoln Academy Medallion, a Certificate of Achievement and a check for \$150 when The Lincoln Academy hosted its 25th Annual Award Ceremony in November 1999 in the House of Representatives chambers of the State Capitol Building. A luncheon with the Ryans and guests followed at the Executive Mansion.

- Similar odds of one-in-a-million might seem more like a sure thing compared to the actual odds for the Alex and Maddy Reality Show. Their odds of believability may be more like 20 million to 2. Perhaps greater.

If truth be told, who will ever believe the incredible story of the Dynamic Duo, 2008 Rend Lake College graduates Alexandria and Maddelynn Hawkins?

The 18-year-old Pinckneyville twins were awarded their Associate Degrees during 41st Annual Commencement exercises May 9 on the Ina campus. Nine days later, they crossed the stage for their diplomas from Pinckneyville Community High School as co-Valedictorians.

“It is almost surreal,” Maddy said.
No. It IS surreal.

By taking advantage of dual-credit and dual-enrollment opportunities available to them, beginning the summer following eighth-grade, Alexandria the Great and her identical sister, Maddelynn, saved their parents roughly \$8,832 in tuition at RLC and two years of college. Mother is Trico Senior High School Counselor Casey Hawkins; Dad is Dr. Wayne Hawkins, who has practiced family dentistry in Pinckneyville for 25-plus years.

Alex already had been awarded a full-ride President’s Scholarship for four years at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, where eventually she expected to enter Dental School in Alton. Maddy was recipient of a \$60,000 Provost’s Scholarship to attend Saint Louis University, where she transferred in as a Med-Scholar, almost assuring her acceptance into Medical School; she estimated she would study at SLU for the next decade.

Maddy, a proud PCHS cheerleader in her “spare” time, was one of 25 exceptional teens recognized – from 65,000 applicants – with a \$7,500 SAMMY (Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year) Award. Her picture, complete with the infamous milk mustache (albeit not her favorite, chocolate milk), appeared with her nationwide colleagues June 27, 2008, in *USA Today*.

While Alex was present to graduate with her older peers at Rend Lake College, Maddy was on her way to Texas to accept a \$20,000 national Toyota Community Service Scholarship. Previously both phenoms traveled to Atlanta to accept \$10,000 national Coca-Cola Scholarships, with interviews included which could double the amount for one or both.

Although both qualified after being named PCHS “Student of the Month” during their senior year, Maddy was recipient of the “Student of the Year” Scholarship awarded by Murphy-Wall State Bank.

We could go on and on . . .

We do, actually, elsewhere in this section. Unbelievable. You better believe it!

- If you think the Hawkins twins were involved as dually enrolled high school and college students, take a closer look at RLC



A sampling of AACC ‘Outstanding Alumni’

Shawntel Smith 1996

Miss America 1966
Westark Community College (AR)

Gwendolyn Brooks 1995

Poet Laureate of Illinois
Kennedy-King (formerly W. Wilson)

Eileen Collins 1995

Astronaut
Corning C.C. (NY), '76

John Walsh 1995

T.V. Host, America's Most Wanted
Cayuga C.C. (NY) (Auburn College)

Brigadier General

Fred A. Gorden 1988

Commandant, U.S. Military Academy
Kellogg Community College (MI)

Jim Lehrer 1986

Associate Editor / Co-Anchor,
MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour
Victoria College

John Hannah 1985

President Emeritus, Michigan State U.
Grand Rapids Jr. College (MI)

Ross Perot 1982

President, Electronic Data Systems
Texarkana Jr. College (TX)

Nolan Ryan

President/CEO, Texas Rangers
Hall of Fame Baseball Pitcher
Alvin Community College (TX), '71

R. Bruce Merrifield

1984 Nobel Prize in Chemistry
Pasadena City College (CA), '41



Student-worker pay

Effective February 1, 1970, Work / Study Students will be paid at the rate of \$1.45 per hour (up from \$1.25) the first semester, with 10-cent increases each of the next three semesters they might work.

Trustees approved an increase in student-worker wages for the first time since September 1997 (\$5.15) to \$6 per hour, effective July 1, 2003.

Student-work pay went from \$6 to \$6.50 as of January 1, 2005.



A 'few' years later, friends graduate together again

JUNE 1982

Lifelong friends Jean Estes and Margie Hosick are accustomed to sharing special experiences with each other. They attended West Salem Grade School together, graduated from Mt. Vernon Township High School the same year and even worked for awhile together for Nelson Concrete.

So when Jean Estes received her diploma recently during graduation exercises at Rend Lake College, it was not unusual to see Margie Hosick savoring the experience with her. Both were recipients of an Associate of Arts Degree at Rend Lake College's 15th Annual Commencement.

Also enjoying the festive occasion was Margaret Bullock, Mrs. Hosick's mother and the third-grade teacher of the two classmates.

Neither graduate planned this latest episode, considering they had seldom been together in a college classroom while pursuing different interests.

Jean Estes, the wife of Jefferson County farmer Wayne Estes and mother of four children, finished degree requirements last fall after attending college part-time. She is employed by Rend Lake College as the Secretary to Dr. Harry J. Braun, RLC President.

Margie Hosick, who is married to Earle Hosick, attended McKendree College for a year following her graduation from high school but was forced to return home and work following a fire which destroyed the family home. The Secretary at General Tire completed her degree requirements in Business this spring.

Trustee and Student Government aficionado John Thompson (McLeansboro).

The mature, serious-minded Thompson was more involved both locally and at the state level in 1996-97 than any Student Representative on the Board of Trustees before or since. He continued in a state leadership role during his time as an upperclassman at University of Illinois-Springfield.

- And long before there were dual-credit classes, there was the brilliant Diane Heaton of Benton. The daughter of Dr. Richard and Doris Heaton – he was a longtime member of the Science faculty at RLC – entered Rend Lake College as a sophomore, earning more than enough college credits to attain that status while still in high school.

A few prep students would take the occasional evening course or distance learning class, but there was only one Diane Heaton when she left her mark in 1981.

- Novelist Brian Hodge (Mt. Vernon) is a five-time nominee for the Horror Writers Association's annual Bram Stoker Awards, with works published in six countries.

- Student-Athletes who helped polish the Rend Lake College reputation both nationally and internationally include Golfer Jace Bugg (Henderson, KY) and Track and Field Distance Runner Boaz Lalang (Eldoret, Kenya) and Sprinter Ryan Bailey (Salem, OR). Lalang and Bailey were Olympic competitors in 2008 and 2012, respectively.

First-Team NJCAA Division II All-America Golfer Bugg first put Rend Lake College on the national map by advancing to the quarterfinals of the prestigious 97th Annual U.S. Amateur Championships in 1997. He was eliminated by Stanford University's Joel Kribel, a semifinal victim of Tiger Woods the previous year. The notable achievement came just months after Bugg finished third individually and led the Warriors to a fifth-in-the-nation showing in the NJCAA Finals; the team placed third overall his freshman season.

Bugg earned professional tournament championships on both the Canadian Tour (South Carolina Challenge in 2001) and the Buy.com Tour (2002 Arkansas Classic) and was on the verge of earning his way onto the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) Tour via a Top Ten Buy.com season ranking before his career, and ultimately, his life was taken away by a 13-month battle with acute myelogenous leukemia. He died December 5, 2003, at age 27.

Lalang literally put the INA in CHINA during Summer 2008.

He may not have struck Gold in the Beijing Olympics, but his time of 1:45.87 was the seventh-fastest overall from three semi-finals meant to reduce the field to eight for the finals. His college coach, Brent McLain, and McLain's wife, Dr. Dee McLain, were in the Bird's Nest on August 21 to witness the performance, thanks in large part to the support of the RLC Foundation and college administrators.

Unfortunately, the Kenyan-turned RLC superstar, a six-time National Champion and NJCAA All-American as a Warrior freshman, finished third in his heat, nipped at the wire by .02-second by the runner-up. Time-wise, his clocking was faster than both the winner and runner-up in Heat 1, but the rules sent the top two finishers in all three heats to the finals, with the next two fastest joining them. The third- and fourth-place finishers in Heat 2 qualified; Lalang's time of 1:45.87 could not bump the fourth-best Heat 2 effort of 1:45.54.

Lalang turned pro shortly after returning "home" to start Fall 2008 classes at Rend Lake College, where he continued to work out with the Warriors and helped coach some of his understudies.

Bailey brought home a Silver Medal from the London Games after anchoring a U.S. quartet which matched the previous 4 x 100-Meter Relay record of :37.03 but could not stop the incredible Usain Bolt and his Jamaica teammates in :36.84.

The previously unheralded 23-year-old Bailey (on the international scene) – with his chiseled 6-foot-4, 216-pound physique and movie star good-looks – finished fifth in 9.88 to the World's Fastest Man Bolt in 9.63 in the 100-Meter Finals.

Bailey came to Rend Lake College in 2008-09, captured NJCAA Championships in the Indoor 55M Dash and Outdoor 100M Dash and then signed with Nike.

- In 2004-05, Rend Lake College boasted six NJCAA Academic "Teams of the Year" with composite grade-point averages of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0-point scale – Women's Tennis, the No. 1 team among 12 tennis squads so honored thanks to a 3.51 overall GPA for Coach Diane Metzger's charges; Softball, 3.40; Women's Golf, 3.35; Women's Basketball, 3.32; Volleyball, 3.26, and Men's Basketball, 3.0.

Five RLC student-athletes were named Distinguished Academic All-Americans

– April Gibson (Tilden/Sparta H.S.) in softball, Kyla Parker (Marion) in Women’s Basketball and Lisa Parker (Centralia) in Women’s Tennis, all with perfect 4.0 GPAs, along with Nicole Adams (O’Fallon) in Women’s Golf and Aaron Johnson (Slaughters, KY) in Baseball. Ten others were named Academic All-America with GPAs above 3.5.

To prove they were just as good from an athletic standpoint, Warrior teams finished second nationally in Indoor Track and Field and Men’s Golf, third in Cross-Country, fourth in Women’s Golf and fifth in Outdoor Track and Field.

It was almost more of the same in 2005-06, when RLC was again represented by six Academic “Teams of the Year,” with three Distinguished Academic All-Americans – Lisa Parker (4.0) in Women’s Tennis, Courtney Magness (Newark, AR) in Women’s Basketball and Amanda Hutchcraft (Benton) in Softball – and three other Academic All-Americans.

Academic “Teams of the Year” for 2005-06 were Women’s Tennis, second out of 19 net teams cited despite a 3.70 GPA; Women’s Golf, 3.40; Women’s Basketball, 3.36; Men’s Cross-Country, 3.11; Volleyball, 3.06, and Softball, 3.04.

[More details of student-athlete accomplishments can be found in the Athletics Section of this publication.]

- Nontraditional Student Becci Doering (Mt. Vernon), a single mother of three, submitted the winning entry in the annual Illinois Community College Trustees Association Paul Simon Student Essay Contest in 1996, best describing “How My Community College Has Changed My Life.”

In her award-winner, published in the *Illinois Trustee* newsletter, Doering praised her local community college and “one of the people I most admire,” Tammy Weston, a part-time advisor with the Nontraditional Student Support (Single-Parent) program. Weston is the wife of RLC Architecture Instructor Kevin Weston.

“Having the opportunity to go to college has changed and is changing my life by giving me the motivation and direction to shed that baggage of a ‘loser’ and strengthen

myself as a ‘winner’ with positive self-image and self-esteem,” she wrote.

“If Rend Lake College and Tammy had not been here, nothing would have been accomplished. In addition, motivation gave me direction. Without direction, those fears would have drowned not only me but my children as well.”

- But not all of our stories end happily ever after. Those who remember Golfer Jace Bugg would attest to that.

Friends of Andrea Bradley (Sesser) will agree.

Bradley was President of the Rho Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa in 1990-91 and was a *USA Today* Academic All-American Award nominee. She also was a member of the College Bowl academic team.

Tragically, she died May 13, 1992, from injuries suffered in an automobile accident the previous fall. The 21-year-old junior at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale had been in a coma for over six months.

A couple of days after Bradley’s single-car accident, her grieving mother, the family’s sole provider, suffered a heart attack.

Shirley Bradley did recover, however, and is responsible for starting an endowed scholarship through the RLC Foundation in honor of her late daughter.

Community college lore has long had it that classmates frequently follow the lead of likable student leaders and join them in their choice of colleges.

Any truth to it?

We have to admit we have no actual prove . . . few, if any, in-depth studies asking RLC students why they made the choice they did. And if there were, how many people would attribute their college selection to a classmate’s decision?

Now meet Greg Hollmann (Mt. Vernon), one of the most personable and popular students ever to walk the halls of Rend Lake College, as he did from 1997-99.

Like the aforementioned Mark Michalic, J. Bradley Burzynski and John Thompson before him, Hollmann was elected Student Trustee by his peers in 1998-99. As a high school senior, he was elected Governor of the popular Youth and Government Pro-



Former MVCC student markets book on Oprah

FEBRUARY 1993

Former Mt. Vernon Community College student Carolyn (Nordin) Bushong, a Denver Psychotherapist, made her second appearance on the Oprah Winfrey Show. Her book, “Loving Him Without Losing You,” was first published two years ago and is due out in paperback in March. Carolyn Nordin of Mt. Vernon was a MVCC student in 1966.



Kayti Hall volunteers gift of music at Logan Grade

SEPTEMBER 2004

Rend Lake College student Kayti Hall wants to make sure music remains a part of the lives of children. She now works toward that goal by volunteering her gift of music to students at Logan Grade School in Franklin County.

Logan Superintendent Steve Launius was looking for someone to provide musical instruction and called the RLC Center for Business Services for possible assistance. He was put in touch with Employment Services Specialist Mark Clark, who approached “Volunteerism” student Hall with the opportunity.

Hall (Zeigler) volunteers at Logan from noon to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays. In those two hours, she deals with students in all grade levels. “Music is so important in young lives,” Hall said. “The kids really seem to enjoy finally having music in their school.” Launius calls it a “win-win” situation.



Practical Nursing School cites 1,000th grad in '87

JULY 1987

Recent pinning ceremonies for the 27th graduating class of Practical Nurse students took on special meaning at Rend Lake College. Included among the 61 individuals in the Class of '87 was the 1,000th graduate of the Licensed Practical Nursing School since it opened its doors 25 years ago.

The graduate so-honored was Pam Smothers (Mt. Vernon), who received a small gift from the college and was presented her official Rend Lake College LPN pin and certificate by Mary Ksycki, the first coordinator of the LPN School. Ms. Smothers was listed 54th alphabetically among the graduates, who now number 1,007. The RLC Nursing staff earlier this year celebrated the school's 25th anniversary with a reception and open house.



Two state Homemaker awards claimed by RLC

Two of the three statewide scholarships presented in 1989-90 by the Homemakers Extension Association - Illinois Homemakers Extension Federation were awarded to students with RLC ties - former student Cindy Birkner (McLeansboro) and Secretarial Science student Terry Lynn Kelly (Pinckneyville).

■ Former RLC students Jeannette Patrick (Centralia) and Frank Ferris (Zeigler) - received Fluid Power Education Foundation Scholarships in 1989-90.

gram during its annual weekend stay in Springfield.

But the happy-go-lucky guy was so much more than that. He seemed to like everybody he knew, and everybody, it seemed, liked Greg Hollmann.

The big fellow was just as comfortable visiting in a North Oasis lounge area filled with Agriculture students as he was hanging out in Waugh Gymnasium with student-athletes, playing intramural basketball and envisioning himself as one of them.

A five-minute trip across campus to pick up the mail as part of his job as a student-worker often turned into an excursion lasting an hour or more. Everybody wanted a piece of Mr. Optimist, Greg Hollmann.

Your friend. My friend. Our friend.

Just ask any of the college administrators or Board members he got to know well during his tenure on the Trustees.

So what does a nice guy attending Rend Lake College have to do with any of this, although it makes for a nice story? We already know it is not true nice guys do not have to finish last.

We are not saying Greg Hollmann was the reason why, but you draw your own conclusions . . .

In 1997-98, an all-time high of 51 percent of the Mt. Vernon Township High School graduating class from the previous spring was attending classes at Rend Lake College (148 of 289).

The percentage of all in-district graduates choosing RLC as their college of choice that year also was an all-time high of 43 percent, thanks in large part to the largest of 13 schools in Community College District 521 contributing slightly over one-third of those enrollees (435 of 1,008 graduates).

Keep in mind, statistics used to show nearly half of all seniors did not even go on to college immediately after graduation.

During the decade of the '80s, Rend Lake College got between 19 percent (twice) and as many as 30 percent just once of MVTHS grads, almost always a lower total than the district-wide total.

Those figures climbed steadily during the '90s, until 45 percent the year before Hollmann's arrival (119 of 265 in 1996-97) represented the previous high mark.

Carry that same logic into the following year, and it would be easy to argue students in the class behind Hollmann did not follow the same leader: The bottom dropped out of the percentage of MVTHS graduates at-

tending RLC the next year (1998-99), down to 34 percent (102 of 301).

The closest to 51 percent since was 42 percent in 2000-01 and 40 percent in 2002-03, even though the overall percentage for the entire district was 42-43% during those years also, with the 43 percent rate (400-940) in 2000-01 fractions less than 1997-98.

Giving Hollmann too much credit, or merely a coincidence?

Rend Lake College benefited from both Hollmann's presence and that of 147 of his classmates in 1997-98. That is all that really matters.

[Editor's Note: The Board and Administration apparently know a good thing when they see one. Greg Hollmann joined the full-time Rend Lake College Faculty as a General Science Instructor in 2006-07 following his graduation from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. He later earned an M.S.Ed. Degree through SIU-Carbondale and is now listed as a Political Science Associate Professor.]

F.Y.I.

Sesser-Valier High School sent 71 percent of its graduates RLC-bound in the same year (37 of 52 in 1997-98). No other feeder school has even come close to that percentage.

Other totals, from available figures . . .

Thompsonville Community High School boasted a second-best 65 percent tally in 1996-97 (13-20).

Benton Consolidated High School, the second-largest contributor in terms of size, has had at least three of its graduating classes since 2000 surpass 50 percent - 55% in 2000-01 (65-119), 52% in 2002-03 (66-128) and 56% in 2004-05 (68-122).

Pinckneyville Community High School has gone from 16%-26% in the '80s and 18%-19% in consecutive years in the mid '90s to a high of 43 percent for 2003-04 (49-113).

McLeansboro / Hamilton County Senior High School has reached the 50 percent standard at least seven times beginning with 1989-90 (51%) - 1991-92 (51%); 1992-93 (53-96, best of 55%); 1998-99 (54%); 2000-01 (53%); 2002-03 (50%), and 2006-07 (50%).

Waltonville High School consistently has sent 50 percent or more of its graduates to RLC than any other school - eight times, with a high of 63 percent in 1990-91 (19-30). Also, 53% in 1987-88; 54% in 1997-98; 58% in 1998-99; 50% in 2002-03; 50% in 2003-04; 52% in 2005-06, and 50% in 2006-07.

Webber Township High School has reached 50 percent or higher four times -

57% in 1989-90 (16-28); 56% in 1996-97 (23-41); 50% in 2002-03, and 57% again in 2004-05 (16-28).

Christopher High School has twice surpassed 50 percent – 58% in 2000-01 (36-62) and 51% in 2005-06.

Woodlawn Community High School reached 53 percent in 1994-95 (18-34), which might be the most impressive statistic of all considering only about half of its graduates live in the RLC District and the rest are expected to go to Kaskaskia College.

Other highs – Wayne City H.S., 45% in both 1997-98 (17-38) and 2002-03 (25-56); Zeigler-Royalton H.S., 36% in 2002-03 (17-47); Norris City-Omaha-Enfield H.S., where a 21% figure in 2003-04 (13-63) was very impressive. Only a small portion of NCOE's student body – those from Enfield – is considered to be in RLC's district.

Quality students?

It has been the policy of the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees since 1996 of offering a Guarantee of Educational Quality Control for the transferability of all Baccalaureate-oriented/University-parallel courses to public Illinois universities as well as the competency in technical skills of all Associate in Applied Science Degree graduates in Career/Occupational programs.

Evidently, Rend Lake College has other methods for proving the caliber of the high-quality students it produces year-in and year-out.

Given the opportunity, it hires many of its own graduates.

According to the listing of full-time Rend Lake College Faculty and Staff in the 2009-10 Official Catalog, 88 of 214 employees (41 percent) were RLC graduates.

Some of those degrees/certificates may have been earned after the individual became employed, particularly in the case of Administrative Assistants and Physical Plant employees, but most were hired with RLC's guaranteed credentials as part of the total package.

Among the proud RLC graduates were such long-standing faculty members as 1996 "Alumnus of the Year" Tim Wills (Health Education, 17 years), 2009 "Faculty Excel-

lence" Award-winner Rob Little (English, 16 years) and 2012 "Faculty Excellence" recipient-to-be Kevin Weston (Architectural Technology, 17 years).

Other faculty members with considerable experience included Lynda Laningham (19 years), Therese Melena (Art, 15 years), Nigel Thompson (Automotive Technology, 15 years), Rebecca Biggs (English, 12 years), Charles Followell (Big Muddy River Correctional Center Food Service, 11 years), Mike Burris (Ag Mechanics and Diesel Technology, 10 years), Peggy Davis (English, 10 years), Chris Sink (Computer Networking, 10 years), Cindy Caldwell (Mathematics, 9 years), Shari Carpenter (Computer Science, 9 years) and Michael Adamson (8 years).

Administrators with RLC backgrounds included STARS Director Ed Ruffino (25 years), Rend Lake College Foundation CEO Pat Mitchell Kern (17 years), Controller Angie Kistner (17 years), Dean of Student Services Lisa Price (15 years), Physical Plant Director Randall Shively (14 years), Retail Store/Bookstore Manager Dorothy DeAngelo (14 years), Applied Science and Technology Division Chair/Ag Professor Terry Wilkerson (12 years) and RLC MarketPlace Executive Director Curt Mowrer (8 years).

Staff longevity is exemplified by two ladies who were student-workers and signed up for full-time duty immediately after their graduations from Rend Lake College – Records Specialist Janice Dillon (29 years) and Health and Physical Education/Athletics Administrative Assistant Julie Oxford (22 years).

Veteran status likewise belonged to Administrative Assistants and other support position employees Linda Odle (Business Services, 28 years), Cathy Cross (Liberal Arts, 26 years), Connie Sample (Child Care Resource and Referral Subsidy Assistant, 21 years), Jean Huie (Assistant to the Vice President of Instruction, 20 years), Sharon Richardson (Teen Parent Services Case Manager, 20 years), Brenda Garvin (Assistant to the V-P of Information Technology, 16 years), Connie Ruffino (Accounts Receivable, 16 years), Ginger Hogan (Communication and Information, 15 years), Cary Marshall

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Survey says: Graduation includes 50 GED reps

NOVEMBER 1990

The Spring 1990 graduation class included 50 products of the Rend Lake College GED (General Educational Development) program, almost half of those in Allied Health fields, according to Director of Student Services Pam Smith. The breakdown of former GED students receiving Associate Degrees and/or Occupational Certificates: Licensed Practical Nursing Certificates, 15; Associate Degree Nursing, 9; Associate in Arts Degree, 5; Associate in Science Degree, 3; Associate in Applied Science Degree, 14 (not counting ADN), and other Certificates, 4.

"We have always felt our GED students were important to us," commented Smith, whose career at RLC started in the Developmental Skills Center. "Many have a great deal of potential and have demonstrated so by completing yet another educational milestone . . . earning a certificate or two-year degree.

"Many of these students will go into the work force, while others will continue at a four-year institution. We are proud of our GED graduates," added Smith.

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Grad Angie Trader ('89) Business honoree at EIU

JUNE 1990

Rend Lake College graduate Angela Trader (Class of 1989) of Sesser was awarded a scholarship as the "Outstanding Junior Business Major" at Eastern Illinois University.



Kabat 'Outstanding Ag Teacher in Illinois' in '94

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. MAY 1994
John Kabat, a graduate of the Rend Lake College Agriculture program, has been named the 1994 "Outstanding Agriculture Teacher in Illinois."

The award is sponsored by the National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association.

Kabat has been an Agriculture Teacher and Future Farmers of America Advisor at Mt. Vernon Township High School for nine years.

As such, Kabat is in the running for the "Midwest Ag Teacher of the Year" Award. He claimed state honors over 310 others.

DECEMBER 1995

Former Rend Lake College "Outstanding Agriculture Student of the Year" John Kabat recently was named runner-up for the American "Vocational Teacher of the Year" Award.

Kabat, in his 11th year as an Ag Teacher at Mt. Vernon Township High School, represented Illinois in the December ceremonies in Denver, CO.

The award was based on teaching techniques, the overall program, community service involvement and the participant's state and national accomplishments in agriculture and vocational education.

MARCH 1998

MVTHS Agriculture Teacher John Kabat was named winner of the American Vocational Teacher award for Region III, which includes six Midwest states.

[In April 2011, John Kabat was elected to a six-year term on the RLC Board of Trustees. He was joined by two other RLC alums, fellow newcomer Randy Rubenacker and incumbent Rick Marlow.]

(CCRR Subsidy Coordinator, 15 years) and Beth Stevens (Allied Health, 14 years).

Also, Paula Burris (CCRR Provider Services, 12 years), Kathy Byars (CCRR Subsidized Care, 11 years), Sue Scatone (Accounts Payable and Purchasing, 11 years), Cheryl Glover (Big Muddy River C.C., 11 years), Vickie Gollither (Adult Education, 11 years), Laura Kern (Teen Parent Services Case Manager, 10 years), Larry Thuilliez (Academic Computer Technician, 9 years), Stephanie McKinney (CCRR Subsidized Care, 9 years), Kelly Downes (Assistant to the V-P of Student Services, 8 years), Christina Schuster (CCRR Parent Services Coordinator, 8 years), Deidre Traylor (CCRR Parent Counselor, 8 years), Sandra West (Coordinator of Technical Services and Collection Management, 8 years), Marcia Whitehead (Adult Education and Literacy, 8 years).

Physical Plant workers included Maintenance "old-timers" like RLC grads Wayne Caplinger (10 years), Clay Holman (9 years) and Norman Hopkins (13 years) and degree-toting Custodian Steve Doty (22 years).

Trustees gain added insight, too, when their membership includes former Rend Lake College students. That has never been more evident than at the present time.

Board member Rick Marlow (Mt. Vernon), a retired RLC Architectural Technology Professor, also earned an Associate in Arts Degree from the college in 1974. He was elected for the first time to a two-year term in 2009 and re-elected in 2011 to a six-year term.

Randall Crocker (Sesser / RLC Class of '73) is in his second stint as a Trustee, serving first from 1997-2009. In his bid for a third six-year term, the incumbent fell 227 votes short in a four-person race for two seats; but he was appointed to replace Bryan Drew in 2013 and in 2015 was elected to fill the unexpired four-year term.

Two former Ag "Students of the Year" came aboard in 2011, both elected to six-year terms – John Kabat (Scheller / RLC '82) and Randy Rubenacker (Dahlgren / RLC '78). Both were honored in the spring just prior to their graduation.

Former Trustees with Rend Lake Col-

lege "upbringings" include Drew (Benton), a 1995 graduate and a member of the RLC Sports Hall of Fame, thanks to the key role he played on the Men's Golf Team which finished as runner-up in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II National Championships. He was first appointed to the Board in 2005, won election in 2007 and re-election in April 2013. He was in his third year as Chair when he resigned in November 2013.

Other "Alumni" Board members with "connections" were another former Instructor, Courtney Cox (Benton, 1999-2005 / RLC '72), and David Dalby (Benton, 1987-88), who was one of 80 students recognized in the first Commencement Exercise conducted by Rend Lake College on June 9, 1968.

WORDS STILL RING TRUE ▶ Dean's Message from Rawlinson: 'You must open doors to your mind'

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. AUGUST 19-25, 1991

As Rend Lake College embarks down the path of its Silver Anniversary celebration in the days ahead, it might be good to do a little reflection.

The following "Dean's Message" was written for the first RLC yearbook by Dr. Howard Rawlinson, College Dean. Its words still ring true today . . .

"Much has been written in the junior college literature about the open-door policy – the willingness to admit any applicant. However, an open door permits passage both ways, and the sojourn of some students inside the junior college is sometimes so short that cynics have renamed the open-door policy the revolving-door policy.

"The State of Illinois is attempting to build a system of junior colleges which really have their doors open to all, a system which will open doors to the future. Rend Lake College is proud to be part of that system.

"Yet, despite the efforts of state and local groups to improve opportunities, the final achievement must lie with you – the student. New buildings, new curricula, new methods of teaching avail naught unless you are willing to open the doors to your mind. The door can be prepared for you, but you must open it yourself."

If student success our No. 1 goal: Mission accomplished

ALL-AMERICA GIRL ▶ **USA Today/Phi Theta Kappa Team Academic Honors for Jyl Pepple**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 1998

Sixty "outstanding students and campus leaders" were recognized in Monday's *USA Today* newspaper (April 27).

Count Rend Lake College's Jyl Pepple among the best.

Pepple, a straight-A student from Bluford by way of Webber Township High School, was saluted as a member of the 1998 All-USA Academic Third Team for Community and Junior Colleges.

The award includes 20 First Team, 20 Second Team and 20 Third Team honorees. It is presented annually by *USA Today*, Phi Theta Kappa international honor society of the two-year college and the American Association of Community Colleges.

[Both grades and community involvement were criteria which helped judges narrow the elite list of award-winners from approximately 1,300 applicants from across the country, according to *The Southern Illinoisan* newspaper.]

As a result of her local nomination, Pepple also was named to the All-Illinois Academic Team along with Rend Lake College's other applicant, Gina Todd of Thompsonville. Both will be invited guests in Springfield Tuesday and Wednesday.

Pepple was one of only two from Illinois among the Top 60. Elgin's Lacy Foy likewise was a Third Team pick. At age 19, Pepple was one of the five youngest chosen.

She will be graduating from Rend Lake College May 15 and begins flight training three days later as an Aviation major at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Her goal is to become a commercial pilot.

"We congratulate you on Jyl Pepple's achievements which merited selection to the 1998 All-USA Academic Third Team.

"The media recognition which focuses on the Top 60 students selected to comprise the All-USA Academic Team calls direct attention to the quality programming, emphasis on community service and opportunities for

academic excellence provided in two-year colleges," PTK Executive Director Rod A. Risley pointed out in his congratulatory letter to Rend Lake College President Mark S. Kern.

Kern will present a special medallion to Pepple on behalf of PTK at a later date.

A Presidential Scholarship recipient during her two years at RLC, the former Webber Township valedictorian has been awarded a Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship Award for Transfer Students from SIUC. It could be worth as much as \$4,000 during the next two years.

Pepple served as Vice President the past year for the local Rho Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. While making the President's List each semester with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average, she also was a student-worker in the college's Administration Building reception area.

The Academic All-American spent her first three years of high school in Greeley, CO, before moving to her father's birthplace when Dr. Jerry Pepple was tabbed as Vocational Director / Technology Coordinator in the Regional Superintendent's Office for Hamilton-Jefferson Counties by Dr. P.E. Cross.

She was a member of the varsity swim team and Key Club while in Colorado.

She was named to the National Honor Society, received special permission to take a higher-level math course at Mt. Vernon Township High School her senior year and was awarded an Illinois Merit Recognition Scholarship for her freshman year in college.

In addition, Pepple serves as a Sunday School assistant at New Life Missionary Baptist Church in Bluford.

Todd also was a PTK officer the past year, a Presidential Scholarship recipient for two years and a student-worker in the Rend Lake College Business Office until recently accepting a part-time position related to her major of engineering with Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative in Eldorado.

She will be continuing her studies at SIUC as well.

Both Rend Lake College students were

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RLC 'land of opportunity; what you do ... up to you'

Ron Smith (RLC Class of '74) was SIUC Basketball Associate Head Coach when named RLCF "Alumnus of the Year" in 2011 . . .

NEWS RELEASE 2011

Like he tells his players – the future is about grasping opportunities. Take it from a Southern Illinois farm boy who became a coach in the top division of college basketball.

"We didn't have a whole lot of money to pick and choose where we could go [to college]. The value all four of us brothers found at RLC opened the door and gave us an opportunity to pursue what we wanted to pursue. Rend Lake College can be your own land of opportunity. What you do with that is up to you."

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AmFFA Degree awarded to Ag Business student

NOVEMBER 1995

Agriculture Business student Amy Adams (Mt. Vernon) was awarded the AmFFA Degree at the Future Farmers of America National Convention in Kansas City earlier this month. The highest honor given by the FFA organization, it is presented to less than 2% of all members nationwide. Adams, who attended as a member of the Mt. Vernon Township High School, was the first from her chapter in 59 years to receive the coveted degree. Advisors for the Mt. Vernon FFA are John Kabat and David Scott, both Agriculture products of Rend Lake College.



RLC student from Carmi first to study in Salzburg

AUGUST 1990

Gregory Todd Bowen, a graduate of Carmi High School now living in Mt. Vernon, is the first student from Rend Lake College to be Salzburg-bound. Nine predecessors from RLC have taken advantage of Travel Abroad opportunities in England, but the Arts major is the first to spend a semester in Austria. The Western Kentucky University transfer is the second recipient of a RLC Foundation International Award (monetary scholarship).



Mt. Vernon youngsters become RLC students

OCTOBER 1998

For the third year in a row, students in the kindergarten class of Frances Dobbs at Horace Mann Grade School in Mt. Vernon became Rend Lake College Students-for-a-Day.

Included during their visit were a tour of the Aquatics Center; a science display of bones, organs, pelts and "dead critters" with Dr. Sue Trammell, and printmaking in the Art Room with Therese Howard.

The college received rave reviews from all participants, according to Dr. Sue Tomlin, the visit coordinator. "In fact," Tomlin stated, "they all made an enthusiastic verbal commitment to attend school here."



Volleyball Marathon nets Special Olympics \$688

1976

Students in Wayne Arnold's "Recreation and Program Planning" class sponsored a Volleyball Marathon that raised \$688 for Special Olympics. The event began on a Friday evening and continued through Sunday morning.

nominated by Phi Theta Kappa Sponsor Jay Lewis.



Pepple told *SI Reporter* Linda Rush she is "eager to begin work at SIUC and also grateful for the background she received at the community college.

"It has been really positive," she said. "I am really glad I chose this path. The teachers really care about you more here and you learn more."

ONE IN A MILLION ▶ RLC student leader Kristen Clark state Lincoln Laureate recipient

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE NOVEMBER 15, 1999

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois Governor George Ryan was in good company Saturday (November 12). His guests included Rend Lake College Sophomore Kristen Ann Clark of West Frankfort.

Clark was chosen from nearly one million community college students as the lone recipient of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate representing the Illinois Community College System for academic year 1999-2000.

Gov. and Mrs. Ryan presented Clark with the Lincoln Academy Medallion, a Certificate of Achievement and a check for \$150 when The Lincoln Academy hosted its 25th Annual Award Ceremony in the House of Representatives chambers in the State Capitol Building. A luncheon followed at the Executive Mansion.

Recognition is for "outstanding achievement in both curriculum and extracurricular activities."

Also honored Saturday morning as Student Laureates were outstanding seniors from each of the four-year, degree-granting institutions of higher learning throughout the state.

Clark was notified of the award in a letter to RLC President Mark S. Kern from Dr. Joseph J. Cipfl, President and CEO of the Illinois Community College System, who was present for the ceremony. She was nominated for the prestigious award by Rend Lake College Counselor and Phi Theta Kappa Advisor Jeannie Mitchell-Collins.

The statewide community college honoree is a straight-A student who is President of the local Rho Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa scholastic honor society, an elected member of the Rend Lake College Student Senate and a student-worker in the Financial

Aid Office. She also has been nominated for the Community and Junior College All-USA Academic Team sponsored by *USA Today*.

Helping those less fortunate has been a top priority through Phi Theta Kappa's involvement with such community activities as "Coats for Kids," food drives and Christmas gifts for needy children. Clark was one of three students representing Rend Lake College at last spring's PTK National Convention in Anaheim, CA.

She is in charge of publicity for the RLC Student Senate and is one of two student representatives on the college's Student Disciplinary Committee.

In addition, during her first three semesters at the Ina-based college, she has been a participant in New-Student Orientation as a mentor/tour guide; telephone registration as a peer counselor; Fall Fest and Spring Fest activities, and the Student-Faculty Art Show exhibiting photographs taken for a class.

"Of greater importance to me," she says, "is that while attending Rend Lake College, I have continued to play an active role in my family as a daughter, a sister, a niece and cousin. Above all, my family has stood behind me and encouraged me to obtain all my goals and aspirations.

"It is because of them that I have the motivation and dedication to achieve academic excellence. I could never be who I am without their guidance and support."

Clark is the daughter of Terry and Judy Clark of West Frankfort. Her father is the Dean of Vocational-Technical Education at Rend Lake College, where he also has been an Agriculture Instructor and Chairman of the Ag, Automotive and Architecture (AAA) Department.

She is active in music and youth programs through Trinity United Methodist Church in West Frankfort and has been involved in Hispanic ministry in Cobden. While in high school, she was a four-year member of the Show Choir, participated in school play productions and was an ALPHA peer leader two years.

Her plans are to attend Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville after graduation from Rend Lake College in May. She is undecided between Bachelor and Master's degrees in either Business Administration or Sociology, with a program option in Employment Relations. A Master's Degree in Counseling is another possibility.

"It is my goal to finish my education with honors," Clark indicated.

"More than anything, I want to be in a career that I enjoy. I would rather work for less money and be happy than work at a higher-paying job that I dislike. For this reason, I am going to take my time and consider every possibility before I pick a career."

Clark indicated a desire to remain in Southern Illinois, if possible. "More than anything, I want to make a difference in the career path I choose. I don't want to be someone who sits behind and watches as the world passes by, but instead be out there moving with it. I have dreams of marriage and family, but I feel an education is something I need to become a true success in anything."

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois was established in 1965 for the purpose of maintaining the traditions of the state and the heritage of Abraham Lincoln and to exemplify throughout the United States the spirit and values of achievement in the State of Illinois. By public acknowledgment and awards, the nonprofit, nonpartisan, self-perpetuating body "recognizes, encourages and seeks to further the outstanding contributions of living Illinois citizens towards those goals and towards the progress and betterment of humanity."

Among its Special Benefactors are Mrs. Harry L. Crisp of Marion, the wife of the former head of the Illinois Community College Board, and broadcasting magnate W. Russell Withers Jr. of Mt. Vernon. Withers is involved with Rend Lake College through the RLC Foundation.

CHULLEN'S ADVICE ▶
Have a vision, a plan to execute, persist, work hard, do your best

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 1998

She is no astronaut – by her own admission – but she is one of the key elements to NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

And she knows what she is talking about when she says, "Without a vision, a plan and the persistence to get you there, the chances of becoming anything by accident or coincidence will be, should we say, astronomical."

When Cinda Chullen talks, more than 2,000 NASA scientists and engineers listen

to their administrator. So should Rend Lake College graduates and their guests, as they did Friday night (May 15), when the 1979 RLC graduate from Benton addressed them as the Commencement speaker during 31st annual exercises in Waugh Gymnasium.

"Whatever goal you choose," said the 1992 RLC Foundation's "Alumna of the Year," "the basic key elements are still the same . . . 1) have a vision or dream; 2) have a plan to execute that vision or dream; 3) persist to carry out that dream with hard work, being your best and doing your best."

The thought of becoming an astronaut "has crossed my mind," admitted Chullen, "even while attending Rend Lake College.

"But I wanted to be an engineer, and I wanted to be a manager."

"Could I have been an astronaut? I believe the opportunity was there. However, my plan was a little different. I'm proud to say I used my education to get to where I am today, and RLC helped get me there."

Chullen, who works at NASA's Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, today manages a technical contract which employs over 2,000 engineers and scientists and is valued at close to half-a-billion dollars.

It hardly seemed fathomable in 1979, when she graduated from Rend Lake College along with her mother, 58-year-old (at the time) Ella Chullen.

But thanks to a vision, a plan and persistence, she spoke to another graduating class 19 years later that included her niece, Associate in Science Degree recipient Kelly Dawn Chullen.

"Don't limit your goals to what you see in front of you. Have a long-range vision," the speaker said. "Look at every task, every job and every position you hold as one step and one opportunity toward that vision."

She added, "Some people believe 'life' just happens, and it will, and you may not be happy with the results unless you have a vision of what you want the results to be.

"At NASA, we have a vision . . . many, actually. We have set our sights on the moon, Mars and the stars. We strive to expand our frontiers of knowledge and launch our imaginations. We hunger to explore the Universe and discover its truths.



25th Anniversary attracts live shows, grade-schoolers

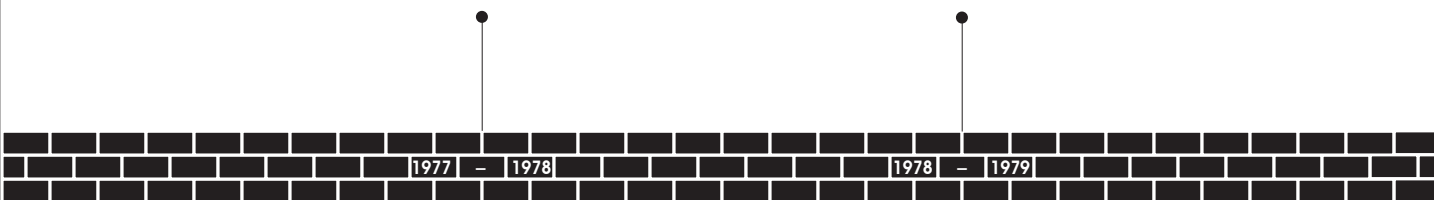
In 1992, as part of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of Rend Lake College, the President's Office first invited area grade school classes to attend live performances in the RLC Theatre. A variety of acts over the years has entertained younger audiences in the mornings, older ones in the afternoon over a 2-3-day span. Educational performances by professional guests have included a marionette troupe, small-group skits, instrumentalists and the like. Thousands of young students have benefitted over the years.

The 1999 presentation was the most unique of all. Thanks to Administrator Rex Duncan, who came up with the idea, a dozen other staff members and RLC Theatre students, a 95th birthday "Salute to Dr. Seuss" was a huge hit with over 2,250 K-1-2 youngsters. Included was a short play by Theatre students, a special guest story teller, visits by Dr. Seuss characters and readings of "Cat in the Hat" and "Green Eggs and Ham." Participants received a snack and a Dr. Seuss book.



ACT average scores

YEAR	▲ RLC Frosh	▲ All 2-Yr.	
'95-96	472	18.5	
'96-97	366	18.3	
'97-98			
'98-99	338	18.3	
'99-00	232	19.3	19.1
'00-01			
'01-02			
'02-03		19.6	19.0
2003-04		18.9	18.8
2004-05		18.6	18.8



TO BE A BEAN
by
Becci Doering

With head bowed low, my trembling hand slowly opened the door. As quickly as possible, my body rushed inside the house. The tears slipped down my cheeks before gushing like an April cloud burst. Huge sobs shook my body convulsively. This was the day my company had closed down, and the bottom of the barrel had been reached.

This scene has been played over and over again with thousands of single mothers who are worried about the roof over their children's heads, concerned about the food in their mouths, troubled about finding coats to cover their backs, hoping when there is no hope. This is a scene reflecting negative self-image, lack of self-esteem, a deficiency of self-motivation and self-direction.

However, having the opportunity to go to college has changed and is changing my life by giving me the motivation and direction to shed that baggage of a loser and strengthen myself as a winner with positive self-image and self-esteem.

The next day I called the local community college and was put in touch with Tammy, a non-traditional student advisor. She is one of the people I most admire. Tammy took my hand and guided me through those first needful steps such as getting financial aid, making arrangements with JTPA, interviewing with Job Co-op, and taking a placement test. After I had taken those crucial steps, my motivation set in to stay. I spent hours at the local library researching scholarships. I set out to find part-time employment to satisfy my family's needs. If Rend Lake College and Tammy had not been here, nothing would have been accomplished. In addition, motivation gave me direction. Without direction those tears would have drowned not only me but my children as well.

Then, other things started working for me. I stood taller; my eyes looked into other eyes; my teeth stopped nibbling nervously on lips; and I began to smile more easily. My self-image rose to shine like the sunrise after a stormy night.

Next, my self-esteem was strengthened and my confidence restored. The feelings of being unsuccessful, insecure, rejected, and depressed were discarded. Having acquired good self-esteem, I saw myself racing toward the goal and winning.

To sum up how my community college has changed and is changing my life, visualize a jar with navy beans and split peas. The beans represent a winner with high self-esteem and a good education. The split peas represent a loser with low self-esteem and a lacking education. Should you shake that jar, the beans will always come out on top. In this world we must choose to be losers or winners. I've made my decision to rise to the top with the aid of my community college, especially Tammy. Yes, I would like to be a bean, someone who is motivated with direction to shed that baggage of a loser and strengthen myself as a winner with positive self-image and self-esteem.

"We believe the space program is good for science, good for the American people and good for our future. There is still enormous potential for our space program. But without a vision from ourselves and our leaders, we would not accomplish anything."

Without a plan, it is doubtful anyone will realize his or her dreams. "Like the saying, 'If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there.'

"Plan your work, and work your plan," Chullen continued. "You planned your education and worked it one test, one class and one semester at a time. As you work the plan in your vision, look toward a plan to achieve the next vision."

NASA, she said, had to put plans in place "to meet President Kennedy's challenge of becoming the world's leading space nation . . . We are now setting plans in place and proceeding to partner with internationals for the International Space Station."

And that is where persistence enters the picture.

"Yes," Chullen concedes, "NASA had to fight for what we believed in.

"There are those who thought we should abandon the idea. However, we persisted because we believe we will be able to reach deeper into the vast final frontier.

"Persistence is the third key element. Once you have a vision and a plan to achieve that vision, you need to have persistence to get you there. In fact, persistence was a key characteristic identified by our NASA psychologists in a study of the traits of our astronauts. The study revealed an extremely high percentage of astronauts selected had this same characteristic of persistence."

Chullen also cited the persistence of Astronaut Story Musgrave, who holds seven college degrees, including an M.D.; of Sen. John Glenn, who "is maybe the ultimate example, in that he persisted in carrying out his 35-year-old dream of returning to space," and of her own family, including the mother who still runs a business out of her home and the third-generation graduate.

"It is imperative that we hold up as role models people who, in their mid-70s like my mother and John Glenn, still dare to dream new dreams," commented Chullen.

"Once again, I profess to you a plan, executed with persistence and guided by a vision, can improve your chances for success. Hoping for good fortune is okay; planning for it is more likely to make it happen."

"Just as it is with exploring space," she concluded, "you must never consider a mission impossible and persist to that end."

'COLLEGE CHANGING MY LIFE' ▶ Nontraditional student Becci Doering 1996 ICCTA Essay Contest winner

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 1996

Rend Lake College student Becci Doering has a lot in common with the main character in Jack and the Beanstalk. The Mt. Vernon resident and mother of three likes to think of herself as the "bean" that helped conquer a giant.

In this case, the "giant" to be overcome is comprised of a negative self-image and lack of self-esteem, a deficiency in motivation and direction. And as with most fairy tales, this story has a happy ending.

Doering was honored Friday night (June 14) in Springfield as winner of the 1996 Paul Simon Student Essay Contest sponsored by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association.

The ICCTA saluted Doering, along with Rend Lake College "Faculty Excellence" winner John Fisher and "Alumnus of the Year" Courtney Cox of Benton during its annual Awards Banquet at the Renaissance Hotel.

The winners were joined by family and friends, Director of Resource Development Herb Winemiller and Nontraditional Student Support representative Tammy Weston.

In describing "How My Community College is Changing (or Has Changed) My Life" better than anyone in the state, Doering was presented with a scholarship worth \$500.

Any Illinois community college student currently enrolled was eligible. The ICCTA's Public Relations Committee made the final selection based on writing style, grammar and punctuation, clarity of expression and relevancy to the topic.

Doering's winning essay will be published in the Illinois Trustee newsletter, national community college publications

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RLC Soph J.R. Wilkerson elected Region Director

MAY 1978

Sophomore J.R. Wilkerson (Dahlgren), president of the RLC Student Senate, was elected Region V Director for the Illinois Organization of Community College Students, a 10-member advisory board which serves student governments throughout the state. Region V is comprised of 11 Southern Illinois districts.

* - * - *

Illinois State Scholarships often go to RLC grads

MAY 1978

Pam Redpath (Mt. Vernon) was one of 14 Illinois community college students selected to receive a \$1,000 Foundation Alumni Distinguished Scholarship to attend Illinois State University. Two former RLC students – Sarah Jones (McLeansboro) and Alan Wilson (Mt. Vernon) – are attending ISU after receiving similar awards a year ago. Previous winners included RLC graduates Tom Nance (Mt. Vernon) in 1976, Carol Dille (Mt. Vernon) in 1975 and Kathleen Schutte (Mt. Vernon) in 1973. Redpath is a Computer Science major with a 3.59 GPA.

APRIL 1990

Only two of the 10 Illinois State University Foundation - Alumni Distinguished Scholarships awarded in 1990 will be going to students who reside south of Champaign. Both are from Rend Lake College – Christine Harris and John Barnard Switzer. The awards are for \$2,000 apiece over two years.



Chullen joins Michalic on SIUC Student Board

Cinda Chullen, a 1979 RLC graduate from Benton, was one of four area students elected recently to serve on the 1981-82 Undergraduate Student Organization's Student Senate Board at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Chullen will join 25 other Senators who represent various living areas and the university's 10 academic colleges and schools. Also on the board is another '79 RLC graduate, senior-to-be Mark Michalic (West Frankfort). He was elected to the SIUC Senate the previous year after transferring from Rend Lake College, where he served as non-voting Student Representative to the Board of Trustees and Vice President of the Student Senate.

An engineering major, Chullen had the unique pleasure of graduating from RLC at the same time as her mother, Ella Chullen.

Cinda Chullen, a NASA Technical Manager responsible for an Engineering Support Services contract involving 2,000 engineers and scientists and valued at \$1.059 billion, was named RLC "Alumna of the Year" in 1992.

Michalic, considered an American hero by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was the federal agent most responsible for tracking down Oklahoma City bombing villain Timothy McVeigh, who was eventually convicted of the explosion of the Alfred P. Murrah Building which killed 168 people in Spring 1995. Michalic was honored as RLC "Alumnus of the Year" in 1998.

Michalic was the leading vote-getter as an SIUC junior when he was first elected, one vote shy of doubling his closest foe.

and distributed to the media statewide.

In her award-winner, Doering sings the praises of her local community college and "one of the people I most admire," Tammy Weston, a part-time advisor with the Non-traditional Student Support (Single-Parent) program. Weston is the wife of RLC Architecture Instructor Kevin Weston.

"Having the opportunity to go to college has changed and is changing my life by giving me the motivation and direction to shed that baggage of a 'loser' and strengthen myself as a 'winner' with positive self-image and self-esteem," she writes.

"If Rend Lake College and Tammy had not been here, nothing would have been accomplished. In addition, motivation gave me direction. Without direction, those fears would have drowned not only me but my children as well."

She concludes her essay with the bean analogy. "To sum up . . . visualize a jar with navy beans and split peas. The beans represent a winner with high self-esteem and a good education. The split peas represent a loser with low self-esteem and a lacking education. Should you shake that jar, the beans will always come out on top.

"In this world, we must choose to be losers or winners. I've made my decision to rise to the top with the aid of my community college, especially Tammy. Yes, I would like to be a bean . . ."

Out of a job suddenly when the company she was working for closed down, she returned to school last summer with the blessings of her children – Danielle, now 12; Ty, 10, and Dane, 8 – and support of her parents – Ron and Mary Shelton.

Ironically, the Information Processing major had not taken any English classes at the time she submitted the essay. "I had no idea how to write. Actually, I am intimidated by writing," she admitted.

"I had never won anything like this before, either. My children have always done well and won things, but it seemed as if I always came in second, at best."

Her essay was from the heart. "That's part of it," she agreed, "and probably the unique ending, which I heard somewhere and used in a speech last summer."

The Single-Parent program "does a fabulous job," added Doering. "In a lot of programs, you are just a case or a number. But Tammy took me through all the steps. She helped guide me through, not just verbally but actually doing it with me. I couldn't

have done it without her, the program or the college."

FALL '73 ENROLLEES ▸ RLC student body boasts eight who rated No. 1 in class, seven at No. 2

FALL 1973

Ever question the caliber of students who enroll in two-year community colleges?

We have all heard the put-downs . . . only those who cannot get into four-year institutions go the Juco route.

Let's get real. It is time to think again. The next time someone knocks local students who they believe "have to" stay close to home because of academic shortcomings, bowl 'em over with these facts . . .

Students now attending Rend Lake College (November 1973) include 15 serious-minded young adults who ranked either No. 1 or No. 2 scholastically in their respective in-district high school graduating classes of 1972 and 1973.

Of this total, eight were Valedictorians and seven were Salutatorians. Ten of the 14 high schools in Community College District No. 521, which encompasses six Southern Illinois counties boasting in-district high schools, are represented by these students.

Top area scholars – as well as their accomplishment and year of their graduation – who now call Rend Lake College home are: Patricia Bays (Sesser H.S. Salutatorian, 1973); Carol Ann Galbraith (Benton H.S. Valedictorian, 1973); Leslie Johnson (Thompsonville H.S. Valedictorian, 1972); Linda Legg (Wayne City H.S. Salutatorian, 1972); Rita Gail Maloney (Dahlgren H.S. Salutatorian, 1972); Kristie Martin (Mt. Vernon Township H.S. Valedictorian, 1972); Karla Sue Owens (McLeansboro H.S. Valedictorian, 1972); Kathy Pankey (Thompsonville H.S. Salutatorian, 1973); Sue Plumlee (Thompsonville H.S. Valedictorian, 1973); Toni Razer (Benton H.S. Valedictorian, 1972); Curtis Richardson (Dahlgren H.S. Salutatorian, 1973); Marianne Skinner (McLeansboro H.S. Salutatorian, 1973); Vicki Jean Sledge (Webber Township H.S. Valedictorian, 1972); Dixie Walker (Zeigler H.S. Valedictorian, 1973), and Mary Lou Wyciskalla (Waltonville H.S. Salutatorian, 1973).

STUDENT TRUSTEE 1996-97 ▸ John Thompson a regular statewide on Student Advisory Committees

State Senator J. Bradley Burzynski (RLC Class of '75) jump-started his political career

by serving as the nonvoting Student Representative on the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees as a sophomore.

Whether another former RLC Student Trustee, John C. Thompson of McLeansboro, ever occupies a seat in the Illinois House of Representatives – as Burzynski did from 1990-93 – or Senate – as a Sycamore resident representing the upstate 35th District from 1993 to the present – is yet to be seen.

Sen. Burzynski, whose current district includes six community colleges, was recognized as the 1993 Rend Lake College “Alumnus of the Year” by the RLC Foundation. He was a resident of Benton when he attended Rend Lake College and later taught school in Pinckneyville before pursuing a political career.

But no Rend Lake College Student Representative before or after Thompson (RLC Class of '97) has ever been as involved at the state level during his or her college days. And that includes the two years following Thompson's student tenure at Rend Lake College as an undergraduate at University of Illinois-Springfield.

■ During Thompson's freshman year at Rend Lake College, 1995-96, he also served on the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee.

■ Following the first of two years as an elected member of the RLC Student Senate, Thompson was appointed to the Student Advisory Committee by the Illinois Community College Board, effective July 1, 1996.

The committee's function was to provide input from student perspectives regarding statewide policy issues which might impact community colleges; keep fellow students informed on statewide issues affecting them, and selecting the ICCB student member, according to ICCB Executive Director Geraldine A. Evans explained.

The Student Advisory Committee appointed Thompson to serve as Chair of the Budget Committee, which reviews all budgetary matters of the IBHE and makes recommendations.

■ In Fall 1996, Thompson likewise was appointed to the ICCB's Joint Legislative Strategy Task Force by fellow members of

the Illinois Community College Trustees Association Student Advisory Committee.

He was the only student on the 17-person committee. Other Task Force members included ICCB Interim Executive Director Ivan Lach, ICCTA Executive Director Gary Davis and Belleville Area College's Joe Cipfl, President of the Presidents Council.

■ For the first time ever, Rend Lake College hosted a meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee on Saturday, March 1, 1997, thanks to the efforts of RLC Trustee John Thompson.

The statewide membership also utilized facilities at the Rend Lake Resort during their weekend visit to Southern Illinois.

Early arrivals on Friday toured the Big Muddy River Correctional Center and enjoyed lunch prepared there by students in the RLC Culinary Arts program.

The Student Advisory Committee to the IBHE is comprised of students from both the public and private sectors of higher education in Illinois. There are 12 voting representatives from public senior institutions, 21 voting members from public community colleges and 11 voting members from private sector institutions.

The Committee of the Whole conducted its regular business meeting Saturday morning at 10. RLC President Mark S. Kern officially welcomed the group.

The IBHE established its Student Advisory Committee to act as “an official channel for interaction with students to obtain firsthand knowledge of the impact of Board policies on the student population, and to obtain continuing student opinion, ideas and constructive criticism regarding education in Illinois.”

By fulfilling this responsibility, students participate in the shared governance of IBHE institutions of higher education.

It has a twofold function. From time to time, the Board or the staff will ask for the committee's response to specific studies and proposals being conducted by the staff, and the committee itself will conduct specific studies or formulate proposals.

RLC representative Thompson is chairman of the SAC Budget Committee.



Kathleen Doherty ('83) sings at Rome Festival

DECEMBER 1991

Rend Lake College product Kathleen Doherty made her professional singing debut December 15 with The Festival Chorus at William Rainey Harper College in Palatine. The soprano was one of four featured soloists in the “Lord Nelson Mass” by Franz Joseph Haydn.

Doherty graduated with high honors from the University of Illinois and earned her Master of Music Degree this past August from Northwestern University. At Rend Lake College, she formed a music-theatre group, The Southern Illinois Performing Artists, and as Creative Director led the group in cabarets, benefit concerts and theatrical productions.

JANUARY 1994

Rend Lake College graduate (Class of 1983) and part-time Instructor Kathleen Doherty has been invited by the Opera Institute of the Rome Festival to perform – in Italian – the role of Zerlina and a villager in “Don Giovanni” by Mozart as part of the 1994 Rome Festival. An accomplished soprano, Doherty also was informed she might have the opportunity to sing solo with the Rome Festival Orchestra. The daughter of Dr. Richard Doherty, longtime RLC History Instructor, and wife Teresa, teaches Music Appreciation and Speech classes for Rend Lake College.

ALUMNI SUCCESSES

DAVID N. JUNKINS (1971), Mt. Vernon
1982 “Alumnus of the Year”
Social Worker, Illinois Department
of Children and Family Services

1981 – 1982

1982 – 1983



The student doesn't fall far from the institution

AUGUST 1972

Excerpts from *The First Fifteen Years (1956-1971)* by College Dean Dr. Howard Rawlinson

Chapter V – THE FRUIT

"The fruit of an educational institution must be found in the students, their growth and their accomplishments. As with any plant, the quality of the fruit will vary from branch to branch and season to season . . ."

From the beginning, students were represented on various campus committees and even the Faculty Council, gaining voting membership in 1972.

"This practice has enabled the college to become aware of the feelings of students and, often, to anticipate situations before they developed into problems. The worth of such practice is borne out by the fact that at no time has Rend Lake College been affected by the kind of student protests which have plagued other institutions. The pride these students take in their institution is illustrated by the fact that in the two years on the Ina campus, on only one occasion has there appeared the kind of graffiti which deface many institutions – educational or otherwise.

"This does not mean that students are always granted what they request. In 1971, they protested the removal of trees for one of the future buildings, and were allowed to explain their position at length to the Board of Trustees, at which time they learned why it was almost impossible to change the campus planning at that date. In 1972, they protested the dismissal of an instructor whom the college was planning to release because that teacher was the last one employed and the college was obviously over-staffed. Again,

(Continued at far right on next page)

■ President Kern had high praise for Thompson when his one-year reign as the Student Trustee came to an end with the April 1997 Board Meeting. "We have had a lot of excellent Student Trustees," Kern noted, "but John probably has taken more interest in the job than any other Trustee we have ever had. He is willing to come over (to my office) and find out the facts about what is going on, and then he gives his opinion. That is a quality I wish we could bottle and instill in others."

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 2000

■ Former RLC Student Trustees continue to represent their Juco alma mater well in other endeavors . . .

John Thompson, who is starting his Masters Thesis in political science this fall at University of Illinois-Springfield, officially became a member of the Illinois Board of Higher Education on July 1.

The McLeansboro product served on the IBHE Student Advisory Committee in 1996 while representing Rend Lake College and even hosted one of the committee's meetings, which was a first for the college.

He continued to serve on the Student Advisory Committee for two years after leaving RLC and was twice elected Student Government President at the University of Illinois-Springfield. [Thompson won by an overwhelming vote of 414-150 when he was re-elected for the 1998-99 academic year.]

In May 1997, Thompson was elected IBHE-Student Advisory Committee Vice Chair for 1997-98. (After his election as Vice Chair, he resigned his position as SAC Budget Committee Chair.)

It was that group that elected him to serve as its official representative on the IBHE. As such, he has a binding vote and is entitled to all rights and privileges as other members appointed by the Governor.

During the past year, Thompson was a Dunn Fellow in the Governor's Office. He recently has taken a full-time job working for the Illinois State Police in the Director's Governmental Affairs Office.

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. AUGUST 26-SEPTEMBER 8, 2002

■ After finishing graduate studies at UIS in June, serving on a special committee overseeing an inquiry into the MSW Program at Governors State University and completing his second term as the Student Representative on the Illinois Board of Higher Education, John Thompson was honored with a resolution adopted by Board

members, which stated in part: "John has been a calm but resolute voice for the interests of students throughout Illinois. He placed affordability of a college degree at the forefront of Board concerns and raised questions about the need to curtail rising tuition and fee costs. He has brought a perspective to Board deliberations that has been both valuable and valued."

The resolution called him "a stalwart champion for students and a voice of thoughtful, reasoned advocacy."

While serving as President of the Student Government Association from 1998-2000, he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. He now boasts a Master's Degree from Illinois-Springfield as well.

HONORARY DEGREE NO. 1 ▸ Hon. Kenneth J. Gray recognized during 8th Annual Commencement

Honorary Degrees are awarded by conferring institutions for any number of good reasons.

Rend Lake College waited eight years before bestowing its first Honorary Degree, and 41 years after opening campus doors the total number of such degrees awarded still was well under double-digits.

The first Honorary Associate in Letters Degree from Rend Lake College was awarded to the Honorable Kenneth J. Gray, former Congressman for the 24th District. It was conferred by Dr. James Snyder, President, during Eighth Annual Commencement Exercises Sunday afternoon, May 18, 1975.

Gray served as a United State Representative from Illinois between 1954 and 1974.

Dr. Allen Y. Baker, Vice Chairman of the college Board of Trustees, lauded Gray for his "many fine contributions" to the college. He credited Gray with "giving us hope and confidence in ourselves."

Gray, in turn, called his Honorary Degree from Rend Lake College "the finest single honor I received during two decades in Congress."

At the time he approached Board members for approval to honor Gray, Snyder indicated, "It probably is the first Honorary Degree to be granted by a community college in the State of Illinois."

Rep. Paul Simon, who succeeded Gray in the House of Representatives, provided the commencement address for 296 graduates – 163 women and 133 men – ranging in age from 19 to 54 (average age, 23).

"Ask yourself what you will be doing

10 years from now," Simon told graduates, "then start working toward that goal. Secondly, and most important, ask yourself what you can do to build a better community, a better state, a better nation and a better world."

Graduates, guests and the public were invited to join Gray and dignitaries for a dedication of Ken Gray Parkway at the north entrance to the college. The program was sponsored by the Rend Lake Association.

HONORARY DEGREES ▶ Rose Maloney, Victor and Betty Rapp saluted for 16 very good reasons

The similarities between Honorary Degree Award No. 2 and Honorary Degree Award No. 5, which were presented in 1978 and 1995, respectively, would make one believe Rend Lake College must have a blueprint for doing so . . .

In-district community: Dahlgren.

Description of award-winner: Parent(s) of Rend Lake College graduates.

How appropriate Rose Maloney of Dahlgren would become the second recipient of a Rend Lake College Honorary Degree during 11th Annual Commencement exercises on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, 1978.

A graduate already of the School of Hard Knocks, Mrs. Maloney received an Honorary Associate in Arts Degree for her critical role in seeing eight children graduate from RLC, and seven did so with high honors.

Recognized at the same time was 1978 grad Janice Loretta Maloney, one of only five Associate in Arts Degree recipients boasting perfect 4.0 grade-point averages.

Others in the Maloney household with Rend Lake College degrees are GERALYN MARY "Gerry" Maloney (A.A., Class of '76), Thomas Gerard Maloney (A.A., '75), Rita Gail Maloney (A.A., '74), Ronald Maloney (A.A., '73), Ellen Catherine Maloney (A.A., '71), Theresa Ann Maloney (A.A., '70) and Rosemarie Maloney (Mt. Vernon Community College / A.A., '67).

"I was very honored and surprised," Mrs. Maloney admitted later. "I'm pleased children can live at home and go to Rend Lake College."

The family has lived in the RLC District 20 years, initially in Mt. Vernon and most recently in Dahlgren. Rose Maloney has worked the last three years for Hamilton County Telephone Cooperative as a Commercial Representative.

A member of St. John's Church, she is Secretary of the Parish Council and participates in the church choir and St. Ann's Altar Society. She also is a member of the Dahlgren Grade School PTO. When she is not enjoying the privilege of entertaining her two grandsons, she likes gardening, cooking and reading.

The youngest of her children, Sallie Maloney, has plans to attend Rend Lake College in the near future. Jan Maloney will continue her education at Eastern Illinois University; all seven older siblings went on to obtain their Bachelor's Degrees.

Father Paul Maloney died in 1972.

Dr. Kenneth LaSalle, Dean of Instruction, told the Commencement audience Rose Maloney "is a mother, a mother who with selfless devotion has enabled her children to excel in the world of academics and to lead responsible lives in society.

"We would like to honor this tradition of excellence and love; more specifically, we honor the mother who has made it possible."

Eight is enough, apparently (as well it should be).

We take you now to 1995 and a return trip to Dahlgren, where RLC graduate Anita Louise (Rapp) Brown (A.A., '81) alerted Rend Lake College administrators to the almost-identical accomplishments of the Victor and Betty Rapp clan.

"At the time Rend Lake College was under construction, I remember taking a Sunday drive with my family to visit the campus. I remember my father remarking that, hopefully, all of us would attend Rend Lake College," Brown indicated by letter.

The dream began with Karen Marie (Rapp) Perryman (A.A., '77), and continued through Deborah Ann (Rapp) Rubenacker (A.A., '78), Susan Elizabeth (Rapp) Mikel (A.A., '80), Anita Louise (Rapp) Brown, David John Rapp (A.A., '83), Paul J. Rapp (AAS in Ag Production and Management,

* - * - *

The student (cont.)

they expressed their opinions in mature rhetoric and, on the basis of the explanation offered them, accepted the decision without further protest.

"Many graduates have expressed their appreciation of the kind of personal attention received at the college. Teachers keep regular office hours and willingly meet with students to discuss any problems that the student wishes to discuss. The Dean has met frequently with randomly selected groups of students to learn their ideas and their feelings and has been able to provide solutions to problems he might not otherwise have known existed. Students are welcomed into the President's Office and into the offices of the other administrators when they request an audience . . ."

" . . . Many of the graduates of Mt. Vernon Community College and Rend Lake College have gone on to success in various fields. Some of these achievements include earning of the Doctorate and university teaching or administration, the composing of operas or other musical forms and participation on senior college sports teams. Numbered among the teachers in high schools and elementary schools of the Rend Lake College District are more than 40 persons who obtained their first higher education work at one of the two colleges . . ."

" . . . So the trees have borne fruit – fruit which will continue to mature as years go on and as new nutrients are added to the soil."

ROBERT L. BROWN (MVCC '66), Mt. Vernon
1983 "Alumnus of the Year"
Guidance Counselor, Mt. Vernon Township H.S.
/ Part-time Rend Lake College GED Instructor

Dr. LESLIE JOHNSON (1974), Thompsonville
1984 "Alumnus of the Year"
Physician / Family Practitioner, Mt. Vernon
(later relocated to Peoria)

ALUMNI SUCCESSES

1983 - 1984

1984 - 1985



Maddy's milk mustache result of SAMMY Award

JUNE 2008

A milk mustache apparently is one of the hottest looks for college-bound kids this summer. Maddy Hawkins, who graduated this spring from both Pinckneyville High School and Rend Lake College, is ecstatically sporting hers.

Hawkins' application for the 2008 Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year (SAMMY) Award contest was recently selected from among a record-breaking 65,000 applications from high school students across the nation. Celebrity/athlete judges Mia Hamm, Michelle Kwan, Tony Hawk, Andy Roddick and Steve Nash helped SAMMY officials decide which 25 of this year's crop would rise to the top.

According to a release from SAMMY, the 25 winners are unsurpassed when it comes to top-notch performance in academics, athletics, community service and leadership. "We are so excited to be able to recognize students like Maddy and reward exceptional teens like her who work hard in the classroom and their communities, while staying active and making healthy lifestyle choices, like including milk in their daily routine," Kurt Graetzer, CEO of the National Milk Mustache "got milk?"® Campaign, stated in a release. Hawkins will receive a \$7,500 college scholarship and join Kwan and Avery Johnson for an award ceremony and induction into the SAMMY Hall of Fame at The Milk House at Disney's Wide World of Sports®. In addition, each of the 25 winners will grace the pages of *USA Today* on June 27 with their very own special-edition Milk Mustache ad.

(Continued at far right on next page)

'85), John W. Rapp (AAS in Ag Production and Management, '87) and Vickie Elizabeth Rapp (A.S., '95).

And as if that were not enough, add to the family total in-laws – RLC grads Randy Rubenacker ('78) and Chassity Simmons Rapp ('92).

Victor and Betty Rapp, surrounded by their proud family of Rend Lake College graduates, were presented Honorary Degrees during the 28th Annual Commencement program Friday evening, May 12, 1995, by Dr. Stephen B. Tietz, RLC Vice President.

HONORARY DEGREE NO. 3 ▶ **U.S. Ambassador to United Nations Jeane Jordan Kirkpatrick recognized**

United States Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Jordan Kirkpatrick was honored in July 1981 during special "graduation" ceremonies conducted by Rend Lake College.

College officials presented Kirkpatrick, a 1944 Mt. Vernon Township High School graduate, with an Honorary Associate in Arts Degree at a "Jeane Jordan Kirkpatrick Day" luncheon attended by a capacity crowd of 300 local well-wishers in Mt. Vernon.

She was making her first visit to her hometown since being appointed U.N. Ambassador earlier in the year by President Ronald Reagan.

Kirkpatrick was wearing a black graduation gown when she accepted the Honorary Degree from Dr. Harry J. Braun, Rend Lake College President, and RLC Board of Trustees Chair Joe McClure. Also at the head table was U.S. Representative Paul Simon (D-Carbondale).

The Honorary Degree is believed to be only the third ever awarded by Rend Lake College. Former Congressman Ken Gray was awarded the first one in 1975. Rose Maloney, Dahlgren, who helped eight children graduate from RLC, received a similar degree in 1978.

Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Arts and Communications Department Chair, read the citation honoring Kirkpatrick. RLC Faculty Secretary Miki Gudermuth hand-lettered the degree. Also attending the luncheon was RLC Trustee Everett Thompson of Sesser.

McClure told fellow Trustees Kirkpatrick later told an informal gathering "the degree meant a great deal to her. She indicated it was the first (honorary degree) she had ever received and it was a special honor since it was from her hometown."

Kirkpatrick earned an Associate Degree previously from Stephens College (MO).

HONORARY DEGREES ▶ **Jana Reynolds, 'Alum' Laird Wisely, LeAnn Russell cited posthumously**

Honorary Degrees have been awarded posthumously three times in the history of Rend Lake College.

■ In a touching ceremony during the 21st Annual Commencement at Rend Lake College May 13, 1988, the Associate in Applied Science Degree in Nursing earned by recent murder victim Jana Marie (Wellmaker) Reynolds was awarded posthumously to her husband, Jeff Reynolds, and her mother, Jane Wellmaker. The presentation was made by Dr. Harry Braun, RLC President.

Several relatives of Mrs. Reynolds were on hand for the ceremony, which was conducted one week after the body of the Mt. Vernon woman was discovered in her home. The brief service also included a poem written by classmate Lorilea Johnson. Mrs. Reynolds was a member of the 1987 RLC Graduate Practical Nurse class.

■ Laird D. Wisely was recognized posthumously in December 1999 as recipient of the RLC Foundation's 18th annual "Alumnus of the Year" Award.

Wisely had worked closely with college officials as a consultant on the handicapped-accessible Aquatics Center on-campus. But the founder of Therapy Resource Associates and Physical Rehab Works died September 22, 1999, at age 48 after a brief illness.

Wisely, an innovator and leader in the occupational and physical rehabilitation therapy field, did not graduate from Rend Lake College. The Benton product transferred to the in-district community college for his sophomore year and played basketball for the Warriors one season before moving on to Louisiana State University (LSU), where he earned his degree in Physical Therapy.

By definition, an "alumnus" is a graduate or a former student of a school, college or university.

Posthumous honors for Wisely came full circle on May 12, 2000, when his wife and business partner, Cathy, accepted an Honorary Degree on her late husband's behalf during 33rd annual Commencement exercises from Dr. Homer Cissell, RLC Vice President.

■ LeAnn Marie Russell likewise was awarded an Honorary Degree posthumously on May 12, 2000.

Russell, 27, of Dale was eight months pregnant when she died as a result of a two-vehicle accident Tuesday morning, April 25, at the Illinois 14 and Dahlgren Blacktop. She had just dropped off her daughter, Sarah, at Dahlgren Grade School and was on her way to classes at Rend Lake College.

She also was a student aide at Dale Elementary School.

The accident victim, one of two women killed in the collision of pickup trucks, was survived by her husband, David Russell, and her daughter, Sarah.

TWO OF AN AMAZING KIND ▶ There have never been students like Maddelynn and Alexandria Hawkins

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 6, 2008

Maddelynn and Alexandria Hawkins are leading the way on a fast track through academia.

After taking advantage of every dual credit and dual-enrollment opportunity Rend Lake College had to throw at them in their high school careers, the 18-year-old Pinckneyville twins – better known as Maddy and Alex – will walk across their high school graduation stage with college diplomas already in hand.

“It is almost surreal,” Maddy said. Technically, they will graduate from college before high school. RLC’s commencement ceremonies are Friday night (May 9) and Pinckneyville Community High School’s will take place May 18.

It began in the eighth grade. “Summer health class with Dr. Denny,” Alex said of their first RLC dual-credit class. “I don’t know why I remember that.”

According to their mother, Casey Hawkins, the twins completed the dual-credit health course with better marks than their college-age classmates. She remembers telling RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus Coordinator Heather Bauersachs at that time her girls were going to be the first two students to graduate from RLC and PCHS at the same time. “Heather always reminds me of that,” she said.

In high school, Maddy and Alex took a mixture of dual-credit and dual-enrollment classes through RLC.

Dual-credit consists of accelerated classes which qualifying high school students can opt to take as part of their regular schedule and earn both high school and college credit.

Dual-enrollment is overtime, so to speak, and consists of distance learning courses, online classes and night classes at RLC satellite campuses, such as the RLC Murphy-Wall Campus in Pinckneyville for Maddy and Alex.

Their combination of dual-credit and dual-enrollment hours was enough for both to graduate with an Associate Degree from Rend Lake College.

In addition to the accelerated path to higher education, dual-credit offers significant savings to area students and parents because it is tuition-free for students at participating in-district high schools.

The Hawkins twins saved their parents roughly \$8,832 in tuition to RLC. That figure is much higher when calculated using the tuition rate at the university level. For example, in Alex’s case, 64 credit hours at the Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville undergraduate rate of \$155 per hour would mean a savings of \$9,920. St. Louis University’s undergrad rate, which ranges from \$842.50 to \$1,263 for full-time students enrolled in 18 hours or less, would calculate to \$53,920 to \$80,832 in savings for the Hawkins family.

Alex will be among the RLC graduates to physically cross the stage Friday night. Maddy can’t make it, but she has a good excuse. She and mom will be on the road to Texas where Maddy will accept a national Toyota Community Service Scholarship that could mean up to \$20,000 for SLU in the fall.

Their mom recently traveled with them to Atlanta where they both accepted national scholarships from Coca-Cola worth \$10,000. While they were there, the sisters interviewed with Coca-Cola officials for a chance of increasing their scholarships to \$20,000 apiece.

It doesn’t stop there. Alex has been granted a President’s Scholarship for a full-ride for four years at SIUE where she will eventually enter dental school in Alton. She is the recipient of a Wendy’s Heisman Scholarship and Maddy is a finalist for a

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SAMMY Award (cont.)

“I am so excited to be in a Milk Mustache ad and to have won the SAMMY Award,” said Maddelynn. “It really is an honor to be among such an amazing group of students.”

The SAMMY scholarship has awarded more than \$2 million in scholarships in 11 years.

Astonishingly enough, this is not the first time a SAMMY has been won by a member of the Hawkins family. Brother Thad won last year for his athletic and academic achievements.

Maddy’s commitment to academics, athletics and more was the reason she earned a spot as one of the 25 SAMMY Award winners. Noteworthy achievements include the RLC High Achiever’s scholarship, a straight-A average in high school and college and a key to the city for making the IHSA Cheerleading finals.

For those who know Hawkins, that only scratches the surface of what she has accomplished. Whether it is an award from Coca-Cola, Toyota or SAMMY, or a scholarship from her local community college, her character shines through. She said this one is memorable because it is for achievement in cheerleading along with academics.

“I really like cheerleading and I think it’s important people realize all athletes are not the dumb jock cliché,” she said. “I think it is important to promote athletes can be successful in academics as well as athletics.”

She is truly inspirational – even in something so basic as drinking milk. “I love milk,” she said. “I like chocolate milk, though.”

Dr. HARL E. RYDER JR. (MVCC '58), Mt. Vernon
1985 "Alumnus of the Year"
Professor of Economics / Director of Graduate Studies,
Ivy League's Brown University - Providence, R.I.

Dr. GARY R. SWEETEN (MVCC '60), Ina
1986 "Alumnus of the Year"
Minister of Christian Growth,
College Hill Presbyterian Church - Cincinnati, OH

ALUMNI SUCCESSES

1985 - 1986

1986 - 1987



RLC transfer grade of 3.0 ranks No. 1 in state in '73

1976

A follow-up study by the Illinois Community College Board of 1973 transfer students reveals individuals from Rend Lake College achieved a 3.0 grade-point average at senior institutions, highest in the state among 49 two-year colleges.



Design student Whitsitt lands 'Dream' internship

SEPTEMBER 1977

Interior Design student Sue Whitsitt gained invaluable practical experience when she was asked to decorate the interior of the showcase Dream Home in Mt. Vernon sponsored by WMIX Radio. An estimated 3,000 curious guests visited the Dream Home between September 17-25. Whitsitt is an intern at Jordan Furnishing in Mt. Vernon.



Zoology major benefits from Trammell position

MAY 1994

Mel Snyder, a Zoology major who moved recently from Benton to Christopher, will benefit from the year Dr. Sue Trammell just completed as President of the Illinois Association of Community College Biologists. As a show of appreciation for her efforts, the IACCB gave the institution scholarship money to be presented to a deserving student. Snyder is a member of the newly formed RLC Biology Club. He is expected to graduate later this month from Rend Lake College and then transfer to Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year (SAMMY) Scholarship (see sidebar). Alex also won a \$1,000 Principal Leadership Scholarship through PCHS.

Since they were both deemed Students of the Month at PCHS this year, both are candidates for the Student of the Year Scholarship through Murphy-Wall State Bank in Pinckneyville.

The shared opportunity put them in unfamiliar territory, Alex explained. "It's kind of weird," she said. "We are not used to competing against each other for a scholarship. This will be the first time, I think. We try not to apply for the same ones."

Alex won; however Maddy holds no hard feelings. She beams about being the recipient of a \$60,000 Provost's Scholarship to SLU. Because she is transferring in as a Med-Scholar, admission to medical school at SLU is an option her sophomore year. According to Maddy, being a Med-Scholar just about guarantees her acceptance into the medical school.

This school year, \$880,000 in RLC tuition was saved by area high school students who took dual-credit classes. That figure is nearly double the savings compared to last year.

The source of the surge was more participating high schools – the program is now in a dozen schools – and more dual-credit classes, according to RLC's Dual-Credit Coordinators Chris Kuberski, Liberal Arts Chair, and Barb Davenport, Math, Science and Education Chair.

Both Maddy and Alex agreed the dual-credit classes in high school were quality classes offering a good transition from one level to the next.

"They were not as hard as I think college classes can be, but they were harder than classes at the high school level," Maddy said.

While a number of dual-credit participants may have a year of college completed by the time they graduate from high school, according to Kuberski, what Maddy and Alex have accomplished is special.

"I am not aware of other students who have done this," Kuberski said of the simultaneous diplomas. "There may be, but I believe it is rare."

Balancing a schedule of high school, night classes in Pinckneyville, classes on the RLC campus, science classes in Carterville, cheerleading, playing French horns in the high school marching band, serving as senior class and student council officers, competing in FFA, helping launch the Perry

County Youth Court, and volunteering each year for everything from Locks of Love and Toys for Tots, to Operation Samaritan . . . one might think these co-valedictorians are too good to be true.

Well . . . their mom thinks so, too. "They have set their own priorities and lived up to their own self-imposed expectations, making their mom and dad very proud," Casey said. "As a parent, I admire their tenacity and motivation to achieve their own dreams and goals."

Casey offers guidance to students as a counselor at Trico Senior High School in Campbell Hill, while Dad Wayne Hawkins offers everything from regular screenings to root canals at his office in Pinckneyville, where he has practiced dentistry for the last 25 years.

One would be remiss to not mention their long list of honors. Both are four-time high honor roll students and have been listed in *Who's Who Among High School Students* since they were freshman. They are each two-time recipients of the Reading for a Lifetime Award and members of the All-State Academic Team.

In their senior year, they both were Illinois State Scholars, Merit State Scholars with ACT scores of 31 for Maddy and 32 for Alex, Prairie State School Scholars, Athlete of the Week, Student of the Month, candidates on the Homecoming Court, members of the Southern Illinois Society for High Achievement and RLC High Achievers Scholarship recipients.

The Hawkins twins spared themselves years at the universities – significant when considering SIUE's eight-year dental program and SLU's medical school beyond the four-year track. Maddy estimates she will study at SLU for the next decade.

The transition from high school to college can be overwhelming and sometimes frightening for a new student. The right roommate can make or break the first year.

Luckily, Alex is very familiar with her roommates-to-be. "They rely on me," she said of her brothers, Zach and Thad. "Living with them . . . it will be interesting."

Also interesting is the fact their brothers also are twins. They play baseball for the SIUE Cougars.

"I think since all four just grew up together, not ever really knowing about the only-child syndrome, they have taken care of each other and just turned out really great!" Casey said.

Although Maddy will be miles away from her siblings, she will not be too far. The SLU campus is only about 30 minutes from Edwardsville.

"We will still be close, but not too close," Alex said.

'AWESOME' COURTNEY YOUNG ▶ Graduates from RLC with two degrees (before getting high school diploma)

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 20, 2015

[Just when you think you have heard it all, along comes a one-woman version of the Amazing Hawkins Twins seven years later.]

It takes a lot of determination and drive to become a college graduate before receiving a high school diploma, but that is the story for Courtney Young, a senior at Christopher High School this year and already a Rend Lake College alumna.

May is a big month for Young, who walked across RLC's Commencement stage Saturday (May 16) and will continue strutting down to graduation at CHS this Friday. She joins the ranks of very few students who have obtained a college diploma from RLC before leaving high school.

Young has been working to reach this personal goal since the summer before her junior year nearly two years ago. She said the plan was to give her a head start in college and on scholarship applications by enrolling in RLC's Dual Credit and dual enrollment programs.

"Reaching this achievement has been very surreal for me," said Young. "Graduating from Rend Lake College before I graduate from high school has been a goal of mine since the summer after my sophomore year.

"To finally have reached this goal is such an incredible feeling. It's really indescribable. This achievement has certainly helped when it comes to filling out scholarship applications. It's pretty awesome to be able to say I'm graduating from RLC with Associate Degrees in both Arts and Science."

Every year, hundreds of students like Young take advantage of RLC's Dual Credit and dual enrollment programs which allow high school students to take college-level courses tuition-free.

Lisa Price, Vice President of Student Services, said these programs continue to provide financial relief to parents and caregivers in the community.

"Courtney took advantage of RLC's Dual Credit courses, which are taken during the day for credit at Christopher High School as well as at RLC, plus the dual enrollment courses during each semester and the summer," explained Price.

"She also enrolled in some online courses that helped push her toward her goal. Altogether, Courtney saved her family approximately \$6,000 in tuition."

In fact, in the 2013-2014 academic year, a total of 1,581 students in 12 local high schools learned the value of RLC's Dual Credit and dual enrollment programs by saving \$792,110 in tuition alone. At \$95 per credit hour, this means students earned 8,338 credit hours in the Spring and Fall semesters toward degrees at RLC.

In addition to Young, CHS enrolled 118 students (duplicated) into the RLC programs for a total of 481 credit hours and \$45,695 in tuition savings. Mt. Vernon Township High School had the most participants in the programs with 981 (duplicated) for a total of 3,077 total credit hours and savings of \$292,315 in tuition.

Starting with dual enrollment courses in the summer of 2013, Young embarked on a journey that would lead her to take between two and five Dual Credit and dual enrollment courses each semester. It all started with encouragement from her family and school advisors.

"I first heard about the Dual Credit courses through my high school because they offer several for juniors and seniors. However, my parents were the first to mention taking dual enrollment courses over the summer," said Young. "When I first began taking Dual Credit and dual enrollment classes, they were fairly easy, only there was a little more work involved. In my last two semesters, however, I found the classes to be a bit difficult, but not unmanageable.

"Overall, I really enjoyed the challenges that came with taking courses at Rend Lake. I feel they helped enhance my knowledge

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Letters ... we get letters ... lots and lots of letters

DECEMBER 16, 1991

It seems someone at Rend Lake College is getting a "Thank-you" of some kind from an appreciative student on a daily basis. And those notes of gratitude are well-received. Jobs Training Partnership Act student John Zeigler provides a perfect example . . .

Dear Mr. Kern:

I am a student at Rend Lake College and I am majoring in the Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration program, sponsored by JTPA.

I have the highest regard for Rend Lake College. In particular, I think Mary Roe and her tutoring project is great. I want to thank Frank Fenton, my welding instructor, Gary Wade, my electricity instructor, Cristy Peters, my math teacher, and Don Lynch, my heating and air conditioning instructor, for having faith in me before I had faith in myself.

Rend Lake College, Mary Roe and her tutoring project and Gary Darnell, my tutor, have turned my life around and have given me a new lease on life. I was depressed at mid-term and I knew I needed help. I turned to Mary Roe for help and got it. Furthermore, with Mary's help, I turned from desperation to exaltation. With their help, I have come from a "D" student to a high "B" student. I would like to express how grateful and happy my family and I are.

My outlook on life has gone from negative to positive. Thank you Rend Lake College.

Sincerely, John Zeigler

Dr. MARY KAY WITGES BENGTON (71), Scheller
1987 "Alumna of the Year"
Health Service Staff / Athletic Physician
for Women's Basketball, North Carolina State University

CAROL DILLEY-JAUDES (1975), Mt. Vernon
1988 "Alumna of the Year"
Stage Actress / Entertainer,
New York (Broadway) and St. Louis

ALUMNI SUCCESSES

1987 - 1988

1988 - 1989



'From the Heart' author returns to RLC campus

MARCH 1994

Mt. Vernon product Queen Ester Kirkwood-Hatchett, a 1988 graduate of Rend Lake College, returned to campus to sign copies of her recently published book of poems, **From the Heart**. Kirkwood-Hatchett received her degree in Criminal Justice. She also signed autographs in her hometown.



Minority students 5.6% of student body in FY92

SEPTEMBER 1993

According to the college's official report on Underrepresented Groups for FY92, minority students represented 5.6% of the total student body. Project First Class, a fifth-year grant program which encourages elementary and high school minority students to pursue college-bound curriculums, was credited for the increase of 19 minority students over the previous year. Female students outnumbered their male counterparts by a 53:47 ratio and earned 58% of those degrees and certificates awarded, indicated the report prepared by Dean of Student Services Pam Smith.



Fullerton and three others 'Careerists' with RLC ties

NOVEMBER 1997

Four of the five finalists for the "Young Careerist of the Year" Award sponsored by the Mt. Vernon Business and Professional Women's Club have connections to Rend Lake College, including winner Melanie Fullerton. The award recipient received her Associate in Arts Degree from RLC and is employed by Citizens Bank.

and furthered my education while I was still enrolled at Christopher."

Price said students like Young are the model scholars RLC enjoys working with and helping advance their personal goals. While enrolled in RLC programs, Young worked with Price for course scheduling and guidance.

"Courtney is a very dedicated student. She began taking dual enrollment and Dual Credit classes the second she could," said Price. "She is one of the few students who has ever reached this level of graduating from both high school and college at the same time. It's extremely rare. It's admirable to see her striving toward her goal. She was very organized and motivated from the beginning because she had an end goal of transferring to a university. She knew she wanted to try to get scholarships, so she was working hard in all her courses, plus she's juggling several extracurricular activities. We always welcome students with her dedication and tenacity."

If not impressive enough, Young's achievements don't stop at two diplomas. Not only was she enrolled as a part-time college student, but Young also competed on the CHS Varsity Scholar Bowl and Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) teams.

On the side, she founded and served as President of the CHS Community Service Club and has been actively involved with the National Honor Society as the Treasurer and the Drama Club. Young spent her spare time peer tutoring in RLC's Writing Center and cheering for the CHS football and basketball teams.

During this time at CHS, she claimed several honors, including Illinois State Scholar, Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award and Wendy's High School Heisman School Award. She served as Christopher Area Betterment Association Student Representative and made the Honor Roll for four years and Scholar Athlete in Cheerleading for two years.

RLC President Terry Wilkerson said Young's impressive résumé and hard work show her commitment to education. He speaks on behalf of the college when congratulating and encouraging her to keep striving forward.

"Courtney is the perfect example of what you can accomplish with vision and plenty of hard work. Dual Credit and dual enrollment are both great opportunities for

students in our high schools, and this is just one of the benefits they can reap. We wish her all the best," said Wilkerson.

For Young, the road to a higher education doesn't stop at RLC. She plans to attend Stetson University in DeLand, FL, this fall to major in Political Science and minor in Business and English. The goal, she says, is to be a public policy analyst and work with laws at the state or federal level.

To the students who share the same high-achieving goals as herself, Young had a few words of advice:

"Dual enrollment classes are not something to be taken lightly; they take time and effort. It's extremely important those wishing to do what I have developed good time management skills and only take on what they're capable of," said Young. "I also suggest taking advantage of instructors' office hours and the Writing Center and Math Lab. All of these resources are incredibly helpful, and I am extremely grateful they were available during my time at RLC."

She added, "The most important advice I have to give is to make time for fun. Make time to spend with friends and family, go out with friends on a Friday night, spend a night watching movies with family. Most of all, don't forget about the people who are around to support you. I wouldn't have made it this far without the support of my family, friends, high school teachers and college instructors and counselors.

"I am extremely thankful for all of the people in my life who have supported me throughout this journey, because I couldn't have done this without them."

THE LONG JOURNEY OF Dey Tuach Dey – 'Unaccompanied Minor' to major university (Arkansas)

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SPORTS CONNECTION JULY 2010
BY NATHAN WHEELER OF REND LAKE COLLEGE

[This magazine article, which first appeared in the July 2010 issue of Southern Illinois Sports Connection published by Rend Lake College Alumnus of the Year Jim Muir, was awarded the Bronze Medallion of Merit by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) in November. Competition involves professionals from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and the Canadian province of Ontario.]

Dey Tuach Dey has been on many paths. He is probably running on one right now at Rend Lake College where he became a National Champion in Track and an All-American in Cross-Country.

After the summer, he will be on a new path at the University of Arkansas where he has accepted an NCAA D-I Track and Cross-Country scholarship. For Tuach, it's the next step on a miraculous and tragic journey that began 13 years ago.

Listening and watching while Tuach talks about his childhood is heart wrenching. His head falls into his massive hands more than once. He shakes. It's like the memories are causing him physical pain. He rubs his head as if to wipe them away, but they will be there forever. He cannot erase the things he saw or undo what he was forced to suffer through when war entered his Sudanese village and changed his life forever.

He was seven – the son of Tuach Dey Mut and Nyamuonga Lul Chuol. One of his daily chores was to collect cow dung early in the morning to burn throughout the day and ward off insects that could endanger their livestock.

"I think about that day a lot," he said. "I will never forget it, all of my life. I will not forget it."

It was the last day he saw his parents. Soldiers came into the village and started killing everything – men, women and children. Dey and his parents fled in different directions. He hid, waited and watched the devastation unfold. As he started to head back to find them, he was stopped by a man. Kach Pathod was fleeing the area with his family and he insisted on taking the 7-year-old with them. He most likely saved Tuach's life. It was the beginning of a paternal friendship that will last a lifetime.

The group began to walk. They walked away from the killing. But the path to safety and security at an Ethiopian refugee camp held dangers of its own. It would take four months to reach the camp. The brutality that unfolded over that time, across unforgiving African plains, haunts Tuach every day.

He remembers Pathod raising him onto his shoulder and crossing crocodile-infested waters, red from the blood of victims being killed just feet from them.

"We crossed the rivers and they would come and . . ." He stops there. "If they get you . . . you are dead. They hate people."

The crocs were not the only killers along the way – there was starvation and dehydration. When they could, they would place their faces deep inside elephant footprints and lap up the muddy water that had not yet evaporated. Tuach remembers Pathod letting him drink first, before his own family.

Lions and other wild animals would circle their camp at night. They would collect firewood during the day to keep the fire ablaze at night. He doesn't remember Pathod ever sleeping, he said. Their leader would stay up with his gun, keep the fire going and guard the group, according to Tuach.

They would eat fruit when they could find it. When they couldn't find fruit, they resorted to other food sources.

"Kach killed a gazelle," Tuach said. "It was uncooked. Everyone was so hungry and we just wanted to eat. So he cut it and we ate."

After four months navigating the wilderness and enduring dangers no person – let alone a 7-year-old boy – should endure, they arrived at the refugee camp in Ethiopia. Tuach and six other children his age were housed together in a tent at the camp.

Media reports about the "Lost Children of Sudan" surfaced across the globe. Tuach said those reports were about the children who fled to a camp in Kenya. And while he was not one of them, his story was the same. The "Unaccompanied Minors," as his group was called, were all children who had lost their parents to war or had been separated from them in the chaos.

He lived nine years in the camp. Each day involved chores like distributing food and collecting water rations in the morning and evening. And there was school. He said if it hadn't been for United Nations representatives holding classes, he probably would have never attended school.

"I liked it because I wanted to learn and meet friends at school," he said.

Pathod gathered Tuach and the other children together every Saturday to talk about what they had been through. Tuach said it was so they would never forget.

His memories are thick now. In April,



'Student of Year' honor not new for Marilee Beck

MAY 2008

EDWARDSVILLE – Rend Lake College graduate Marilee Beck has taken what she learned in and out of RLC classrooms and turned it into award-winning success at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

Beck, 23, of McLeansboro, is recipient of the 2008 SIUE "Student Employee of the Year" Award and was recognized during National Student Employee Week. She has worked as an office assistant in the SIUE Department of Economics and Finance for the past two years and recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree.

Prior to transferring to SIUE, Beck earned a 3.89 GPA at RLC and three degrees – Associate in Arts, Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science in Office Systems Technology Administrative Assistant.

While attending Rend Lake College, she was a student-worker in the RLC Foundation office on-campus and with Studio RLC Paul Mitchell Partner School at the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon. Beck was 2003 Cooperative Education "Student of the Year."



In 1965, MVCC enrolls seven of Top Ten grads

In 1965, Mt. Vernon Community College enrolled seven of the Top Ten students who had graduated from Mt. Vernon Township High School in June.

KEVIN DAVIS (1972), Mt. Vernon
1989 "Alumnus of the Year"
Comptroller / Treasurer,
Rend Lake Conservancy District

GLORIA J. SLOAN-REEL (1974), McLeansboro
1990 "Alumna of the Year"
Product Brand Manager,
Rhône-Poulenc Ag Co. - Research Triangle Park, NC

ALUMNI SUCCESSES

1989 - 1990

1990 - 1991



National winner Radake says 'Thanks a thousand'

AUGUST 1991

A big smile came over the face of Sue Wells as she hung up the telephone last week following an unexpected call from a former Rend Lake College student.

Michael Alan Radake, Class of 1991, was calling simply to say, "Thanks a million."

Well, maybe not a million. But "Thanks a thousand" does not sound too bad, either.

Radake, with help from the Rend Lake College Director of Admissions and Records, had just been notified he is one of only 25 scholarship winners from the National Dean's List, Educational Communities, Inc. He was calling to let Wells and the college know he appreciated their efforts on his behalf.

A Scheller resident, Radake graduated from Rend Lake College with an Associate in Science Degree and will transfer this fall to Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He was a member of the local chapter of Phi Theta Kappa scholastic honor fraternity.

The \$1,000 award is based on merit and academic achievement, with some consideration to leadership, financial need and extracurricular involvement.

Wells typically submits nominations of every RLC student on the President's list (perfect 4.0 grade-point average) and Dean's List (3.5 GPA or better) each semester for consideration. "To my knowledge, he (Radake) is the first student we have ever had to receive the National Dean's List Scholarship," she said.

Tuach received a phone call from Africa. It was his friend who lived in the refugee camp. He said there was someone there who wanted to speak with Tuach. When she spoke, the voice wasn't familiar, Tuach said.

"One thing I did recognize," he said. "She called me 'Chuol.' Then I knew that it was her."

It had been 13 years since he had heard his mother call him by his boyhood nickname. She had walked three days to the nearest phone. Albeit a long-distance reunion, that phone call provided the answer to a big question that had tortured Tuach for years. "Until then, I did not know they were alive. My mom was crying. At first, she did not trust that it was me. She didn't think I was still alive. Until then, I did not know they were alive. I didn't know what to say. I was quiet."

He asked about his father. She told him he is alive, but gravely ill. Tuach had sent his friend \$100 months before. When the friend found Tuach's family in Sudan, he knew the right thing to do was to give it to them. Little did Tuach know, that gift to his friend would be used to buy medicine that saved his father's life.

"She said, 'Your dad is alive because of the money you sent,'" Tuach said. "It really feels good. She said, 'He refuses to die before he sees you.' I want to see my dad before he is dead."

His desire to return to Sudan and be with his father is great. But his mother's wish is for Tuach to continue on his path to Arkansas.

"She was happy. She likes what I'm doing right now."

After the call, Tuach had trouble sleeping and concentrating in class. He said he would try to focus on what his instructor was teaching, but his mind kept drifting off to the past. Now, months later, he is taking summer courses to complete his degree at Rend Lake College. He will major in business management at Arkansas. He has also been working to become a naturalized U.S. citizen. There are some in Colorado who are still helping him with this.

Tuach moved to the U.S. in 2007. He landed in Thornton, CO, as part of a U.N. program called Red Abana.

"United Nations representatives came and talked to me one day in the camp, asking me if I would like to go to America. The first thing I was thinking was how am

I going to go to America when I don't know where my parents are."

U.N. officials told the children about the U.S. They were told it was a good place to live. Tuach recalls stories floating around the camp about a place with no sickness or crime, and where a person could drive a car after they turned 10 years old. In retrospect, he offers a wide grin.

"I thought if I lived there, I would change my life to a good life," he said.

Although he claims his best sport was soccer, Thornton High School coaches saw another future for the young man. Tuach joined the Cross-Country and Track and Field teams and quickly found success running. He won a state championship in the 800M and finished third in the 1600M finals after being tripped in the race. As a senior, disaster struck in the State Championship Cross-Country Meet. With a sizeable lead, it looked as if he would bring Thornton an individual Cross-Country State Championship as well. Then, in the final leg, Tuach suddenly stopped and sat down. He had torn his meniscus and would not finish the race.

He healed and signed with former Coach Brent McLain at RLC. In November, he helped RLC to a National Cross-Country title by placing 11th for a spot on the NJCAA All-America Team. He is currently dealing with a slight stress fracture he suffered shortly after the championships.

Tuach will turn 21 next month. When asked what he thinks his life might be like now if things had been different and he still lived in Sudan, he offered an interesting response.

"I probably would be a soldier. The war is still going on. Everything is about Christianity and Muslims. Everybody has a gun. When you are 15 years old you have a gun, so you go to the war and you fight."

He dreams of returning to Sudan, to see his mother and reunite with his father before he dies. For now, it is safe to travel in and out of the area where his parents are, he said.

"That's why I'm thinking about going. If . . . I might not get to come back, I would not go. I really want them to come to America to stay with me. It might not be a good idea for them . . . maybe my little brothers and sisters can come to America. I'm going to help them as long as I'm still alive."

He misses Pathod, too. He said he wants to bring them all to the U.S., so they can live with him here.

He has built close relationships with some local residents. Rend Lake College Trustee Bill Simpson and his wife, Vickie, are known for offering helpful hands to international athletes at RLC who are adjusting to their new home. Tuach also mentioned Amy Cook, a Counselor at the college who worked closely with athletes on tutoring, study habits and other tools; and Pam Minor and her husband, Mark, the Pastor of Whittington Church where Tuach attends.

"They are important to me," Tuach said. "Anytime I need help, they are there. Vickie has helped me a lot . . . She helps me make good decisions about the future."

"Dey Dey is a survivor," Simpson said. "He has survived years in a refugee camp in Ethiopia and has managed to stay positive in spite of all his trials. He is an inspiration to me. His life has been so difficult, but in spite of it all, he looks to the future and works hard to make his life successful. He never gives up.

"That's why he is and will continue to be a success story. I will always remember Dey and be in admiration of the type of beautiful person he has become."

Tuach is a talented runner, focused on school and sport, with dreams of one day running professionally.

"It is hard. But I'm working hard every day. If all this wouldn't have happened, I wouldn't be where I am today. It happened and God has a reason why. Coming to America changed my life. I started running in America. I'm really excited about Arkansas. I really feel good about it. I think Rend Lake will hear my name coming from Arkansas. Rend Lake . . . it opened the door for me to be who I am today."

ALL-ILLINOIS ACADEMIC TEAM ▶ Miner-turned Auto student Robinson 'makes all of us proud' with honor

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 1996

Kenneth Robinson "is the type of student that makes all of us proud," Director of Counseling Jay Lewis told the RLC Board of Trustees last week.

Now the world knows.

Robinson, an automotive student from

Coulterville, is one of 36 Illinois students chosen for inclusion on the All-USA Community and Junior College Academic Team.

Robinson is what once was referred to as a "nontraditional" student who is becoming much more traditional. He was a coal miner with more than 20 years experience and a family to support when mine closings and layoffs by Peabody Coal Company cost him his job.

According to a feature story in *The Southern Illinoisan* newspaper, Robinson had a wife, three children and a mortgage to think about . . . but no job prospects.

"Instead of becoming bitter about his misfortune and responsibilities, however, Robinson used them as motivation to begin a second career," wrote SI's Scott Wuerz.

The article cited "money set aside for out-of-work miners from the Illinois Clean Air Act" for enabling Robinson to register for classes with his tuition prepaid. He began taking classes less than two months after his layoff became a reality.

"The layoff," Wuerz explained, "now seems like a dream come true."

"I have known many men in the same unfortunate job situation who became bitter about losing their employment and did not want to return to school to learn other job skills," commented Professor Sam McCowen. "Some finished the program with minimal effort, and some never finished for one reason or another.

"Kenny came to my class for the first time with an attitude most (recent) high-achieving high school graduates don't have. It became obvious to me in a short time that he was here to learn as much as he could. It also was obvious that he read the required text thoroughly when he asked some very specific questions that required a knowledge of the subject," McCowen added.

"His attitude and drive were contagious."

Robinson is expected to be recognized later this month in *USA Today* with other members of the Illinois contingent. He likewise will be honored during Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremonies April 26 on the Rend Lake College campus.



Oldest Freshman Ingles hoping to change jobs

R.L.C. TIMES SEPTEMBER 2000

Meet Doris Ingles, *RLC Times* Student Spotlight. At 59 years old, she is the eldest freshman at Rend Lake College.

Ingles has been a coal miner since 1978. She is currently taking six credit hours toward her Business Administration Degree. Ingles has three children and four grandchildren, who are very proud of her decision to return to school. Ingles has been a widow for 10 years, following 24 1/2 years of married bliss. She currently resides in Sesser.

After years of hard labor in the coal mine, she decided she needed an easier job with better benefits. After talking with the staff at the Administration Office, JTPA and other members of the faculty, she decided Rend Lake College was the best school that met all of her needs and expectations.

As of press time, Ingles has "no complaints" regarding RLC. In fact, all she can do is sing the praises of the staff and students alike. "Everyone is very friendly and helpful," says Ingles.

As the eldest freshman, she offers these words of wisdom: "Ask questions, and don't be afraid."

- Jacqui Morris, Staff Writer

CRAIG M. SINCLAIR (1974), Mt. Vernon
1991 "Alumnus of the Year"
Vice President of Advertising,
The Walgreen Company

CINDA CHULLEN (1979), Benton
1992 "Alumna of the Year"
Technical Manager, NASA (National Aeronautics and Space
Administration) Johnson Space Center - Houston, TX

ALUMNI SUCCESSES

1991 - 1992

1992 - 1993



RLC Soph Lori Hart ('81) Miss DuQuoin State Fair

AUGUST 1980

Rend Lake College sophomore Lori Dawn Hart was named "Miss DuQuoin State Fair." The Valier resident is a member of the RLC Student Senate and a student-worker in the Print Shop on-campus.

She was chosen from a field of 10 contestants representing Jackson, Perry and Franklin counties. The victory entitles her to compete next July for the Miss Illinois title in Aurora.

Hart's duties included attending most fair-related activities and presenting trophies to winners of auto and harness races. She also had the opportunity to meet such entertainers as Country Musician Willie Nelson (an electronic baseball foe), Harry Kasey of K.C. and the Sunshine Band and Comedian Red Skelton.

The winner credited two RLC summer courses for contributing to her success – Speech and Contemporary Literature. "We had a seven-minute interview with the judges the day of the pageant, and I feel those two classes, in particular, helped me a lot," she said.

Pageant competition included evening gown and swimsuit modeling, a speech on behalf of sponsor Rend Lake Bank of Christopher, and talent in the form of a song, "He's Out of My Life," accompanied by Voice Teacher Cindy Massie.

Miss DuQuoin State Fair received \$1,000 towards her education at SIUC, where she will major in Public Relations.

"It has been one of the best opportunities I have ever had," Hart said. "I will be attending other pageants in the area, because I'll be in the Miss Illinois Pageant. My activities aren't over yet; I'm looking forward to the rest of the year."

The All-America candidate is on target to graduate next month with an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Automotive Technology and is making plans to attend Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in the fall.

He eventually would like to teach at the community college level.

No problem, insist his instructors.

"What impressed me most about Kenny," continued McCowen, "is his problem-solving skills. When presented with a problem, and in some cases where special tools were not available, he improvised a method to complete the task that some times seemed more logical than the method outlined by the manufacturer.

"I have witnessed many a student, in attempting to perform an alignment, brought to a standstill by various problems. Kenny's knowledge, common sense and general work ethic provided a solution to the problem."

Instructor Keith Kendrick commented, "We recognized Kenny's potential immediately and offered him a lab assistant position. As lab assistant, Kenny has helped other students and has demonstrated potential as a future trainer or instructor."

Robinson has been on the President's List with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average each of the past two semesters and carries a 3.95 GPA overall.

In addition to being a lab assistant for three different classes, the former underground roof bolter, laborer and repairman is quite active in his church, First United Methodist of Sparta. He is on the Board of Trustees and Pastor-Parish Relations Board and works with youth in various capacities.

"Ken always finds time to be active in the church and to reach out and help those around him," says a close friend of 18 years, Carl Holland.

"Ken is not a person who seeks or receives very much acclamation," Holland added. "He is simply a man who quietly goes about his life helping and serving others. He seeks no thanks or recognition for his achievements. I am proud to call him a friend."

Tentative postgraduate plans have Robinson seeking short-term employment to pay off some family bills before enrolling at SIUC in pursuit of that teaching degree.

"Kenny needs to pass on what he has learned to other people," McCowen told *The Southern Illinoian*. "It will be a challenge for him at SIU, but I hope he follows through

with it because he has what it takes to be a good teacher."

The *SI* article concluded: "Robinson has only one regret – that he did not find his calling sooner.

"I don't have the health problems and coughs you get from working in the coal mines. I've developed confidence in my own abilities, and I've found something I like to do," he said. "Being laid off seemed like a disaster at the time, but it has been a blessing in disguise."

P.T.K. NATIONAL AWARD ▶ **Talisha Chambliss one of 10 finalists for prestigious Guistwhite Scholarship**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 2001

Talisha Chambliss, a Rend Lake College sophomore from Bluford, is one of 10 students nationwide to be selected as a 2001 Guistwhite Finalist and receive a \$1,000 scholarship toward completion of her baccalaureate studies.

Over 800 applicants were in competition to receive Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society's most prestigious award.

According to PTK Executive Director Rod A. Risley, "Students are selected for this singular recognition based upon high academic achievement, outstanding leadership accomplishment, involvement in college and community service programs, a written essay and letters of recommendation from college faculty and community leaders.

"The purpose of The Guistwhite Scholarship is to facilitate completion of baccalaureate studies following graduation at a two-year college."

Chambliss serves as secretary for the Rend Lake College Student Senate and represented that organization as its Homecoming Queen candidate. A graduate of Webber Township High School, she also is Honorary Fund-Raising Coordinator for Phi Theta Kappa.

Those recipients able to attend will be recognized and will receive certificates March 31 from Dr. Jack and Margaret Guistwhite, for whom the scholarships are named, at the Annual PTK International Convention in Denver.

Scholarship awards totaling \$60,000 are presented annually to Phi Theta Kappa members through the Guistwhite Scholarship Program. Ten qualifying students receive scholarships of \$5,000 each, as well as the 10 Finalists.

Phi Theta Kappa, founded in 1918, serves

1,200 two-year colleges around the world. Nearly 1.5 million students have earned PTK membership since its founding, with more than 80,000 students inducted each year.

Membership in the Rend Lake College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, Rho Xi, is available to full-time students who achieve a semester grade-point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0-point scale. It is the community college equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa.

DARK AUTHOR BRIAN HODGE ▶ Credits: 'Armful of novels of horrors/ crime, nonfiction beyond reckoning'

Author Brian Hodge, a native of Mt. Vernon and a Rend Lake College graduate (1980), returned to the Ina campus March 27, 1996 for two readings. Hodge had six novels in print at the time and around 60 short stories published. His latest book, **Prototype**, was released recently by Dell SC-PPA. At the time of his return to his Juco alma mater, Hodge was a three-time nominee for the Horror Writers Association's annual Bram Stoker Awards, with works published in six countries. *Fangoria Magazine* applauded **Prototype** as "his darkest and most powerful vision yet."

Bram Stoker Award Nominations for Hodge prior to the homecoming:

- **Deathgrip** (Novel), 1992
- **The Alchemy of the Throat** (Long Fiction), 1994
- **The Convulsion Factory** (Fiction Collection), 1996

Later Hodge nominations were for:

- **Madame Babylon** (Short Fiction), 1997
- **As Above, So Below** (Long Fiction), 1998

In case these awards are not familiar with non-horror readers, consider the likes of such multiple nominees/winners as Stephen King – a winner for **Lunch at the Gotham Cafe** (Long Fiction) in 1995; **The Green Mile** (Novel) in '96; **Bag of Bones** (Novel) in '98, and **The Dark Tower V: Wolves of the Calla** (Novel) in 2003, among many others – and J.K. Rowling in the Young Readers category for **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire** ('05) and **Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix** ('03). **The Si-**

lence of the Lambs (Novel) won for Thomas Harris in 1988, and Michael Crichton was a nominee.

More recent books penned by Hodge include the highly acclaimed **Wild Horses** and his long-awaited second venture into crime novels, **Mad Dogs**, "which once again finds him careening at whiplash speeds between black humor and the pounding heart of darkness," according to the authors official website, brianhodge.net.

Praise for **Mad Dogs** is provided by several reviews, including:

"This big, fast-paced thriller keeps (main character) Jamey and the reader on their toes from beginning to end. The book never quite goes where we think it's going to go, and by the time we figure out what Hodge is up to, we're completely hooked. Horror fans know Hodge's dark fiction . . . but he's a new name to most crime-fiction readers. That deserves to change."

~ Booklist

"A whirlwind crime novel that takes a sort of backwards approach to most books of its type . . . Brian Hodge's characters feel real, gritty and comfortable. Even when he writes about people you probably don't really want to meet, or those involved in things they should not be involved in, he brings out their humanity and makes it real in a way that draws you in and makes you part of it all."

~ David Niall Wilson at Macabre Ink

Similar praise arrived in earlier reviews for **Wild Horses** . . .

"A first-class crime thriller, full of suspense, dark humor and richly comic characters."

~ *The Denver Post*

"I have not enjoyed reading a novel more this year . . . Hodge has a deft, sure grasp of that old Shakespearean dramatic device of utilizing comedy to drive home horror, and using horror to galvanize sometimes painful, but always unrestrained, laughter."

~ Ed Bryant in Locus

The Brian Hodge Biography on his website indicates he is "content to be known as a pretty good raconteur ('a skilled teller of anecdotes; one who tells a good story')."



Brian Hodge update: Wikipedia 2015

FROM THE FREE ENCYCLOPEDIA

Brian Hodge is a prolific writer in a number of genres and subgenres, as well as an avid connoisseur of music. He currently lives in Boulder, CO, where he is working on his latest novel.

Brian Hodge's novels are often dark in nature. Themes like self-sacrifice are important to him. He also likes being able to explore different types of belief systems in his stories.

He has been nominated for numerous awards, and won the International Horror Guild Award for best short fiction.

NOVELS

- **Mad Dogs** (Cemetery Dance Publications, 2007)
- **World of Hurt** (Earthling Publications, 2006)
- **Hellboy: On Earth As It Is In Hell** (Pocket Books, 2005)
- **Wild Horses** (Wm. Morrow & Co., 1999, hardcover and Ballantine, 2000, paperback)
- **Prototype** (Dell, '96; Delirium Books, 2007, hardcover)
- **The Darker Saints** (Dell, '93)
- **Deathgrip** (Dell, '92, paperback; Delirium Books, '05, hard)
- **Nightlife** (Dell, 1991)
- **Oasis** (Tor Books, 1989)
- **Dark Advent** (Pinnacle, '88)

SHORT FICTION COLLECTIONS

- **Picking the Bones** (Cemetery Dance Pub., 2011)
- **Lies & Ugliness** (Night Shade Books, 2002)
- **Falling Idols** (Silver Salamander, 1998)
- **The Convulsion Factory** (Silver Salamander, 1996)

Sen. J. BRADLEY BURZYNSKI (1975), Benton
1993 "Alumnus of the Year"
Illinois State Senator /
35th District - Sycamore

FLO DUDLEY (1976), Bonnie
1994 "Alumna of the Year"
Retired Elementary School Teacher,
Mt. Vernon City Schools District 80

ALUMNI SUCCESSES



Hodge claims International Horror Guild Award in '03

PRESSING TIMES NOVEMBER 1975

Author Brian Hodge claimed the prestigious International Horror Guild Award for 2003 in Short Fiction for his entry, "With Acknowledgment to Sun Tzu" (The Third Alternative #33).

The honors were bestowed on Hodge at the World Horror Convention Saturday, April 10, 2004 in Phoenix, AZ. Among those present for the awards ceremony were the convention's special Living Legend honorees Stephen King and Everett F. Bleiler.

The annual IHGA winners were saluted in 13 categories.



Hardcover Dark Advent has arrived; however . . .

www.brianhodge.net JULY 15, 2015

The good news: Cemetery Dance Publications' big fat hardcover edition of **Dark Advent**, my early post-apocalyptic novel, was officially published the other day, and started shipping.

The bad news: Virtually the entire print run was sold out prior to publication. Which was why, on the publisher's site page for it, the book's status jumped straight from not yet released to out-of-print.

The cross-your-fingers news: They mentioned that a few copies were still to be rounded up and would go on sale in a few days. As I post this, today is that day. First come, first served. I have no idea how long they'll last. When they're gone, very likely, they're gone for good.

If you don't mind a bit of delayed gratification, with the print edition sold out so soon, the e-book edition shouldn't be far behind. And that, of course, will be unlimited.

The updated closeup from 2008 continues:

"He has written an armful of novels of horrors and/or crime, nonfiction beyond reckoning and somewhere around 100 short stories and novelettes, many of which have been chained like galley slaves into three highly acclaimed collections, with a fourth in the works.

"In a review of his first collection, The Convulsion Factory, esteemed critic Stanley Wiater wrote, 'This writer knows where the sad people, the bad people and the mad people live.' Indeed. Over the years, Hodge has racked up an eclectic list of favorable comparisons . . . from Clive Barker to Elmore Leonard, from Honoré Daumier to David Cronenberg, and in one obscure source, even Carl Jung.

"No, really.

"He's a long-standing award nominee, having occupied numerous finalist slots for the Bram Stoker Award, the World Fantasy Award and Britain's CWA Dagger Award for crime writing, among others. In 2004, he broke an equally long-standing Susan Luccilike losing streak, taking the International Horror Guild Award for 'Outstanding Short Fiction,' for his story, 'With Acknowledgments to Sun Tzu.'

"When not writing, he enjoys weaving together strange sounds for an alter-ego project dubbed Axis Mundi, shooting photographs of green things and decaying things, and hiking the hills on the edge of town. He lives along the Colorado Front Range with his love, Doli, and his office manager Fionn (a nearly 20-pound cat of Maine Coon heritage, 'with big snowshoe paws and claws like scythes.')

In a 1999 interview included at the back of a small collection of his works by a French publisher, Hodge responded to many questions from Gilles Dumay. In part:

• Who is Brian Hodge? "Who knows. Nobody sees himself quite as other people see him, anyway. But some general background? I'm still settling into a new home, new area. In February we moved 1000 miles to Boulder, CO, at the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains. I've published six novels, and my seventh and newest one, **Wild Horses**, sold this past spring at auction for quite a bit of money for the hardcover rights alone. It will be published next March, and the paperback rights will be auctioned at about the same time."

• **The Convulsion Factory** is unified

around urban and societal decay, and the brand new one that has just been released, **Falling Idols**, consists of different explorations into religion and spirituality, although it is rather antagonistic to orthodoxy and dogma. But then, so am I. I'd like to do my part toward seeing a greater restoration of the pagan world, and one way or another that motivates a lot of my work. My own personal path has been evolving into a blend of Celtic and Nordic/Teutonic aspects, since both figure into my ancestry."

• Your mental world is very dark, cruel, disturbing, violent. Why? "That's only one facet of my outlook, but that facet is there because it's an accurate reflection of the world we live in and the cosmologies we've constructed to explain it.

"Which isn't to say that's my only view of the world, or my only depiction of it. I've also written things that are lighter, some that are even comedic, it's just that you're less likely to have encountered them. I love to double over in laughter as much as anybody, and I most often regard this world and the cosmos with a sense of awe and wonder. Sure, I have my dour days, they're just not the rule. But what you have described is a perfectly accurate assessment of what I've written, and it's often the most effective way of getting across certain things that are important to me to convey . . ."

• "There's a wonderful statement from Aleister Crowley that's never far from my mind - 'A single ego is an absurdly narrow vantage point from which to view the world' - and I try to live by it."

• **Prototype** is "about a guy who just can't seem to get by in society, who learns he's one of an extremely rare, tiny group of people with a heretofore unseen chromosomal abnormality that seems to predispose them toward violence and isolation. They've only been identified in the past few years, and it appears to be a recent mutation.

"With the help of a psychologist and her anthropologist girlfriend, he tries to find out more about what's wrong with him and what it all means, and why this older man with the same syndrome wants to exploit him, and he gets all his answers, but it's not enough to save him from his own worst impulses.

"I've heard people call it the grimmest novel ever written, and unbearably depressing, all of which I take as compliments. It's very significant to me because I was able to use one story to deal with some deeply

personal feelings of being at odds with the world, while at the same time addressing concerns about industrialized society as a whole and the pressure it exerts on human beings who are structurally no different than they were 40,000 years ago, and what it makes of us. Writing this novel helped purge me of a few demons, and was something I'd been working up to throughout a few novels that I was finding progressively more harrowing to write, digging deeper and deeper into my head, to the point that I was able to imagine there was probably a novel I wouldn't survive, if I really wanted to go that far."

- We know some strange photos of yourself, taken by Doli Nickel. It is important for you to work on the image you give to the public? To control this image?

"I'm not obsessive about controlling it, and in truth I don't even regard the collective sum of the photos that Doli shoots as an image in the strictest sense, which might imply that I strive to fabricate something that isn't really my true nature. In fact, it is, or at least aspects of it. But our main reason for doing it this way is simply because we both get so bored by standard head-and-shoulders photos. Any halfway competent photographer can do that, but if your capabilities exceed it, then it's laziness to settle for the mundane. Just as it's laziness to use the same picture year after year, for every single purpose, as though your life is stagnant. Doli's a very good photographic artist, and I tend to think in gestalts, so if a publisher or a magazine needs a picture, why not use our imaginations and make the effort to furnish something that will be a symbolic reflection of the material, or the pertinent emotional and psychological landscapes that led to it being written? It's just more interesting that way, certainly for us, and I hope for readers, too."

[Editor's Note: The author's longtime companion, Photographic Artist Doli Nickel, was full-time Rend Lake College Title XX Information-Referral Counselor and Adult Education Counselor Dolly J. Nickel from 1987-97 before moving from Southern Illinois.

"The Eternally Dispossessed Photographs by Dolli J," the first-ever showing by amateur camera buff Dolly Nickel, was on display in the RLC Learning Resource Center July 22-August 14, 1992. The 32-picture exhibit depicted abandoned farm buildings, tombstones and the like in a variety of print techniques, including coppers and tints. A word of explanation: "Nickel once considered photography as a profession."]

BIO ▶ The Official (Web)Site of Author Brian Hodge

1

The tally so far...

Ten novels. Over 100 short stories, novelettes, and novellas. Four collections. More of everything in the works.

And you really have to wonder how these things happen.

What, from a very early age, molds somebody into a writer instead of, say, a stockbroker or plumber or lawyer or tree surgeon?

2

One theory:

When my mother was eight months pregnant with me, she watched the movie Psycho. You know, the one with the legendary shower stabbing scene...? A little later she got in the shower. My father, after a long day of teaching and coaching, came home to find the doors locked and that he'd left his house keys inside. No luck ringing the bell and pounding the door. Of course not - my mother was taking a shower.

So he started to break in. Through the bathroom window.

That had to have left some kind of mark.

3

So it was always there, this writing thing. Before I started school, before I'd even learned the alphabet, I used to indulge a powerful urge to scribble on scraps of wood - my father did a lot of woodworking - and affix these impromptu signs to trees.

Apparently trying to communicate something to whoever might come along later.

* - * - *

Brian Hodge Goodreads Author

website - www.brianhodge.net

genre - Horror, Crime

member since March 2011

Brian Hodge, called "a writer of spectacularly unflinching gifts" by Peter Straub, is the award-winning author of 10 novels of horror and crime/noir. He's also written well over 100 short stories, novelettes, and novellas, and four full-length collections. His first collection, **The Convulsion Factory**, was ranked by critic Stanley Wiater as among the 113 best books of modern horror.

He lives in Colorado, where he also dabbles in music and photography; loves everything about organic gardening except the thieving squirrels; and trains in Krav Maga, grappling, and kickboxing, which are of no use at all against the squirrels.

* - * - *

Biggs, P. Davis, Trader College Bowl trainees

Does Rend Lake College use College Bowl as a training ground for future employees? It would have seemed that way.

The 1987-88 squad that captured a third straight SICCM Tournament crown included future RLC V-P of Finance and Administration Angie (Trader) Kistner and English Professor-to-be Peggy Davis.

The '86-87 Cbers repeated the post-season SICCM triumph by RLC's inaugural contender with help from eventual English Professor Rebecca Biggs.

Both the '87 and '88 champs were third out of five teams during regular season play.

COURTNEY COX (1972), Benton
1995 "Alumnus of the Year"

Partner, Hart and Hart Attorneys-At-Law - Benton
(Now U.S. Attorney for Southern District of Illinois)

TIM WILLS (1984), Benton
1996 "Alumnus of the Year"

Associate Professor of Health Education,
Athletic Director and Men's Basketball Head Coach, RLC

ALUMNI SUCCESSES

1995 - 1996

1996 - 1997



Campaigner Chuck Eckert makes Carter Inauguration

PRESSING TIMES NOVEMBER 1977

RLC students Linda Dawson, Chuck Eckert and Becky Harvey, who campaigned long and hard for Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter, received invitations to his Inauguration.

Eckert, along with former RLC student Mary Black, was able to fly to Washington to see the event. They also attended one of the seven parties.

They stood in the cold for three hours waiting to hear the inaugural address.

When Carter spoke, those in the audience could only hear part of the time. But the speech was "an ordinary address for people, not any fancy words," Eckert stated.

The inaugural party they attended was held at the Shoreman Americana Hotel. Eckert said it was a fancy event and that all different kinds of people were there.

Eckert also shared some of the impressions he got while in Washington. "Carter is going to make a difference," he said. "After hearing and seeing Carter, I don't think he is going to be a closet conservative, but an independent progressive." "I think amnesty is a step in the right direction," Eckert added. He also thought Carter was "overly nice to Ford."

Eckert saw an abundance of Confederate flags and lots of yippies.

In their spare time, Eckert and Black toured King Tut's treasure, the National Art and History Museum and the Smithsonian Institute.

In summing up the trip, Eckert said, "It was an experience I will never forget. I just hope I get the chance to go again some day."

— Becky Harvey

4

When I was little, I spent a lot of weekends and summer weeks with my widowed grandmother. She was the best off-the-top-of-her-head storyteller I ever expect to know.

She also took me along on trips to the senior center where she played cards and bumper pool. There was one elderly man who came there a lot, and must've had a stroke or something similar, because whatever he said came out in a mushy garble. He must've been a veteran, too. One day he gave me a handful of bullets. Big, old, military grade bullets. A couple for .30-caliber rifles. Another long one, as big around as a chapstick tube, with a huge lead slug. I realize now he was telling me not to strike them on the bottom, but at the time, I thought he was telling me to do it. The great puzzle of my life then was how to secure these bullets in something tight enough so that I could take a hammer and nail, and whack them on the bottom, to see what would happen. I turned this riddle over and over in my mind, but could never come up with an answer. Not once did I think of the two benchmarked vises in my father's workshop, a small basement room with a concrete floor and cinderblock walls. A place where a bullet would do a lot of ricocheting. A place where I'd spent countless hours helping my dad on endless projects. Now, I was a clever, imaginative kid. Why, then, did the obvious solution never occur to me? I've always wondered what greater intelligence set up that mental blind spot, and kept it firmly in place for at least a year or two. And, for that matter, why.

5

Again, the tally so far... Ten novels. Over 100 short stories, novellas, and novellas. Four collections. More of everything in the works. All of them trying to communicate something or other to whoever might come along later. At least some of them trying to explore possibilities for the what and the why.

6

Most everything that seems most worth doing stems from the inspiration of two complementary ideals... The Renaissance Man: A person with a broad range of talents or areas of knowledge, their pursuit rooted in the belief that one's capacity for development is limitless.

The Warrior Poet: One who is devoted to the development of mind, body, and spirit as one.

And so, out of these come forays into music and photography; practices of meditation, Krav Maga, and other types of physical training; organic gardening, a wide range of reading, and other stuff. Although none of it seems to help one bit against the squirrels that steal our corn.

7

I live along the Colorado Front Range with my soulmate, Doli, and my newish office-manager-in-training, Loki [a cat]. We'll always miss the previous one, Fionn. See you between the pages, or on the other side, whichever comes first.

TRY, TRY AND TRY AGAIN ▶ **For whatever reasons, RLC Alumni Associations have not succeeded**

At least four attempts – perhaps more – have been made to either establish or rejuvenate active Rend Lake College Alumni Associations.

A news release in October 1973 indicated, "A meeting of interested persons will be held in the Oasis on the Rend Lake College campus Tuesday, October 16, at 7:30 p.m. to organize an Alumni Association. The meeting, primarily informational or organizational in purpose, is open to anyone formerly a student at either Rend Lake College or Mt. Vernon Community College.

"The principal purpose of the association will be to promote the welfare of Rend Lake College and to stand as a public relations tool for the college.

"The meeting has been scheduled as a result of the efforts of a steering committee formed to work toward the formation of an Alumni Association."

Counselor Betty Ann Ward was listed as the college's contact person.

The second occurred in 1976, when Dean of Students Bob Graham, Counselor Betty Ann Ward and President Travis Martin gathered with former students to plan such a campaign. Larry Stonecipher (Class of 1969) of Mt. Vernon, was elected President. Other officers were Vice President Donna Smith, Secretary Robert Brown (Mt. Vernon Community College '66) of Mt. Vernon and Treasurer Nancy Hays.

By Fall 1977, the RLC Alumni Association was awarding \$100 Scholarships based on academic performance to 13 recent graduates of in-district high schools. Recipients

had to rank among the top five students in their respective graduating classes. "We hope to continue the scholarship program and help many others continue their education," noted Stonecipher, a math teacher at Mt. Vernon Casey Junior High. (Tuition at the time was \$7.50 per credit hour.) Funding for the scholarships was provided in part by a "Salute to Country Music" concert featuring 14 local acts on April 8-9.

An attempt to revive the effort was made in 1981, this time by President Harry J. Braun. The RLC Alumnews, a publication for Alumni and Friends of Rend Lake College, encouraged membership at an annual rate of \$10 per person.

Funds generated by this means were designated to pay off the remaining \$2,000 cost of a new sign "which will identify 'those odd-shaped buildings' visible just off Interstate 57 but heretofore unmarked to the unknowing passerby."

"You already have helped Rend Lake College make an outstanding name for itself by your performance in the community," the newsletter informed potential RLC Alumni Association members. "Graduates do the college proud each and every day, both within the district and outside it. This is your opportunity to let RLC know you are proud of the institution, too. Become a member of the Alumni Association and in the process help others identify with their community college."

President Braun reminded alumni, "Since Rend Lake College opened its doors 14 years ago, in excess of 3,400 graduates have completed their degrees or certificates. We at Rend Lake College feel that is a significant accomplishment and believe we ought to turn our attention to the development of a strong alumni association – an association made up of members who believe in what Rend Lake College stands for and are willing to support the college's efforts. The challenge now is to develop an organization and strong leadership."

When a federal grant and outside consultants helped the RLC Foundation get serious about its fund-raising efforts, another emphasis was placed on a proactive RLC Alumni and Friends Association.

In August 1993, Agriculture grad Melanie (Laird) Bauman (Class of '83) of Waltonville was elected President of the revitalized RLC Alumni and Friends Association. Bauman was a Waltonville resident and a graduate of the Ag Business program; she was self-employed as a farmer in the Waltonville area.

Other officers included Vice President David R. Williams ('80) of Cartersville, Secretary Robert Brown (MVCC '66) of Mt. Vernon, Treasurer Larry Davis ('68) of West Frankfort and Historian/Publicist Keith Ray ('73) of Mt. Vernon.

Also joining them at their first business meeting were newcomers Jeannie Brockett of McLeansboro, Sarah Capps (MVCC '66) of Belle Rive, Kelly Fenton ('86) of Cartersville, Mary Harlan ('73) of Mt. Vernon, Bob Kelley ('69) of Mt. Vernon, Brenda Webster McCollum ('93) of Benton, Rich McCollum ('68) of Benton, Steve Morris ('72) of Woodlawn, Janet Newbury ('83) of Sesser, Julie (Drone) Oxford ('87) of West Frankfort and Dennis Richardson ('74) of Mt. Vernon, among others.

The stated purpose of the RLC Alumni and Friends Association "is to foster and more fully realize the ideals of the college, to stimulate and encourage loyalty; to save and develop a committed body dedicated to improving, promoting and enhancing the academic excellence and prestige of the institution; to promote the personal, social, educational and professional development; to create a climate of philanthropy, and to establish, encourage and maintain a mutually beneficial relationship between the college and its alumni and friends."

"As President of the newly formed Alumni and Friends Association at Rend Lake College, I am very excited about the challenges ahead of us," Bauman said in her introductory letter to potential members.

"Many alumni and friends have asked me why we revitalized the Association and what purpose it will serve in helping the College and our communities. As alumni, we share a common bond toward Rend Lake College for providing us with the basis needed to reach our own personal and professional goals."



'Rain' brings good news for Poet Peggy Disroe

PRESSING TIMES MAY 24, 1974

Peggy Ann Disroe, second semester freshman at RLC, has been notified by the National Poetry Press in Los Angeles, CA, her poem, "Rain," has been selected by the Board of Judges for inclusion in the Spring 1974 Annual Anthology of College Poetry.

"Rain" is an image poem of a highway tragedy:

RAIN

It's raining, pitter, patter, splash
I'm cruising along

A car passing
I can't see
My vision has just been blurred
It's okay I wiped it away

I don't like what I see
I see red lights
I see three people
Lying on the highway

I keep on cruising
There is nothing I can do
I think I see a baby crying

Can't tell
The rain is really pouring

The National Poetry Press describes its Anthology as "a compilation of the finest poetry written by the college men and women of America, representing every state in the country." Miss Disroe's poem was selected from thousands of selections submitted.

ALUMNI SUCCESSES

JONATHAN W. THOMAS (1971), Sesser
1997 "Alumnus of the Year"
Chief Executive Officer (Executive Dean),
Ivy Tech State College - Madison / Lawrenceburg, IN

MARK E. MICHALIC (1979), West Frankfort
1998 "Alumnus of the Year"
Special Agent, U.S. Department of the Treasury
/ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

MARK E. MICHALIC (1979), West Frankfort
1999 Illinois Community College Trustees Assn.
Co-"Alumnus of the Year"
Shared state award with Comedian Jim Belushi (DuPage)

1997 - 1998

1998 - 1999



First Alumni Association awards 13 scholarships

PRESSING TIMES SEPTEMBER 1977

Thirteen Rend Lake College freshmen have been named as winners of 1977-78 RLC Alumni Association Scholarships. Students selected for the \$100 awards were chosen on the basis of academic performance in high schools throughout the college district.

The Alumni Scholarship Fund was started last year and proceeds were raised through a benefit Country-Western Concert held at the college last spring. A total of \$1,300 in scholarship awards is being presented this academic year.

Larry Stonecipher, Alumni President, said, "The scholarship winners have all demonstrated excellent academic achievement and the alumni group is happy to be rewarding them for their performance."

"We hope to continue the scholarship plan and help many others continue their education in the future," he added.

In order for students to be eligible for the scholarship, they had to place among the top five in their class ranking and made their choice to attend Rend Lake College.

The 13 recipients of the \$100 awards are: Charlene Akins (Benton), Bill Dennison (Christopher), Gina Carter (Enfield), David Owen (McLeansboro), Leslie Threath (Mt. Vernon), Joni Giacomo (Pinckneyville), Judy Reidelberger (Tamaroa), Kerry Ames (Thompsonville), Floyd Cash (Sesser-Valier), Pamela Pijut (Waltonville), Carl Wegner (Wayne City), Teresa Knox (Woodlawn) and Kevin Knauss (Bluford).

"Rend Lake College is striving to provide a better education for residents of our communities and broaden their opportunities. As alumni and friends, we realize the impact this will have on our communities, and we can all share in this vision. By revitalizing the Association, we can set an example of support for our alma mater and help the College achieve its future potential."

Major goals set:

- Encouraging friend-raising as well as fund-raising for the betterment of both the organization and the college;
- Establishing a new line of communications through an Alumni newsletter, a new logo, etc.;
- Cooperating with the RLC Foundation to increase student scholarships and recognition awards;
- Increasing membership.

The RLC Alumni and Friends Association is under the auspices of the RLC Foundation, headed by Director Herb Winemiller Jr. and Jeannie Byassee.

"Alumni," by definition, include anyone who has ever attended either Rend Lake College or its forerunner, Mt. Vernon Community College. Students do not have to be graduates of the institution to be considered alumni.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED RLC Golf Outlet uses on-job training to discover Manager Corey Phillips

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 2005

Within a matter of days of the March 2002 opening of the Rend Lake College Golf Outlet as the cornerstone of the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon, a copy of the Mission Statement for the complete golf center was posted for all to see. It states . . .

"The Mission of the RLC Golf Outlet is to assist Rend Lake College in achieving its goals by training students in an applied business world atmosphere, while at the same time contributing to the economic development of Southern Illinois."

Consider it Mission Accomplished, in more ways than one.

About the same time, Dahlgren resident and McLeansboro High School product Corey Phillips was one of the first people hired to work part-time by Rend Lake College Vice President of Finance and Administration Bob Carlock and then RLC Golf Outlet Manager Tom Mikutis.

Phillips had just completed his first semester as a student at Rend Lake Col-

lege and as a member of the Warrior Golf Team. One of several student-workers in the store, Phillips provided customer service as an effective floor salesman while learning inventory processing and cash register responsibilities.

He devoted the next year and a half to both his studies and employment. In the process, he impressed teachers (3.1 grade-point average on a 4.0-point scale), customers and his bosses alike.

Enough so, Phillips was named Assistant Manager and returned home weekends and off-days from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville the next two years. His job expanded to include inventory ordering – sole responsibilities for TaylorMade Golf products – and supervision of student-workers.

To make a long story short(er), Phillips was hired by the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees at its May 2005 meeting as RLC Golf Manager to succeed Mikutis upon his recent retirement.

The appointment was made at the same time Phillips was wrapping up his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with a 3.08 GPA.

"Corey Phillips is a bona fide success story. We have been impressed with his work ethic, character and abilities since Day One," commented Carlock, who agreed with the sentiments of Mikutis and recommended the hard-working 21-year-old to the Board.

"This is what the Rend Lake College Golf Outlet and MarketPlace are all about. The training our students receive in a real-world environment is invaluable," Carlock added.

"The position Corey has been appointed to by the Board is an outstanding opportunity for him, but (President) Mark Kern and I are more than convinced he is equal to the challenge. He has earned it."

The new RLC Golf Outlet Manager boasts previous summer experience in Land Management / Site Maintenance for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in McLeansboro and for two Mt. Vernon firms, as Soil Sampling Technician for McNeil Consulting and as Lawn Care Specialist for Lawn Perfection.

In addition to playing golf in high school, Phillips also played baseball and basketball, posted a 4.187 GPA (5.0 scale) en route to Beta Club and National Honor Society recognition and served as Senior Class Treasurer.

Other members of the RLC Golf Outlet

staff include Rend Lake College student-workers Blake Clements (Mt. Vernon), Casey Rhine (McLeansboro) and Scott Carlson (Mt. Vernon), all of whom have between two and three years experience, plus relative newcomers Nathan Biggerstaff (McLeansboro) and Sara Pillers (Mt. Vernon).

CO-OP EDUCATION DISCOVERY ▶ WSIL-TV Weekend Reporter Bunton credits career choice to RLC program

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 2005

Staci Bunton started small in the world of broadcast journalism, but has worked her way up in a short time. A familiar face on the WSIL-TV Channel 3 Weekend News, Bunton says she owes her success to the Cooperative Education program at Rend Lake College.

When she enrolled at RLC in 2000, Bunton was not sure what career was right for her, she conceded. Frustrated with working low-skill, low-pay "high school" jobs, she went to Cooperative Education Specialist Mark Clark in search of a more challenging position.

Cooperative Education – or Co-op, as it is commonly referred to – places students into jobs relating to their majors and is an attractive program for both students and employers. Students receive practical experience which can assist them in the career decision-making process while at the same time earning college credit.

Employers, in turn, benefit greatly from enthusiastic newcomers who are eager to learn the trade and should be considered a real bargain (the college pays half of the Co-op student's salary).

In an effort to find a good fit for Bunton, Clark examined her strengths – an affinity for theater and good speaking abilities. Even though Bunton had never considered a career in broadcast journalism, Clark was able to find an Associate Producer position available at WSIL-TV, which she accepted.

"Back then, I didn't even know what an edit bay was," said Bunton. "I didn't know what I wanted to do for a career until I got the job at WSIL."

Bunton found she thoroughly enjoyed her work, and after graduating from Rend

Lake College in 2002, she enrolled at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Broadcast Journalism, with a minor in Psychology. She had considered attending the University of Illinois, but chose SIUC in order to remain at her job at WSIL-TV.

She gained valuable experience volunteering in River Region Evening Edition's newsroom at WSIU, and also interned for WJPF News Radio in 2003.

Bunton eventually was hired full-time at WSIL-TV as a photojournalist. "I figured if I learned how to run a camera, the producers would start sending me out on stories," she said.

That did happen, and she began accompanying reporters on stories to shoot footage. Bunton sometimes acted as a "one-man gang," shooting footage and reporting by herself.

Her rise through the ranks has continued since then. Bunton can be seen regularly on WSIL newscasts in her duties as a weekend reporter. She is still a photojournalist during the week and specializes in producing Channel 3's "Unsung Hero" segments.

She eventually would like to become more involved in the journalistic aspects of her profession and perhaps become an anchor. But for now, she is happy to work and learn. "I think of it as a team concept. I want the final product to look good. If the final product looks good, then I'm happy," she said.

"Who knows what the future holds? I can still grow a lot at WSIL. They are very generous with opportunities here."

But Bunton has never forgotten her roots or the people who helped her establish her career.

"I would never have found this career path if not for the Co-op program. I didn't know what I wanted to do and I probably would still be trying to figure that out if not for them (Clark and Ed Ruffino). They are greatly responsible for my success," she said.

"Staci is a great success story," noted Clark. "It is rewarding to open up an opportunity for a student and then watch them take it and run. With Staci's abilities, there



Three Egyptian students enrolled Fall '71 at RLC

PRESSING TIMES OCTOBER 1971

One very interesting fact that may not be known to everyone on campus is that we now have in our midst three new students from Egypt.

Two brothers, Nagi and Bill Habib, and their uncle, Heikal Tadros, are currently undertaking the task of learning the English language at RLC in a special English 101 Lab being conducted by Mrs. Carolann DeSelms of the French Department. The men commented that learning the English language has been the biggest problem for them since they came to America. After they become more acquainted with the language, the two brothers plan to continue their education at Rend Lake College.

"One thing I like about America is that everyone is able to go to schools like this one, but only a chosen few may go to school in Egypt," said Mr. Tadros. The trio also agreed, "We like the liberty here in America that is not in Egypt."

Originally from Cairo, Egypt, the students are making their present home in Mt. Vernon, where they are employed at Precision Engineering. While in Cairo, they attended the Ains-hams University, from which school Mr. Tadros graduated after two years of training in the field of metallurgy. Mr. Tadros, a brother-in-law of Dr. Nehme of Mt. Vernon, soon expects to be joined by his wife and their three children.

LAIRD D. WISELY (1971), Benton
1999 "Alumnus of the Year"
Owner, Therapy Resource Assoc. / Physical Rehab Works
(Awarded posthumously)

HOLLY MCCANN (1976), Benton
2000 "Alumna of the Year"
Acting National Director, Internal Revenue Service
Office of Interest and Penalty Administration

ALUMNI SUCCESSES

1999 - 2000

2000 - 2001



Distinguished Alum Ryder devours dictionary, more

VERNOIS NEWS OCTOBER 1965

"He did most of it on his own. We gave him the Book of Knowledge and he just devoured it! When he ran out of regular reading material, he read a big dictionary."

These proud words, spoken by Harl Edgar Ryder Sr., are evidence the will to learn is usually rewarding. Son Harl Ryder Jr., 27, is now an Assistant Professor of Economics at Brown University (RI).

This position, in effect this fall, is the end result of 18 years of education beginning at Field Grade School, now Dr. Andy Hall School. Harl then progressed from Casey Jr. High to Mt. Vernon Township H.S. to Mt. Vernon Community College to the University of Illinois.

A National Honor Society member of 1956 and an excellent junior college student, Harl received a scholarship to U. of I. He was a Bronze Tablet student as an undergraduate; i.e., he was in the top 3% of his class and was given the Hasken-Sells Award as the top senior in Accounting in 1960 when he got his B.S. In '61, he received his M.S. in Economics and Statistics. Harl was a member of Phi Kappa Phi.

When a three-year scholarship to do graduate work at Stanford University was offered, he accepted, adding to his experience by teaching the Spring Quarter at Stanford. He finished all required work except his thesis last spring and has passed his oral test.

According to Ryder Sr., a "G" Building Custodian at MVTHS, "Some people leave their education hanging there . . . they never turn in their thesis, but Harl is working on his now and hopes soon to be Professor Ryder."

is no limit to what she can do in her field. This is a perfect example of how Co-op can make a difference in a student's life."

Bunton, 25, grew up in Pinckneyville but now resides in Herrin.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Bunton moved to Colorado Springs in 2007, married United States Air Force Major Matthew Joseph in 2012 and was the mother of a young son, James. The family was living in Merritt Island, FL, when she died of cancer May 13, 2015, at age 35.]

CO-OP ED EMPLOYMENT ▶ Burt Reynolds, The Golden Girls and Kevin Hiller ... all Disney characters

REX DUNCAN, CO-OP EDUCATION AND PLACEMENT / APRIL 1989

What do Burt Reynolds, The Golden Girls, Siskel and Ebert and Kevin Hiller have in common?

While this may be the ultimate trivia question, the answers has a decidedly local flavor. All of the above, including Pinckneyville resident Hiller, are working on productions at the Disney MGM Studio complex located at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, FL.

Hiller is employed by the Disney World College Program through the RLC Cooperative Education program. He currently is involved in rehearsals in preparation for the opening of the studio to the public in May.

A Communications major at Rend Lake College, Hiller has appeared in a number of local productions, but finds this work to be his most challenging.

"We are the first to be trained for these roles," he explained. "I've never been so busy or worked this hard in my life, but I'm loving every minute of it. The people here are all so talented. I have learned more than I ever could have anywhere else.

"More importantly, my 'people skills' have improved tremendously."

Hiller will be conducting tours of the studio's action sets and will be taking part in reenactments of various movie roles from the past. He has 30 pages of scripts to memorize as part of the demonstrations. Performances will run through August 19.

"If you are planning a trip to Walt Disney World this summer, be sure to visit the Disney MGM Studios and look for Kevin in one of his many roles," noted RLC Director of Cooperative Education Sandra Rhoads.

Members of the audience will be treated to a show in the grandest Disney tradition, and they just might catch a Rend Lake College student "acting" like a rising star.

CO-OP ED EMPLOYMENT ▶ Brown impressed with Disney training, plus Doc, Grumpy, Sleepy, Dopey, et al

REX DUNCAN, CO-OP EDUCATION AND PLACEMENT / APRIL 1989

Familiar faces are everywhere at Walt Disney World. There is Mickey Mouse welcoming visitors. Minnie, too. Over there, isn't that Pluto? And look, there is Jeremy Brown.

Jeremy Brown?

What is a Rend Lake College student from Woodlawn doing in Orlando, FL in the spring, when he is supposed to be in class?

Brown is one of two Rend Lake College students employed at Disney World Resorts through their college program and the RLC Cooperative Education program. Thanks to the co-op program, students are able to earn college credit while working.

A Business major, Brown took time off from his job at King City Federal Savings Bank in Mt. Vernon to accept the Disney position. That experience has proven invaluable.

He is working in the Ticket Sales Department of the Magic Kingdom. "On busy days, I'll handle anywhere from \$30-\$50,000 in ticket purchases through cash, credit cards, travelers' checks and package certificates," Brown commented. "The training has involved books, homework and a 'check out,' a proficiency test.

"While we have a lot of fun, it is also a lot of work."

Employment in the Disney World College Program includes 30 hours of seminars providing training in everything from Disney traditions – everyone must know the names of all Seven Dwarfs – to appearance and conduct and finance and risk management.

Employees receive free admission to all Disney attractions and are encouraged to explore the facilities. Count Brown among those fascinated by the park. "I spend as much free time as possible just wandering through the different attractions," he admitted. "The underground system that supplies the park is incredible. I'm impressed with how every last detail is geared toward the enjoyment of our guests."

Approximately 1,500 students are hired each session to help in the resort operations. They come from all over the world. In addition to the student from Ina, IL, the six-person apartment includes workers from Norway, France and Italy, as well as Purdue University and the University of Akron.

The Vista Way apartment complex houses the majority of those students. It can make for a pretty active social life, obviously, and provides an atmosphere conducive to making special friendships that can last a lifetime.

Brown is on a first-name basis with many Vista Way residents. "I was talking to a guy at a party one night and found out he was from SIU-Carbondale.

"Every day here is like a weekend. You have to take your job seriously, though, and that means being on time and performing on the job. I've learned to pace myself and make sure I'm ready to go to work the next day," he said.

The college credit he earns working alongside Mickey and Minnie, et al, will help Brown receive an Associate of Science Degree from RLC. He plans on transferring after that to the University of Illinois.

"Everyone should try something like this at some time in their college career," he says of the co-op experience. "I'm learning more here than I ever imagined. This kind of experience is worth a fortune."

Sandra Rhoads, Director of the RLC Cooperative Education program, agrees. "I hope other students will look at Jeremy's example and see there are a lot of opportunities outside Southern Illinois, if only they are bold enough to pursue them.

"Students like Jeremy and Kevin (Hiller) can only become stronger personally and academically through their involvement with the Disney World programs."

Upon returning home May 13, Brown will resume his duties at King City Federal. "They have been very supportive of this opportunity for me, and I appreciate that very much," said the student.

"But it will be hard to leave here in May. I'm already dreading it."

Brown may be excused if occasionally this summer he pauses, a grin flashing across his face and a wistful look in his eye. Be patient, customer.

He will merely be taking a break, recalling a place where life is exciting and fulfilling, a place of intense friendships and carefree days. But do not fret. He will be

treating customers as if they were his personal guests at the bank.

It is a skill he has learned from some of the best in the business . . . the people who can make dreams come true.

[Editor's Note: Representatives of the Walt Disney World College Program have continued for many years to recruit Rend Lake College students, who receive college credit through the Cooperative Education and Employment Services program.

In Fall 2000, for example, three RLC students – Jessica Jablonski (Tamaroa), Shawnika Lucks (Mt. Vernon) and Shari Sizemore (Pinckneyville) – were receiving first-hand experience learning the traditions and philosophies of one of the world's most recognized entertainment companies.

"Students work in various capacities with Disney," Co-op Director Ed Ruffino explained then to the *RLC Times*. "A lot of them work in the food and beverage area, but it just depends on your major.

"We've had students participate in this program off and on for the last 10 years."]

KAYS ENJOYS EXPERIENCE ▶ Ex-student frustrated no longer thanks to RLC Early School Leaver program

1978

Educational opportunities offered by Rend Lake College through its Early School Leaver Program, directed by Mike McClure, have provided many students with a chance to earn a GED Certificate (high school equivalency) and continue their education in college classes even though they discontinued their high school education at one time.

One of these students is 18-year-old Benton resident Sheila Kays, who says if it were not for the RLC program she would have remained one of many frustrated ex-students who for one reason or another leave high school never to return.

One of the ESL program's main goals is to offer students a positive learning experience that will influence them to continue on with their education.

The main ingredient which has made the

* - * - *

Benton's Kerry Wagner 1990 Miss Rend Lake

MAY 1990

Benton resident Kerry Lee Wagner, a member of the Rend Lake College pompon squad, is Miss Rend Lake for 1990. She claimed honors over 31 others in the Rend Lake Water Festival contest.

Wagner is shown at the card catalog file in the Learning Resource Center in the 1990-92 Rend Lake College Catalog (page 41).

* - * - *

Miss Rend Lake for '92 RLC's Jessica Feltmeyer

MAY 1992

Rend Lake College Student Jessica Anne Feltmeyer, an 18-year-old from Pinckneyville, was crowned Miss Rend Lake 1992 during 21st annual Rend Lake Water Festival pageant festivities Saturday, May 8, 1992, in Benton Civic Center.

The reigning queen for 1992 was chosen over five other contestants. She is a freshman pursuing a degree in Child Psychology, with an emphasis in Criminology.

* - * - *

RLC Alumna Sue Wolfe rates Second Runner-Up

MAY 1975

Rend Lake College Alumna Sue Wolfe of Mt. Vernon was named Second Runner-Up in the fourth annual Miss Rend Lake pageant as part of the Rend Lake Water Festival in 1975. Sharon Sue Woolley (Benton) won Miss Rend Lake honors, while Colleen Hillyard (Carmi) was first runner-up.

CARL ROWLEY (1977), Sesser
2001 "Alumnus of the Year"
Team Leader / Building Management Systems,
Panduit Corporation - Global Network Connectivity Solutions

ROSE M. BLAND MYLES (1968), Mt. Vernon
2002 "Alumna of the Year"
Manager, Network Services / A T & T
- Atlanta, GA

ALUMNI SUCCESSES

2001 - 2002

2002 - 2003



Rawlinson, Chase argue for right for girls in slacks

PYRAMID TIMES MAY 1968

Front page story, "Dr. Rawlinson and Stu Chase win victory for Rend Lake College. Girls can now wear slacks to class."

A follow-up commentary . . .

Changes are often made during the first year a college is in existence, and the most recent and most discussed change came only a couple of weeks ago. As most of the students know, Rend Lake co-eds are now allowed to wear slacks to class. What students don't know is how it came about. A lot of speculation has been done in this area; the blame and the credit have been given to various individuals.

Anytime the students feel they have been cheated or not given their rights, the logical person to blame is the Dean. This episode in the life of RLC was no exception. Senate President Stu Chase was also handed a villain's black hat. Chase was the Senate representative to the Advisory Council in the matter of the dress code. And he tried hard to get the new code through. Stu brought up the question three times during the meeting, and he didn't flinch under fire, either. Reports from the Council members have it that your President handled himself in a calm, logical manner. He answered questions in a controlled way. In other words, Stu kept his cool. He emerged with the respect of the Council.

The Advisory Council is not a group of bad guys who sit up there and try to create ways of making life miserable for the students. They all agreed with Chase. And contrary to lounge gossip, it was NOT Dr. Rawlinson who vetoed the idea. Mr. J.D. Shields of the high

(Continued at far right on next page)

program a success, according to Developmental Instructor Pam Sharp, is an emphasis on individualized instruction. The sequence of study consists of math, grammar, social studies, science, literature and a review of the Illinois Constitution.

The student's areas of study are geared to their individual needs, Sharp added.

When Kays started in the program, she quickly discovered the atmosphere was going to be much different than it had been for her in high school.

"One of the best things about the program is how you are treated like an adult," she said. "Since I enrolled last spring, I have enjoyed the learning environment offered and the attitudes of the instructors."

There are many reasons students are unable to complete their high school education. For Kays, the main reason was that she fell far behind in her class work after missing several days due to illness.

At that time, she was a junior. It did not take long after leaving school, however, to discover how critical it is to have a high school diploma. "There was no way I could get a job, and I found myself sitting home bored to death," she admitted.

Since starting in the ESL program, Kays has made plans to obtain her GED and then continue her education as a Secretarial Science major at the college. The program already is making a big difference in her future and she openly admits her gratefulness.

Sharp indicated she has had about 50 students complete the program, many of whom are now enrolled in college classes.

"Students come from a variety of backgrounds and have had their educations interrupted for a variety of reasons. The one thing they all have in common is their honest desire to learn," Sharp commented.

Besides the work that takes place inside the classroom, a major part of the program is the assistance and encouragement given for students to find jobs. Once employment is located, the college works closely with employers to develop additional training through the Vocational-Technical staff at Rend Lake College.

McClure noted students prosper both in the educational aspects as well as social ones through the individualized instruction and evaluation received. "There is no way a program of this kind could work without close attention focused on the needs of each and every student," he said.

"We have to make sure people know the

program exists and we are here to help those wanting to continue their education."

ENROLLING AS SOPHOMORE ▶ Before Dual Credit classes existed, there was very gifted Diane Heaton

Long before there were High School Honors Credit Programs, Dual Credit classes and twins graduating from college a week before they graduated from high school, there was the very gifted Diane Heaton . . .

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 1981

Diane Heaton will not be among next year's freshman class at Rend Lake College, even though the current Benton Consolidated High School senior plans to attend school on the Ina campus in the fall.

With the help of the Franklin County Gifted Program and the cooperation of BCHS, Heaton already has completed 29 hours of college credit and is currently taking 13 hours.

As a result, Heaton will be able to carry a considerably lighter load next year as a sophomore by spacing out her remaining classes over two semesters. "I don't think I will rush it because I want to take it slow and learn it well," she said.

A new policy at Benton Consolidated High School allows any junior or senior with an I.Q. score of 120 or above, a written recommendation of three faculty members, a "B" average or above and 14 high school credits or more to enroll in as many as two Rend Lake College classes per day, according to BCHS Director of Instruction Larry Richmond.

Students may take only those classes which are not offered at Benton Consolidated High School, Richmond added. "These classes must be taken during the day through this program, assuming they (students) have already taken a terminal course."

High school students are admitted to Rend Lake College on an individual basis. Permission from one's high school principal or superintendent is a requirement. Although college credit is awarded, the credit can not count toward a high school degree, according to RLC Dean of Instruction Mark S. Kern.

Heaton is taking college classes in Physics and Analytical Geometry during the day. These classes do not conflict with her high school classes in any way. In fact, she says, they help parallel them.

The daughter of RLC Science Instructor and Acting Department Chair Richard Hea-

ton and his wife, Doris, plans to continue her education either at the University of Illinois or at the University of Missouri at Rolla, where she will be majoring in highly technical law. She also is considering a computer or petroleum engineering degree.

"I would definitely encourage other high school students to take Rend Lake College classes because it helps get the general studies classes out of the way," said Heaton.

"There are a number of students who are more than capable of taking college courses (while still in high school) who should check with their high school counselors. This is only one means for these students to use their potential," commented Marilyn Kreher, Coordinator of the Franklin County Gifted Program.

OUTSTANDING ADULT LEARNER ▶ George Cybulski, 80, provides success story for 'Partnerships in Education'

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 2001

The saga of George Cybulski is just one of many success stories representatives of the "Partnerships in Education" program can point to with pride as they go about their business helping students through the Rend Lake College Skills Center.

But most would agree, Cybulski is a unique individual whose accomplishments are even more noteworthy than those of his classmates.

The Benton resident, who turns 80 this month, has been named "Outstanding Adult Learner in Illinois" and was honored during the Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association (IACEA) Annual Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield.

At the time he was applauded by approximately 350 Adult Education program educators and administrators, Cybulski already was attending Rend Lake College credit classes, having completed his GED last November.

"All Adult Education programs across the state were invited to nominate a student for this award," explained RLC Coordinator Linda Cox. "We nominated Mr. Cybulski because of the commitment and dedication he has shown to furthering his education and for the willingness he consistently has

demonstrated in helping other students achieve their goals.

"He has freely given his time to mentor and tutor much younger students and to share his experiences with them."

"He says he has learned as much from the other students as they may have from him," noted Department Chair Barbara Bauernfeind. "In a History class, for example, he can talk about the Depression because he lived through it. His ability to share real-life experiences makes it more real for everyone in the class.

"By the same token, the younger students can share their opinions with him regarding timely subjects they are faced with today, such as drugs. So the sharing is reciprocal, to the benefit of everyone."

Cybulski spent 7 1/2 years caring for his wife, Virginia, when she was faced with declining health. He returned to school a few months after her death to fill a void in his life and fulfill a lifelong dream.

He prepared for the high school-equivalency exam at the Rend Lake College Family Investment Education Center in Benton in the fall. "He insisted on attending four days a week, as well as two nights a week, so 'I can have the benefit of different teachers and learn as much as I can.'"

He passed the General Developmental Education exam "with flying colors" after one semester. In addition to enrolling in two college credit courses Spring Semester, he volunteered his services as a tutor and worked with Dee Russell assisting others in developing their basic skills.

While he was in the Benton class, he became friends with a woman who recently moved to the area from Brazil, and he assisted her with transportation to English as a Second Language classes in Mt. Vernon.

Cybulski also accepted an invitation to speak at last week's GED Recognition Ceremony on-campus for recipients of the certification during the past year.

"He unhesitatingly replied that he would be happy to do so. We anticipate a humorous, articulate speech that will undoubtedly inspire others to follow in his footsteps," Cox said prior to the celebration.

* - * - *

P.N. Grad Cheryl Bauer guest of White House

MAY 1990

Practical Nursing graduate Cheryl Jean Bauer (MVCC Class of 1966) was invited to the White House for a luncheon May 7 with First Lady Barbara Bush in recognition of National Nurses Day. The former Cheryl Myers of Centralia is Director of Nursing for Biloxi (MS) Regional Medical Center.

* - * - *

Thank You . . .

JANUARY 13, 1995

Dear Mark,

As I reflect on my life, education and career I must admit that being named "Rend Lake College Alumnus of the Year" certainly rates high among my most prized honors. It is nice to know you and your staff have confidence in me today as you did during the '70s when I came desperately seeking help.

Thank you for providing the kind of education that allows students to fulfill their dreams. For your help and the alumnus honor, I'll always be grateful.

Sincerely, Flo Dudley

* - * - *

Girls in slacks (cont.)

school felt, and rightfully so, if RLC students on the same campus as MVTHS students were to enjoy a relaxed dress code, it would cause discipline problems in the high school. But after Stu Chase's effort, the Dean went to bat for us again. The result of another talk with Mr. Shields is that co-eds are now allowed to wear slacks to class.

DONALD H. DAME (1972 / 1976), Sesser
2003 "Alumnus of the Year"

Vice President for Human Resources and Government
Relations, Freeman United Coal Mining Company

LINDA L. SANDERS (1982), Mt. Vernon
2004 "Alumna of the Year"

Warden, Federal Correctional Complex
- Forrest City, AR

ALUMNI SUCCESSES

2003 - 2004

2004 - 2005



RLC student employees featured in ARDL salute

REGISTER-NEWS FEBRUARY 1991

Applied Research and Development Lab (ARDL Inc.) in Mt. Vernon took advantage of the annual "Progress" edition published by the Mt. Vernon Register-News to "Salute Our Student Employees."

The large, 5-column x 13-inch advertisement explained . . .

"ARDL employs area students, as their schedules permit, to assist chemists and other staff professionals in laboratory sample preparations, instrumental analysis and data reduction. The students gain valuable work experience which is certain to enhance their future careers and ARDL benefits directly from the work performed.

"The quality of work performed by our "student staff" is outstanding and is a credit not only to the individuals involved but to the institutions which they represent."

Sixteen Rend Lake College students are pictured: Chris Adcock (Chemistry major); Stephanie Baker (Computer Science); Stacey Ball (Pre-Med / Bio Science); Terry Bullock (Education); Leslie Greenwell (Business); Jeff Mandrell (Micro Biology); Darin Miller (Pre-Med); Randy Montgomery (Plant and Soil Science); Steve Newcomb (Chemistry); Jennifer Page (Medical Technician); Carrie Peacock (Business); James Price (Chemical Engineering); Shane Reed (Accounting); Sarah Scheppel (Pre-Med); James Smoot (Pre-Med), and Amy Steckenrider (Civil Engineering). Not shown: Ken Rowark of both RLC and Frontier (Forestry) and Pamela Youell of SIUC (Chemistry).

"In addition to being a truly extraordinary individual, George has an unfailing sense of humor," Cox added. "He told us he was a bit reluctant for the *Benton Evening News* to do an article on him earlier this year, since every girl on campus would know how old he is!

"When we tell him how good it is to see him each time he comes to the Skills Center, he smiles and replies, 'At my age, it is good to be seen.' As he points out, when he goes to the grocery store, he always buys the ripe bananas."

Cybulski dropped out of grade school in the mid-1930s in order to help support his family financially. He ended up working 45 years for Chicago-based Joan-Claire Fashions, moving to Benton in the 1950s to manage the Joan-Claire plant located to the north of the Franklin County jail. He served as Benton Water Commissioner from 1987-91 and worked part-time for Wal-Mart.

Returning to school "is something I have always wanted to do but just never had the time. Even though I had a good job all those years, I always wished that I could have gotten an education," he said in the BEN article that exposed his age to the girls of Rend Lake College.

"I'm like a kid. I'm looking forward to the challenge ahead. Everybody at Rend Lake College has been super . . . just very supportive."

And if all continues to go well for Cybulski, "After I finish at RLC, I have every intention of going to SIUC and getting my Bachelor's Degree."

GEORGE CYBULSKI SR. ▶ Decade after 82-year-old student leaves mark, scholarship recipients benefit

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 24, 2014

This month marks the 10th anniversary of the passing of George Cybulski Sr., an 82-year-old man who impacted the lives of many students and staff at Rend Lake College when he decided to go back to school. Though his time at RLC was short, his legacy still stands in the form of the George Cybulski Memorial Scholarship.

In the words of a former-student, Cybulski was "living proof that it is never too late to go to college." On campus, he became a role model for students while obtaining his GED at 79 years old and working toward an Associate Degree until his death. And he did it all with style, attending campus activities and hanging out with students

not half his age. To one local newspaper reporter, he jokingly said, "I expect to do well, especially in history class."

Cybulski was born in 1921. The Great Depression affected his education when he dropped out of high school to work and take care of his family. His son, Dr. George R. Cybulski, said it was always one of his father's goals to return to school and finish what he started.

"He always told me he wanted to get a college education," said Cybulski. "My father grew up in the Great Depression and he wasn't able to complete high school because he had to help feed his family. When my mother passed away after a long illness, he started working on that goal by getting his GED and enrolling at Rend Lake College. He always thought highly of education. It was one of his basic philosophies of life. It was him and my mother who always supported my dreams of becoming a doctor."

Dr. Cybulski is currently serving as Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and as a neurosurgeon at Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation. He is also a 1971 graduate of Benton Consolidated High School.

"My father would tell me about the different classes he was taking and the professors he had," said Cybulski. "He and I shared a lot of that through his experiences. I actually went with him to Rend Lake a few times, and he'd introduce me to everyone he knew.

"He was very involved in the STARS program, so he took me to their office and I met everyone there, too. They were all wonderful people who really helped him and other students. He enjoyed the atmosphere and the environment at Rend Lake College."

Cybulski Sr., originally from Chicago, moved to Benton where he was a manager at various dress factories for more than 30 years. He also served in the U.S. Army, worked as Benton Water Commissioner for many years and played an active role in the community.

His son says his outgoing and warm personality did not just blossom at RLC, but was apparent throughout his life.

"He had a very optimistic outlook on life," said Cybulski. "He encouraged people to realize their dreams and go after them. That was another of his basic principles in life. His goal was to move on to Southern Illinois University. Sadly, he wasn't able to

do that, but he was immersed in getting his education. He had a wonderful time at Rend Lake College."

After his father's death, Cybulski followed in his father's footsteps by establishing the memorial scholarship and helping aspiring students reach their goals.

"I think Rend Lake College is a wonderful place and a great environment. When my father passed away, I wanted to do something to recognize his memory and his great experiences there, and to help other students," said Cybulski. "It's shortly coming up on 10 years now as the first person to receive a scholarship was in 2005."

RLC Foundation CEO Shawna Manion added the scholarship continuously helps students reach toward their dreams, something that Cybulski Sr. always encouraged. "Dr. Cybulski's scholarship in honor of his father is exactly what we strive for. It is a way for his family, his friends, students and instructors impacted by Mr. Cybulski at RLC to remember him fondly," said Manion. "I never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Cybulski, but I'm confident that the scholarship that has been developed in his memory helping students achieve what he thought was so important – education – would put a smile on his face."

A number of RLC current and former staff members wrote down their memories of Cybulski during his time on campus.

Julie Mumbower, former Director of the STARS program, said, "He inspired us and made us look at the joy of life with a smile and a song in our hearts."

RLC Theater Professor Tracey Webb added, "For someone so close to the end of his life, his star burned brighter than other students a quarter of his age. His verve and zest, his drive to get a college education left a life-long impression on me. Instead of waiting for his time to run out, he ran after his dreams, and I wish more people loved being alive as much as he did."

FIRST FROM REND LAKE COLLEGE ► Emily Dalby and Kimberly Johnson Coca-Cola Scholarship recipients

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 2001

Two community-minded students from Rend Lake College are among 400 nationwide who will benefit from the Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program.

Recognized earlier this month for their academics and record for community service with \$1,000 monetary awards were Emily Dalby, an Elementary Education major from Mt. Vernon, and Kimberly Johnson, a Psychology major from Logan. Both will be returning to Rend Lake College this fall as sophomores.

A grant in 2000 from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation in Atlanta, GA, enabled the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation to establish the program. The grant challenged Coca-Cola "to create an initiative that would enhance the post-secondary education of future leaders."

One Centennial Scholar was identified from each state and awarded a \$2,000 scholarship at the American Association of Community Colleges Centennial Celebration in Chicago in April. Dalby and Johnson are among 350 recipients of \$1,000 awards announced recently in letters to their respective college Presidents.

Both Dalby and Johnson were nominated by RLC Cooperative Education and Employment Services Coordinator Ed Ruffino and Specialist Mark Clark. Nominees must have 100 hours of volunteer community service to their credit in the past year.

"The Coca-Cola Two-Year College Scholarships Program addresses a large, primarily under-served population of college students. A scholarship of this nature provides the support and sense of encouragement these students need to continue to succeed," said J. Mark Davis, President of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation.

It is unlikely anyone would challenge the worthiness of either Rend Lake College volunteer/scholarship recipient.

Dalby has been active with youth groups at Logan Street Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon for many years, thanks to the encouragement of her parents, Russell and Debbie Dalby. During her four years in high school, she participated in mission trips to assist in eye clinics and Vacation Bible



Financial aid experiences large increases in decade

BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 1990

According to figures provided by Doug Carlson, RLC Director of Financial Aid for the past 11 years, the number of financial aid recipients has more than tripled compared to 10 years ago and the amount of monies awarded is nearly 4 1/2 times greater.

In 1989-90, an unduplicated headcount of total of 2,431 students received \$3,147,318 from various federal, state, institutional and other sources of financial aid.

In addition, 52 students will receive scholarships totalling \$30,322 during 1990-91 from the RLC Foundation. Veterans benefits are not included in those figures.

Over the past decade, Carlson added, "Rend Lake College has increased its reliance on student workers, which is good for both the students and for the college." A total of 83 students in 1989-90 received \$72,901 through the federally funded College Work-Study (CWS) program and another \$87,517 was spent on student employment through institutional means.

UPDATE: Compare to these numbers from 2007-08 . . .

	Students	Amount
Federal	1,492	\$3,065,868
State	2,578	3,902,135
Institutional	744	1,274,288
Other	418	192,856
TOTAL		\$8,435,147

BILL SHIELDS (MVCC '58), Mt. Vernon
2005 "Alumnus of the Year"
Assistant Professor / Workforce Education Coordinator,
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON (1998), Valier
2006 "Alumnus of the Year"
Distribution Center Manager,
Walgreens - Mt. Vernon

ALUMNI SUCCESSES

2005 - 2006

2006 - 2007



Fall '83 Blood Drive nets record 134 campus donors

OCTOBER 1983

Students and staff of Rend Lake College responded in record fashion October 5 to the semiannual visit of the American Red Cross Bloodmobile.

A total of 134 pints of blood were collected from 152 potential donors. The previous high, according to RLC Nurse Judy Fullerton, was 118 donations. Included in the fall total were 77 first-time donors, many of them college freshmen.

Fullerton praised the cooperation of various student organizations, including the Student Senate, Student Education Association (SEA), Circle K Club, Health classes taught by Wayne Arnold and Nursing science classes of Larry Williams.



In 10-year span, students and staff give 271 gallons

MARCH 1992

Rend Lake College students and staff have donated over 271 gallons to American Red Cross "Blood Drives" over the past 10 years, according to Nurse Judy Conner.

Between Fall 1982 and Spring 1992, the Red Cross Bloodmobile has come to RLC twice each year and has failed to reach 200 pints only once.

Yearly totals of recent drives:

Year	Fall	Spring
[1980-81	119	-]
1982-83	117	110
1983-84	134	113
1984-85	106	106
1985-86	111	78
1986-87	122	125
1987-88	133	118
1988-89	139	94
1989-90	121	105
1990-91	151	102
1991-92	114	72

"I want to thank everyone and let them know we have donated 2,171 pints," Conner said.

School (Mexico), work in a homeless shelter kitchen and at a boys/ girls club (West Palm Beach, FL) and serve as a VBS teacher for underprivileged in Nashville, TN, and in the inner city of Philadelphia. She also teaches at Pre-Kindergarten Sunday School class at Logan Street Baptist.

At RLC during her freshman year, she teamed with a 10-year-old as part of the Big Brother Big Sister program and returned to her grade school alma mater as a tutor/mentor with the "Land of Lincoln" AmeriCorps project offered through Rend Lake College.

"As long as you are able to help somebody, I feel you should do it," Dalby says.

"Through the church, I have learned how worthwhile it is to help people who can benefit from it; it is good you can help, and you get a lot out of helping. It is very rewarding. I would imagine I will continue to do it for the rest of my life, as long as I know I can help someone else."

The volunteer résumé is equally impressive for Johnson, a 32-year-old mother of four who got out of the Army a year ago last April. The former Operating Room Technician and Combat Medic came to Franklin County with her husband, Ron, a manager for Diversified Cable in Illinois.

She became only the second female volunteer to join the Ewing-Northern Volunteer Fire Department when she did so in March. "I love it," she admits. "I am just trying to do my part. It definitely isn't boring."

The Johnsons coached a 1st- and 2nd-grade team for the Franklin County Soccer Association the past year and will move up to a 5th-6th-grade team this fall. And after "just helping out," she became a leader about a year ago for the Franklin County Girl Scouts.

She has been both Vice President and President of Psi Beta at RLC, where the student organization raised money for the Prevention of Child Abuse in Southern Illinois and a local food pantry. Through the co-op program, she worked at Veterans Hospital and, not surprisingly, volunteered more time.

There is more. She helps with Children's Church at Logan Baptist in Logan and participates in the Logan School Parent-Teacher Organization.

"I have volunteered all my life," she said. "Now, I do what I do not for the recognition; I try to set a good example for my kids."

Those children – Kristina, 8; Dustin, 10; Kendra, 11, and Corey, 12 – could attest to

one other admission by Johnson. "Coke is my favorite soft drink. It really is," she added.

The Two-Year Colleges Scholars Program complements the Foundation's Coca-Cola Scholars Program, which annually awards \$1.8 million in college scholarships to 250 outstanding high school seniors. It was started in 1986 and is the largest business-supported scholarship program of its kind.

COCA-COLA TWO-YEAR COLLEGES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

- 2001-02 – Emily Dalby (Mt. Vernon), Education
Kimberly Johnson (Logan), Psychology
- 2002-03 – Michelle Eubanks
Miranda Wallace
- 2004-05 – Brandi Feather
- 2005-06 – Jennifer Scott (Mt. Vernon), Education
AmeriCorps volunteer
- 2007-08 – Kelsie Knapp (DuQuoin), Agriculture
(Pinckneyville / DuQuoin H.S.)
Alexandria Hawkins (Pinckneyville)
Maddelynn Hawkins (Pinckneyville)

FORNEAR SCHOLARSHIP RLC Grad Nagreski reaps rewards for grades and community service

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 2004

Benton native Adam Nagreski has packed more community service and activity into 20 years than most people do in a lifetime. This, combined with an outstanding academic showing, has earned him the coveted Fornear Family Scholarship.

Nagreski learned of the award during the Rend Lake College Foundation Annual Dinner, held Thursday, Nov. 2, at Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn. The Fornear Family Scholarship provides significant financial aid to students planning to transfer to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Nagreski is the son of Judy Burzynski and the late Charles Nagreski.

According to Pat Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer of the Rend Lake College Foundation, the Fornear Family Scholarship is a "one-of-a-kind" award. This two-year award will provide \$8,000 for the first year and could provide another \$8,000 the following year. The award has been issued since 1998 to RLC graduates transferring to SIUC and first preference is given to Sesser residents.

"I have been told many times that throughout life, we are given opportunities that will either help us succeed or will contribute to our failure," Nagreski said in his scholarship application letter. He credited

his mother and grandmother for his positive attitude.

"They have shown me that when life throws you a curve ball, you just smile at it and hit it for a home run," he said.

Nagreski has seen his share of hardship. At the age of five, his father passed away suddenly of a heart attack. Even in the midst of this tragedy, his mother and grandmother instilled in him the determination to make the best of every situation.

"Even though my dad meant the world to both of them, to this day I have never heard either one of them ask for pity," Nagreski wrote.

As a freshman in high school, Nagreski was a starting offensive tackle on the freshman football team. During a practice session two weeks into the season, he suffered a total dislocation of his left shoulder which also crushed about one square inch of bone. The result was two surgeries and a year and a half of physical therapy.

"During that year and a half, it was frustrating not to be in the game. Looking back on it, God used this time as a great learning experience for me," Nagreski wrote. "I learned not only how to deal with the physical pain of surgery and countless hours of therapy, but also how to be mentally tough, to smile and not let it get me down.

"Going through these experiences, I have come to understand how short and unpredictable life can be. I try to be as active and involved as I possibly can," Nagreski said. He certainly has something to show for his efforts.

At Benton Consolidated High School, Nagreski was involved in numerous organizations and activities, including Student Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Fellowship of Christian Students, Student Chamber and Pep Club. He served three years as Class President and was heavily involved in athletics, including basketball, track, cross country and football, and spent a year as a student trainer.

When Nagreski transferred to Rend Lake College, he continued his efforts to serve. He currently serves as the Student Trustee on the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees,

which carries with it the responsibility of serving on statewide boards and committees. He also serves RLC as a Student Ambassador and Student Orientation Leader. Nagreski is a member and president of Phi Theta Kappa and has been named to the President's List.

Nagreski also is a well-known face in his community. He has served as a blood drive volunteer, City-Wide Cleanup volunteer, teacher's aide, Vacation Bible School teacher and peer tutor. At church, Nagreski has been Sunday School Superintendent, Assistant Youth Leader and an outside maintenance caretaker. He also volunteers his coaching abilities with the Benton Future Ranger basketball program and the Benton High School track and cross-country teams.

"During my life, I want to get the most out of it that is humanly possible, but I want to give back 10 times as much as I am given," Nagreski wrote.

In the midst of all of this volunteer work, Nagreski still has set priorities. "Even though I am very active, my class work comes first," he said. He has earned a current grade-point average of 3.86.

Nagreski said his ultimate ambition is to become an attorney. "Every day, when I go into the office or step into the courtroom, I will be helping someone," he said. "I look forward to the day I can help get a young child out of a potentially harmful situation or protect a woman from an abusive husband. If I can go home at night and know that I have helped make someone's life easier or have protected them from harm, I can think of no greater joy."

But the price tag of law school presents quite an obstacle. "Some quick math reveals that over the next few years, tuition and books alone will run about \$80,000," Nagreski said.

Nagreski said he wrote his application letter to the Fornears "not to ask for a hand-out, but for an investment. This investment will not be paid off in a year or two years, but in a lifetime of service."

James R. Fornear is the founder of the Fornear Family Scholarship. Fornear was



'Outstanding Performer' Spurlock back for recital

THE PRESSING TIMES DECEMBER 1975
Soprano Libby Spurlock, a 1974 Rend Lake College graduate who was recipient of the "Outstanding Performer of the Year Music Award," is returning to a familiar stage to present her senior recital as a Voice Major at Southern Illinois University.

She will perform December 6, 1975, in the RLC Little Theatre. Spurlock was allowed to return "home" for her recital as a special arrangement in consideration of her audience.

The 1972 graduate of Mt. Vernon Township High school enjoyed the starring role in the Rend Lake College production of "Carnival" and was a frequent soloist with both the Collegiate Choir and Community Chorus during her time on the Ina campus.

Accompanied by Pianist Michael Metheney, Spurlock performed selections ranging from operatic arias to popular arrangements, including "Touch Me in the Morning" and "The Way We Were." She ended the recital with a rendition of "A New World."

Since leaving Rend Lake College, she has been a valued member of the SIU Chorale, the Chorale Chamber Singers and the SIU Collegium Musicians Chamber Choir.

She has studied the last four years with Burt Kageff and last year received the Presser Foundation Music Scholarship Award.

ALUMNI SUCCESSES

BRAD GESELL (1980), Benton
2007 "Alumnus of the Year"
Co-Owner, Gesell's Pump Sales & Services, Inc.
- Whittington

RANDY RUBENACKER (1978), Dahlgren
2008 "Alumnus of the Year"
Co-Owner / Manager, Rubenacker Farms
Partnership - Dahlgren / 4R Equipment - McLeansboro

JIM MUIR (1997), Benton
2009 "Alumnus of the Year"
Publisher, S.I. Sports Connection, Marion Living
and Saluki Illustrated; Radio Broadcaster

2007 - 2008

2008 - 2009

2009 - 2010



Sister Bernadette among students enrolled Fall '71

FALL 1971

The student body for Fall 1971 includes Sister Bernadette, who spends most of her working time at Good Samaritan Hospital in Mt. Vernon, along with 20 other Sisters of the Order of St. Francis from Pittsburgh, PA.

Sister Bernadette is a part-time student taking English and Music Appreciation in preparation of transferring eventually into the Physical Therapy program at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.



Poets McCann, Whittington have works published in '75

DECEMBER 1975

Rend Lake College students Holly McCann (Benton) and Deb Whittington (Mt. Vernon) have had poems selected for publication in the December 1975 edition of Biannual Anthology of College Poetry.



Weinhoffer 13th of 257 in Radiologic Challenge

2009

Rend Lake College student Danielle Weinhoffer (Pinckneyville) finished 13th out of 257 students from across the country at the Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology 2009 National Conference in Las Vegas. Weinhoffer answered radiology-related questions in the Student Challenge.

Kim Robert, Director of Radiologic Technology, co-sponsored the student outing with RLC Clinical Coordinator Joan Laughhunn and their assistant, Bria Robinson. Eight students made the trip.

a youth foundation and Job Corps Center director before starting his Louisville, Kentucky-based rehabilitation company, Res-Care Inc. (signifying respect and care), in 1974.

Fornear built Res-Care into a multimillion dollar corporation recognized by *Forbes* and *Business Week* magazines. His corporation is traded on the NASDAQ, and Fornear remains a company board member though retired from daily corporate operations. Res-Care helps and houses the disabled, teaches job skills to needy youths and provides support to homebound people.

Fornear, a former part-time Sociology instructor at Mt. Vernon Community College, has been named Southern Illinois University at Carbondale's Alumnus of the Year and has twice appeared on the cover of *SIU Alumni* magazine. He also was named "Alumnus of the Year" at Sesser-Valier High School.

The Fornear Family Scholarship has come full circle since its inception. Inaugural winner Jody Williams, completing her fourth year as a fourth-grade teacher at Sesser-Valier Community District 196, recently was honored as Franklin County's Walmart Teacher of the Year. Mitchell said Williams is now able to help to help other students reach success.

FORNEAR SCHOLARSHIP Injured student-athlete Shane Garner a 'lucky man' thanks to full-ride aid

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 2004

An unfortunate knee injury put a stop to Rend Lake College student Shane Garner's basketball career and has put him on the baseball sidelines this spring. Even so, Garner considers himself a lucky man.

Garner (Sesser) is the recipient of this year's Fornear Family Scholarship, which provides a "full ride" to Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

According to Pat Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer of the Rend Lake College Foundation, the Fornear Family Scholarship is a "one-of-a-kind" award. It provides \$10,000 per year for two years. The award has been issued since 1998 to RLC graduates transferring to SIUC and first preference is given to Sesser residents.

In his scholarship application letter, Garner said he graduated from Sesser-Valier High School with a 3.954 grade-point average. During high school, Garner became a member of the National Honor Society, Out-

doorsman Club, Thespians and Bible Club. Athletically, he was named to the All-State Basketball Team and the All-Conference Baseball and Football teams, and he became a conference champion in track.

Garner, the son of Lonnie and Cheryl Garner of Sesser, also is heavily involved in his church. According to Woody D. Wilson, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Sesser, Garner was highly involved in the church's youth program while in high school and has continued to look for opportunities to serve since graduation.

During the past three summers, Garner has taken mission trips with the church to help build houses for low-income families in places such as Cheyenne, WY; Boston; Sioux City, IA; Baton Rouge and Shreveport, LA.

"Shane is a hard-working student and athlete . . . he is friendly, cooperative and has a great spirit about him," Wilson wrote. "He represents himself, his family, school and church with integrity and honor."

At Rend Lake College, Garner joined the Warriors basketball and baseball teams, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Athletic Student Council and Phi Theta Kappa, all the while maintaining a 3.65 grade-point average.

However, Garner's promising college athletics career hit a setback early this year when, while running during basketball practice, Garner felt a pop in his knee. He later found that he had torn his medial meniscus, an injury which required surgery to repair. The injury ended his basketball career and kept him from playing baseball this spring.

"I was hurt and depressed at first, but I knew I had to go on because it happened on God's terms and it is His will for me," Garner said. As it happened, the injury introduced Garner to a new passion.

The rehabilitation sessions following Garner's knee surgery got him interested in the field of physical therapy, so much so that he has decided to make it his career.

"I not only chose this profession because I love it, but also because it is a service I can give back to the community," Garner said. He said he plans to stay and work in this area after graduating from SIUC.

Garner said his father, Lonnie, a coal miner for nearly 20 years, was his "determination and reason" for pursuing the Fornear Family Scholarship. He said obtaining the scholarship would relieve a great burden from the shoulders of his father, who often

has faced the prospect of unemployment in a field with increasingly less job security.

"If this scholarship would allow my dad to breathe at least one sigh of relief, it would be far more gratifying than anything I have ever done or accomplished in my life," he said.

Garner will be recognized as the Fornear Family Scholarship recipient at the Rend Lake College Foundation Scholarship Dinner on September 23.

James R. Fornear is the founder of the Fornear Family Scholarship. Fornear was a youth foundation and Job Corps Center director before starting his Louisville, Kentucky-based rehabilitation company, Res-Care Inc., in 1974.

Fornear built Res-Care into a multimillion dollar corporation recognized by *Forbes* and *Business Week* magazines. His corporation is traded on the NASDAQ, and Fornear remains a company board member though retired from daily corporate operations. Res-Care helps and houses the disabled, teaches job skills to needy youths and provides support to homebound people.

Fornear, a former part-time Sociology instructor at Mt. Vernon Community College, has been named SIUC Alumnus of the Year and has twice appeared on the cover of *SIU Alumni* magazine. He also was named Alumnus of the Year at Sesser-Valier H.S.

FORNEAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FOR R.L.C. GRADUATES AT S.I.U.C.

- 1998-99 – Jody Williams (Sesser)
- 1999-2000 – Nichole Cochrum (Benton)
- 2000-01 – Lacy Kirk
Nichole Andrews
- 2001-02 – Jerry Travelstead
Lacy Kirk
- 2002-03 – Jerry Travelstead
- 2003-04 – Mandi Page (Sesser)
Zack Zimbardo (Sesser)
- 2004-05 – Shane Garner (Sesser)
- 2005-06 – Adam Nagreski (Benton)
Shane Garner (Sesser)
- 2006-07 – Marsha Lamczyk (Mulkeytown)
Adam Nagreski (Benton)
- 2007-08 – Travis Zettler (Sesser)
Marsha Lamczyk (Mulkeytown)

ALUMNI SUCCESSES

Hon. MIKE D. McHANEY (1977), Mt. Vernon
2010 "Alumnus of the Year"
Fourth Judicial Circuit Court Judge
Attorney - Former Public Defender

RON SMITH (1974), Benton
2011 "Alumnus of the Year"
Men's Basketball Associate Head Coach
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

PETER JOHNSON (1985), Mt. Vernon
2012 "Alumnus of the Year"
Instrumentation System Engineer
NASA / Flight Avionics Division

**HEADED TO BIOSPHERE II
Future Scientist Steve Holman knows he does not want to be 'stuck' in lab**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 1997

Steve Holman leaves Rend Lake College after a year and a half knowing exactly what he likes and does not like.

He wants to be a scientist.

But he is just as adamant, "I do not want to be stuck in a lab all day."

Based on past experiences and upcoming endeavors, that should not be a concern for the Ewing native and Benton Consolidated High School graduate.

Holman will major in Chemical Oceanography, an offshoot of the better known field of Marine Biology.

Because "I want to be involved with research . . . I do not want to be struck in a lab all day," he chose the past winter to spend his holidays as one of 20 Long Island University students diving, snorkeling and doing research on the coral reefs and inhabitants of the South Pacific Islands.

He has been accepted into the Oceanography program at Florida State University, beginning in January.

Come August 30, however, he will depart for a semester of study through Columbia University at the Biosphere II Center in Oracle, AZ. It is the environmental creation in which scientists/citizens first attempted to live in isolation in their own little world.

This represents only the third class of 75 students to be accepted into the 16-credit college program studying Biosphere II (the original; Biosphere I, in scientific terms, refers to the Earth).

Ironically, Holman will be joined by a familiar face. Fellow BCHS graduate and former classmate Josh Payne will be his roommate in Arizona.

Payne attended Columbia University his freshman year before taking a planned transfer of one year to Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He will return to the New York campus after his tour of duty around Biosphere II and complete his Medical Engineering major, according to Holman, who went to SIUC for a semester before transferring to Rend Lake College.



Brother-sister authors sign at RLC Coffee Shop

DECEMBER 2003

The RLC Coffee Shop will host a family get-together Saturday, December 20, when two local authors hold a joint book-signing opportunity for their most recent efforts.

Bonnie residents T.J. Howard and his sister, Shirley Howard Roney, will be available that day from noon until 2 p.m. at the RLC MarketPlace.

T.J. Howard's latest publication, **Watching Over Rains**, has just come out in time for the holiday season. The book is a biography of World War II veteran Cecil Rains. Howard, a graduate of Rend Lake College, also will have copies of a previous publication, **How Far is Heaven?**, available for purchase.

Shirley Howard Roney will be signing copies of her latest book, **The Helmet**, a fictional piece that also has just been released in recent weeks.

In addition to Saturday's book-signing, Manager Cindy Hoard has announced the availability of made-to-order Gift Baskets through the RLC Coffee Shop. Gift Baskets in all sizes and price ranges can be produced – ready for pick-up later the same day – featuring Brevé Specialty Coffees, The Republic of Tea, Lake Champlain Chocolates, The Regal Frog Soap Co. and/or RLC Coffee Shop and RLC Golf Outlet Gift Certificates.

RLC Child Care Resource and Referral's Trinda Heitmeyer makes fancy, fragrance soaps under The Regal Frog Soap Co.



Students with RLC ties at Obama Inauguration

JANUARY 17, 2009

A group of Rend Lake College students will fly out early tomorrow morning on the way to a first-hand lesson in U.S. history – the swearing in of this country's first black president, Barack Obama.

Interim Liberal Arts chair Henry "Buster" Leeck and Dean of Student Services Lisa Price, coordinators for the trip, indicated planning started more than two years ago as the unprecedented presidential race unfolded into a record voter turnout and an upcoming inauguration expected to set a new attendance high.

"When Buster and I talked about doing this trip we were excited with whatever way the election went," Price said. "As the election proceeded we became more and more excited in knowing that either way the vote went – Republican or Democrat – we would be there for a historic inauguration. We would see the first black President take the oath or the first female Vice President enter the White House."

Students attending are Andrew Burgin and Anthony Graham of Mt. Vernon, Abigail Blair of Salem, Derrick James of Belle Rive, Victoria Price of Ewing and John Shukites of Christopher. Joining them are RLC graduate Jade Helm of Mt. Vernon and Associate Professor of English Rebecca Biggs.

"It is a historical time for our country and me personally," James said. "It's going to be a part of our lives and I am glad to be a part of it."

"I'm really excited," Biggs said. "I got my tickets before the election, so I didn't know who would be inaugurated, but I knew either way it was

(Continued at far right on next page)

To back up just for a moment . . . Holman, 20, the son of Thomas and Linda Holman, was watching "Shark Week" on the Discovery Channel as a high school freshman when he first decided what he wanted to do for a vocation.

While playing basketball, running cross-country and track and joining numerous clubs and organizations, he also found time to take eight semesters of science courses at BCHS.

He was a student-worker in the Math Lab his first semester at Rend Lake College before responding to a challenge to fill a similar role under Chemistry Instructor John Fisher.

Not merely an ordinary student-worker – in case that hasn't already become quite obvious – he helped organize a grant program which takes chemistry experiments into area grade and high schools. "Captivating to the eyes," Holman explains, these demonstrations with everyday household chemicals "help the audience realize chemistry is more than just periodic tables."

He emphatically demonstrated that point to himself this past January as the only Fiji Islands participant who was not a full-time Long Island University student. Holman admittedly "was almost killed four times" during his 25-day adventure. Sharks, it would seem, were the least of his problems during the six hours of daily snorkeling; it was dealing with cone shells with darts "so potent they could kill a human being within 20 minutes."

The others may have taken preparatory classes telling of the dangers lurking, but Holman did not receive his sheet warning of poisonous critters until the first day they prepared to take a dive.

"By the fourth or fifth day, I felt comfortable holding these things. You just have to know how to approach things like sea snakes, moray eels, scorpion fish, stonefish and rods of baby jellyfish."

A sea snake searching for food innocently poked its head out from sea grass once, about three inches from his hand. On another occasion, a six-foot moray eel gave chase briefly.

For a certified advanced diver who had spent the first six months of training in the lakes of Kentucky and Rend Lake, it was quite an introduction to field research, rather than a boring lab.

Fisher, a lifelong resident of Herrin, persuaded Holman to check into the highly

regarded program offered by Florida State, where another Herrin native, John Carnaghi, serves as Vice President of Administration and Financial Aid.

Holman has an appointment this week to discuss scholarship possibilities with the FSU Provost, who has a Doctorate in Oceanography. There also is the possibility of lining up an internship with Mote Marine Laboratory, which recently made a breakthrough with sharks and cancer research.

"I can't say enough good things about what Mr. Fisher has done for me. He has been especially helpful," Holman said. "From the financial aspect, Rend Lake College has been much appreciated, also. The Math and Science Department has really done a great job preparing me to go on."

And go on he will.

It was Payne who first told Holman about the Biosphere II opportunity. "I looked it up on the Internet and actually applied over the Internet," he explained. "What are the odds of two from Benton being among 75 chosen?"

Created in the early '90s, the self-contained unit in many ways "was considered a total failure. The people went in for two years and didn't get along.

"But in any kind of research, the only way you can get progression is if you fail first. That is why we are still working with it."

The 16 credit hours of environmental studies through Columbia U. will focus on global warming, otherwise known as the "greenhouse effect," "and basically how we can change the earth in some way to stop those effects, even with the ozone getting worse," Holman commented.

Included will be concentrations on the politics of environmental issues and how to publish and disseminate information to government officials and the media for greater public awareness. Two credits will be devoted to a research paper documenting their experiences.

It is Holman's understanding students will not live inside Biosphere II, as did the original, unhappy inhabitants. In between two extensive, three-week studies inside, there will be a 10-day field trip to the Grand Canyon, a week-long visit to the Sonora Desert in Southern Arizona and upper Mexico and an in-depth look at the Gulf of California led by an oceanography specialist.

"Everything, though, will be dealing with the same thing: stopping global warming. Right now, corals are dying out in the

ocean, and they think that is caused by global warming.

"This is what I want to do," concluded Holman. "Only in this field can you do stuff like this. The field involves adventure . . . it is not uncommon at all.

"This isn't the most important thing I will ever do in my life, either. I realize that. It is just the beginning."

[As life would have it, Steve Holman graduated with B.A. and M.S.Ed degrees from SIU-Carbondale. He was hired by Rend Lake College in 2001 as a full-time Science Instructor, where he immersed himself in teaching and his students, writing grant projects to expand his research opportunities and accepting campus leadership roles on various committees as one of the college's rising stars.

In January 2009, Holman submitted his resignation after accepting the position of Science Department Chair at Cape Fear Community College in North Carolina. "The faculty and staff at Rend Lake College have genuinely shown true leadership and professionalism as my colleagues, mentors and administrators. I am honored to have served the Rend Lake College community," said Holman, a participant in the first RLC Emerging Leaders Institute.]

AND NOW THE NEWS ▶ Former College Editor Mike Aaron heads Washington Associated Press

THE PRESSING TIMES APRIL 10, 1978

(Editor's Note: Mike Aaron, 31, attended Mt. Vernon Community College and served as editor of the school paper. He transferred to the University of Illinois in 1967, graduating with a degree in Journalism two years later. After working at the *Southern Illinoisan* and the *Mt. Vernon Register-News* as a reporter, he spent five years as News Editor of the *Annapolis, MD, Evening Capital*. He has worked for the Associated Press' Washington Bureau since March and for four months has been Night Supervisor, overseeing stories sent to afternoon newspapers throughout the U.S.)

By MICHAEL AARON

Pick up tonight's *Register-News*. Or the

Southern Illinoisan or the *Benton Evening News*. Find a story that begins, "WASHINGTON (AP)."

It could have been written by any of about 75 reporters in our office, the biggest bureau of the world's largest news-gathering organization. But the story might well have come across my desk to be edited.

I may not have done the detailed editing myself, but chances are that what happened to the copy after coming to me for evaluation and repair determined how much notice it got from many of the 1,200 newspapers, 3,500 radio and television stations and thousands of overseas outlets with AP printers in their newsrooms.

With the growth of news, not from just Washington but from everywhere, newspaper editors are looking more and more critically at what they'll use. Run-of-the-mill stories aren't making it.

And with more demands on readers' time, odds are an average story that does surface won't be very widely read. People won't waste time on stories that are poorly done or that fail to tell them what they need or want to know.

So, much of what I do five nights a week in spotting problems in copy reporters turn in – bad starts, sloppy wording, unclear writing, missed information and background. Then I or one of the five editors who work with me begin the detailed work that we hope will ensure that the story's reason for being sent on the wire is obvious and its execution above average.

When one of us succeeds, the importance of congressional work on energy legislation is obvious, the impact of federal regulation of interest rates is clear, the value (or lack of it) of government warnings on saccharin or laetrile is plain.

When we fail, millions of people fail to understand the degree of the government's involvement in their lives. The bureaucracy remains a mystery, feeding on our tax dollars and doing nothing very specific – at least nothing very good – in return.

But the job isn't all as heavy as this may sound. There are moments of excitement, madness and unpredictability that make it constantly challenging and downright fun.



Obama Inaugural (cont.)

going to be historical. I'm glad it is Obama. I'm very glad it is Obama and I am happy I can come back and share the experience with my students."

It will be especially memorable for Price; daughter Victoria will be with her. She is a student at RLC and works part-time for the Allied Health Division.

"My daughter is very interested in criminal justice, and government at the local, state and national levels. Aside from everything one would expect to see, I think it will be great for her to watch U.S. Secret Service agents in action – how they protect the President and manage the crowd. One to four million are predicted."

Leeck, who was a full-time History Instructor at RLC before his promotion to head of Liberal Arts, also expects a historic turnout and offered his opinion of how public perception of this inauguration stacks up to those of past presidents.

"When I look back, I see Kennedy being the last president to inspire such a public movement. Now, the American masses are really energized and interested in this president and what he is going to do."

Planning for the trip started as Leeck and his students were returning from a New York class trip two years ago.

"The candidates started lining up and, at that point, I decided something needed to be put together," he said. "It's an excellent opportunity for a lot of us."

Some students qualified for a \$500 scholarship from the RLC Foundation.

TRISH REED (1987), Scheller
2013 "Alumna of the Year"
President / General Manager
UpTime Parts, LLC (Navistar Inc.)

JIM MOUNIER (1972), Mt. Vernon
2014 "Alumnus of the Year"
Senior Vice President
Merrill Lynch in Rockford

STUDENT SUCCESSES

2013 - 2014

2014 - 2015

2015 - 2016



Spunky, sincere Dilley really the girl next door

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH MAGAZINE
AUGUST 30, '92 BY FLORENCE SHINKLE

Excerpts from a Q&A with Actress Carol Dilley, a "familiar face to St. Louis audiences" . . .

Dilley landed in this shiny South County home four months ago . . . Actors aren't supposed to want such snug suburban environments to settle in between gigs. An actor's-life-for-me has nothing in it about the joys of church and PTA membership.

But Dilley, 37, raised in the small, close-knit town of Mount Vernon, IL yearned for "those community connections."

Dilley really is the girl next door. She radiates spunkiness and sincerity and strength of character. Recognizing it, producers have cast her as Nellie in "South Pacific," Maria in "The Sound of Music" and Annelie in the Rep's production of "Steel Magnolias." She plays the character who is looking for the place to come home to, spiritually and physically.

In this case, art really does imitate life: "I wanted to act, but I also wanted my daughter to have a good neighborhood to grow up in. I wanted to belong to a church. I'd had a vagabond existence. I wanted those community ties."

Q. Have you always wanted to be an actor?

A. No. I have a degree in music education. I tried teaching for a few years in Peoria, K-8. I had acted a little in college, and it was a love. (She puts her hand to her heart involuntarily.) I joined a theater group (in Peoria). I thought to myself that I enjoyed doing this and if I could make my living at it, great . . . I never made it into a grand destiny for myself. It wasn't the be-all and end-all for me . . . I knew acting made me happy, but I wanted balance."

Excitement like the night last summer when New York's lights went out. Our home office, without the power to operate, turned all national and international wires over to us. Throughout the night, in an ad-hoc operation that duplicated in miniature what New York normally does, we collected news from around the world and then transmitted it back. Our competition, United Press International, was out of service for about 18 hours, so much of what the world knew that night – about the blackout, about an American helicopter being shot down in Korea, about scores of other events – was filtered through our bureau.

Throughout the night I was on the phone to bureaus from London to Tokyo, ensuring that nothing of significance slipped by and guaranteeing that people knew what was happening in New York.

On the night the Evansville Aces (basketball team) plane crashed, we decided to get one of our top reporters on his way there as quickly as possible, but there are always hitches.

First, his babysitter couldn't remember where he was. It turned out to be a party at an ambassador's house and the servant who answered the phone couldn't find the reporter.

Then I was told he was coming to the phone. Wrong, it was his wife, who wondered why the office wanted her. Then she waded back into the party and found her husband, who loves excitement and was only too willing to pack and go.

He loves excitement so much that he apparently hadn't heard where I wanted to send him, only that it was a big story. Half an hour later, I got him in the midst of packing to tell him we'd gotten him a flight. His first question, "Where is it I'm going?"

Or the madness of a night in October when Israel and Egypt announced they were resuming peace talks. We'd been expecting something from the reporter we'd sent to New York for the talks, but hadn't heard from him for several hours. So I called the hotel where the discussions were going on and dragged him out of a news conference. "I can't talk," he said and put the phone down, the line still open.

We waited what seemed like an hour but was really about 10 minutes. Then he came back and picked it up. "All right," he began as another editor and I waited to take his dictation, "slug it BULLETIN." Then he began dictating, "The Israelis and Egyptians

tonight announced they have reached a tentative agreement to reopen peace talks."

We took the story and moved it on the wire in chunks of 200 words at a time until it topped 1,000 words.

And there are nights, late nights, when something pops and we start getting bureaucrats out of bed to track down a story. Sometimes humor develops.

One of our editors was talking to a government scientist last week when the reporter put the man on hold for a minute. When the reporter picked up the phone again, the scientist said he's been sleeping nude and hadn't had time until then to put anything on. "My teeth were chattering," he said.

PROOF OF WISE INVESTMENTS ▶ Dual role of recipient, parent enables Jim Muir to thank scholarship donors

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE NOVEMBER 1997

The Rend Lake College Foundation Annual Scholarship Dinner was started in order to help donors see how their money is being invested and to provide an opportunity for recipients to say "Thank you" on a personal basis.

Jim Muir, a past recipient and father of a current student honoree, did better than that Thursday night (November 4).

As one of five invited speakers, he had a chance to tell all of those donors present: "If you ever wondered if the money you are investing is paying dividends, I'm living proof that money is invested wisely. There are scores of people like me in Southern Illinois who lost their jobs and found there is another world out there.

"Thank you," added Muir, "on behalf of all nontraditional students like myself. You have helped change people's lives."

It was the first time anyone had been asked to give a testimonial at the annual dinner, but it may be a tough act to follow.

Asked to speak by first-year RLC Foundation Executive Director Pat Mitchell, in addition to Muir, were students Gina Todd and Ashley Stewart, donor Don Smith and Shirley Bradley, who helps provide an annual scholarship in memory of her daughter, an All-America nominee while attending Rend Lake College and later killed in an automobile accident.

Todd, a graduate of Thompsonville High School, admitted the awarding of a Presidential Scholarship from Rend Lake College helped influence her decision. "No matter

how large or small (the scholarship), each is very much appreciated," she spoke for all of the recipients.

A student-worker on campus, Todd indicated everyone she has worked with "has been a very positive influence on my life."

"I will never forget my experience here," Todd added. "I pray my experience at SIU (the next two years) will be as memorable as they have been here."

Smith, the new basketball coach at Benton Consolidated High School, is one of four brothers to attend RLC. Three are graduates. In recognition of their mother, they helped start the Ruth O. Smith Memorial Scholarship for a BCHS graduate attending college. They asked for donations to a scholarship fund in lieu of flowers at the time of her death in August 1996.

"It is great to be back," admitted Don Smith, a member of the first class (1970) to attend classes on the Ina campus. "This brings back a lot of fond memories. I'm proud to say I am a Rend Lake College graduate. It means a lot to all of us."

His mother was "proud to say she was a farmer" and did not have an opportunity to attend college. "But most of all, she was a good person. Education was always important to her and our family. Even though our parents never attended college, it was a foregone conclusion all of us boys would. That was nonnegotiable. Fortunately for our family, Rend Lake College was here."

The Ruth O. Smith Scholarship does not stipulate that it must go to a Rend Lake College student, but Don Smith conceded he was "very proud" the first recipient, Ashley Stewart, made that choice.

Stewart told over 200 in attendance she is from a family of four, with an older sister in pharmacy college in St. Louis. Those fees "already were putting a financial strain on my parents.

"Needless to say, these scholarships are very much appreciated."

Continued Stewart, "An education is a must, but it also is a great privilege. I realize a lot of kids my age don't have this opportunity. I'd like to thank all of you."

Muir provided most of the lighter moments in the testimony, despite recalling the

feelings of a 38-year-old coal miner with 20 years of experience, a high school education, three grade-school children . . . and suddenly faced with no job.

"I was scared to death to attend," Muir remembered. "But the reason I stand here tonight is because I am very loyal to Rend Lake College. They have been good to me; I'm going to try to be good to them.

"From my initial phone call here, everybody down the line always has been very positive, up-front and honest with me. When you are 38, scared and intimidated, it's a different feeling. Everybody at RLC made those feelings go away. They gave me confidence I didn't know I had."

Muir, who now writes for the *Benton Evening News* and attends SIUC full-time, singled out Rend Lake College Journalism Professor Mike Mullen. "I didn't know if I could write . . . he always gave me a chance . . . Now I know I can, thanks to him, and I'm good at it."

Bradley recalled some of the many activities daughter Andrea was involved in while attending RLC, including Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Treasurer of the Human Resource Club, a student-worker job in the Fitness Center and part-time employment off-campus as well.

"Andrea knew the difficulties of being raised by a single-parent," her mother said.

The Andrea Bradley Phi Theta Kappa Memorial Scholarship was started "in part to express my love and feelings for Andrea, who also happened to be my best friend."

"The purpose of the Foundation," concluded Mitchell, "is to offer opportunities that would not be there in any other way. Actually, that is what the scholarships do, too."

SCHOLARSHIP DINNER Opportunity for donors, recipients to meet proves to be huge success

BENTON EVENING NEWS OCTOBER 1999
BY JIM MUIR, CITY EDITOR

When the Rend Lake College Foundation Annual Scholarship Dinner was originated several years ago, the idea was to give scholarship recipients a chance to meet the person who provided their scholarship and express their gratitude.



HOW Design participants include Poster Boy James

JULY 2005

It was a Graphic Designer's playground. More than 3,400 artists, 50-plus speakers and 85 exhibiting companies gathered to show their expertise, tips and tricks during the 2005 HOW Design Conference held in Chicago in June.

And recent RLC graduate Miles James was there to soak it all in, thanks to a little help from Craig Williams of Community Link in Pinckneyville.

Williams sponsored the trip by James after the student won a poster design contest, according to Jennifer Tarantino Linsin, Graphic Design Associate Professor.

"The conference was an outstanding learning opportunity for any serious student of design," said Williams. James (Marion) is headed to Savannah College of Design and will benefit immensely from his preparation at Rend Lake College and the real-world exposure he gained at the HOW Design Conference, Williams commented.

"Designers from all over the world were in attendance and Chicago played the part of a wonderful host. From outstanding seminars and workshops in type, image manipulation, publishing and many more areas of design interest to the resource center featuring exhibitors to the trade to the outlandish masquerade party thrown by Neenah Paper to the Blue Man Group, we thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from the HOW Design Conference," Williams said.

STUDENT BODY
Includes 8 in-district
H.S. Valedictorians
& 7 Salutatorians
Fall 1973

HONORARY DEGREE ~
Hon. KENNETH J. GRAY
U.S. Representative '54-'74
Commencement - May 18, 1975

STUDENT SUCCESSES

1967 - 1973

1973 - 1974

1974 - 1975

1975 - 1976

1976 - 1977



Studio RLC grad Fickett 'nails' nationwide contest

NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 8, 2007

Wednesday, August 8, was a good day for Samantha Fickett.

The 18-year-old from Fairview Heights not only graduated from the Studio RLC Paul Mitchell Partner School in Mt. Vernon, she was announced as the Grand Prize winner of OPI's nationwide School Division Photo Competition for Nail Technology.

Fickett thought she was runner-up; that is what everyone told her. "They all tricked me," she said. "They told me I was runner-up. I wasn't expecting it at all. I am just really excited."

Caren Hoerchler of the North Hollywood-based OPI and Chicago-based OPI School Division, presented Fickett with a framed certificate and her choice of \$250 in OPI products.

"I won't have to buy nail polish for a long time," she said.

OPI is a world-leading company in professional nail care. Through its school division, the company annually distributes about \$9,000 in prizes and scholarships to the finalists of competitions like the student photo competition. Fickett submitted a posterboard displaying photos of extremely detailed and decorative nail designs she had sculpted.

Hoerchler, whose duties include helping instructors and future professionals with their nail program, said Fickett "did incredible work and that is why she is our grand prize winner. Her presentation was very eye-catching. It stood out from everyone else."

"It's very exciting. We are very proud of her," said Daphne Mitchell, the Cosmetology Program Director at Studio RLC, located in the RLC Marketplace in Mt. Vernon.

(Continued at far right on next page)

If the 1999 RLC Foundation Scholarship Dinner is any indication, the idea is a huge success. A packed house, comprised mostly of scholarship donors and recipients, filled the RLC Student Center Thursday night for the annual event.

Four RLC students, each representing a different aspect of the Ina-based college, gave impressive speeches concerning the impact the RLC Foundation scholarship had made on their lives.

Nichole Cochrum, of Benton, an RLC graduate who is currently attending Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, said during an emotional speech that she considered RLC Foundation members Wendell and Betty Maulding, of Benton, "my guardian angels."

The Mauldings provided the scholarship through the RLC Foundation that allowed Cochrum to complete her Associate Degree.

"I could never have made it through without their help," Cochrum said. "Everybody at RLC went out of their way to help me. The scholarship the Mauldings provided was an answer to my prayers . . . it impacted my life forever."

The large crowd also heard comments from Danielle Camp, of Mt. Vernon, who told about the importance, as a single-mother, the new RLC Children's Center had made in her life, and from Brenda McCollum, of Benton, who explained about a "Students for Students" Art Auction that provides scholarships for deserving students who are pursuing a career in art.

Alex Bartolomucci, of Bluford, another scholarship recipient, thanked RLC Foundation members, saying they had helped ease the financial strain of college for him and countless others.

RLC Foundation Executive Director Pat Mitchell said more than 300 students attended Rend Lake College last year on scholarships, but challenged donors to continue their support.

"The need is there for the students in this district," Mitchell said. "We've made great strides, but there is more we can do."

BRENDA WEBSTER MCCOLLUM ▸ **Civic Center fire takes artist's works: 'It was like I lost four years of my life'**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 1999

It is doubtful Brenda Webster McCollum will ever be considered a starving artist. She does not depend on her art work to put food on the table.

However, it may be save to say very few artists anywhere have suffered more than McCollum, a resident of Benton. The Rend Lake College art student lost about 15 pieces when her one-woman exhibit went up in flames a couple of years ago during a fire at the Marion Civic Center.

The loss can be measured, in part, by McCollum's own admissions.

- "When I create a painting, I can never duplicate that. They are all originals, and each one is different," she says.

- "I have always said, 'When I create something, it represents at least a month of my life,' because that is usually the minimum length of time it takes me to do a painting."

- "I just feel like four years of my life is gone," she told RLC graduate Phil Pearson of the *Benton Evening News*. "It is like a part of me died." "You wouldn't believe how many cards of sympathy I got from other artists; they felt the loss I was going through."

The lost exhibit indeed "represented everything I had done up to that point, except for three pieces I was preparing to enter into another show." It did not help matters any that the exhibit was scheduled to come down later that week.

Since the day McCollum was informed of the news by her husband, Richard, and had to turn on television to confirm it was not a cruel joke he was playing on her, the artist has bounced back nicely.

She is in the process of creating a series of mono-print embossments on handmade paper to sell at the Fourth Annual "Students for Students" Art Auction Saturday, October 30. The fund-raiser for student scholarships will take place at Seasons on the Green in Whittington beginning at 6 p.m.

McCollum has come a long way – suffering much, obviously, while likewise feeling the exhilaration of victory – since registering for her first painting class at Rend Lake College in 1994. She has taken art classes ever since under Instructors Sarah Capps and Therese Howard.

In February 1996, when Rend Lake College became the first downstate to host the annual Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition, McCollum's acrylic painting of old sneakers, entitled "Retired," claimed "Best of Show" honors as RLC representatives won seven of the top 15 awards presented by an outside judge.

Last fall, she enrolled full-time in pursuit of a degree after winning the Herrin-

Festa Art Scholarship. She is on schedule to receive her Associate Degree this May and hopes to follow through as a Fine Arts major at a four-year institution, most likely Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Ultimately, "I would absolutely love to be able to create my art and make a living selling it," she said.

McCullum will not make anything off of the mono-print embossments on handmade paper that will be auctioned off at the "Students for Students" affair, but someone will benefit. That is what keeps the creative fires burning for an artist like McCullum.

NEWS RELEASE MARCH 1997

Almost the entire collection of award-winning artist McCullum was destroyed in the early morning fire.

She knew the watercolor paintings would be destroyed, but hoped the more durable acrylics and oils would withstand the punishment of the fire better than they did. Even the frames, some of which were metal, were destroyed.

Because she was scheduled for a two-month show at the Civic Center, she was pressed for time and failed to take photographs of most of the paintings, especially the most recent ones.

"You can never paint the same thing again," she added.

PROFILES IN SUCCESS ▶ Alumnus Brown featured by AACJC 'Reflections on the C.C. Experience'

AMERICAN ASSN. OF COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES 1990

I guess I was actually inspired by my second-grade teacher to become a teacher. She was my idol; she cared, and she provided a positive motivation for me to do my best.

In my family, my grandmother and my aunt were my lifeline to the future. My grandmother always said for me to learn to get along with everybody and to look for the "good" in others. One of her main thoughts was to "make something out of yourself."

My goal of wanting to be a teacher and to return to Mt. Vernon to teach was ever present. Due to our financial situation, Mt. Vernon Community College was my only

consideration. The cost was an activity fee of \$10 per semester. Looking back, we had to make some sacrifices to get the activity fee.

Once I entered college, Betty Ann Ward provided me with guidance. She took me "under her wings" and made me feel like I counted. Other faculty members provided the one-on-one type relationships that helped me to succeed. If I started to have problems in English Composition, the teacher, Todd Oliver, would take me aside and offer suggestions for improvement. The caring, dedicated teachers helped to make a difference for me.

The students were friendly. However, I was always taught that to make a "friend," you have to be a "friend." I made it a point to speak to other students and they spoke back. I was involved in many activities like the Student Education Association with Imogene Book. The administrator, Dr. Howard Rawlinson, had the door open to students to make us feel that we "counted."

My years at the college made a difference in my life. My confidence in my academic abilities was improved; my self-esteem improved greatly, and my continued willingness to "make something of myself" was fed with a commitment to be a successful teacher.

After completing my Associate Degree at Mt. Vernon Community College, I graduated from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 1968 with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Studies and in 1973 with a Master's Degree in Guidance and Educational Psychology. I am currently a Guidance Counselor at Mt. Vernon Township High School in Mt. Vernon, IL.

Since I am in the public eye as a school Counselor, I have been involved in many church, school and community-related activities. I really like my job and enjoy the people I work with at school. I owe it to my family and to my teachers from the elementary level through the junior college level who provided the "I know you can do it" attitude.

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Fickett 'nails' it (cont.)

Studio RLC was presented with an award for Fickett's accomplishment . . . a plaque for "Outstanding Teaching and Student Motivation in the Field of Nail Technology." It will be displayed in the reception area.

"This is a first in the school's history," she said. "I hope it will motivate other Future Professionals to have the confidence to participate in competitions." Mitchell said Fickett was excited, even when she thought she was runner-up.

Wednesday was a milestone for Fickett. It was the last day in 11 months of commuting a 140-mile round-trip to Mt. Vernon from Fairview Heights.

Her journey, however, is just beginning. She will visit her family in Wisconsin over the next week before starting a full-time position with the Paul Mitchell Focus Salon in Maryville August 21. It is the same salon where she has worked Saturdays since April. "I'll take a week or two off and then I'm going right to work to make some money," she said.

Mitchell said all eight of Wednesday's Studio RLC Paul Mitchell Partner School graduates have jobs waiting.

According to Fickett, she knew in high school she wanted to go into cosmetology. She said her hairdresser from junior high through high school told her if she wanted a successful career in the field, she should go to a Paul Mitchell school.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

HONORARY DEGREE ~
ROSE MALONEY
Mother of 8 RLC graduates
Commencement - May 14, 1978

PRESIDENTIAL
SCHOLARSHIPS
Awarded for first time
to 19 incoming freshmen
Fall 1980

DIANE HEATON
Incoming Rend Lake College Sophomore
Spring 1981 BCHS Grad enrolls with 32+ college credits
Fall Semester 1981

HONORARY DEGREE ~
JEANE J. KIRKPATRICK
United Nations Ambassador
July 1981 in Mt. Vernon

1977 - 1978

1978 - 1979

1979 - 1980

1980 - 1981

1981 - 1982



Hands-on Nursing poster wins Illinois competition

MAY 2007

SPRINGFIELD – A group of Associate Degree Nursing students from Rend Lake College recently took first place out of 15 colleges in a poster-creating competition held by the Illinois Nurses Association. To top it off, they marched on the State Capitol with about 1,500 of their nursing comrades.

In recognition of receiving top honor in the contest, their poster theme, “The Future of Nursing Lies in our Hands,” will be the 2008 slogan for the INA and the group’s photo will appear on the cover of its monthly publication.

RLC’s Susan Graul (Coulterville), Kerry Pham (Akin), Nicole Rogers (DuQuoin), Laci Simmons (Bluford) and Amanda Wilkins (Texico) took their poster to the Illinois Student Nurse Association Political Action Day in Springfield.

The poster featured photos of the nursing students’ children and other children dressed in hospital scrubs and nurse uniforms. Small handprints were scattered on it and the theme displayed across the center.

College’s from Chicago to McKendree competed in the contest. RLC was the southernmost college in the state to attend. Joining the students in Springfield were ADN Instructor Georgia Lambert and Professor Debbie Benns.

Guest speakers included state Rep. Angelo “Skip” Saviano (R-Elmwood Park) and Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who talked about healthcare and the students’ responsibilities as future nurses, according to Lambert.

They marched in support of the Nurse Practice Act (HB119) and as part of the students’ Leadership class at RLC.

[Robert L. Brown graduated from Mt. Vernon Community College in 1966 with an A.A. Degree. He now lives in Mt. Vernon, IL, and is a Counselor at Mt. Vernon Township High School. He is a member of the Jefferson County Credit Union Board, the NAACP, the Mt. Vernon Education Association, the Illinois Education Association and the Illinois Association for Counseling and Development. He is a former board member of the Lutheran Children and Family Services and former co-chair of the House-to-House Campaign for the American Cancer Society.]

[Editor’s Note: Robert L. Brown was honored by the RLC Foundation in 1983 as its “Outstanding Alumnus” Award-winner.]

[Editor’s Note: In November 2011, Brown (Class of 1964) was among those honored as Distinguished Alumni at the third Mt. Vernon Township High School Foundation Recognition Dinner. Also honored were two others with ties to Rend Lake College – Sam Mateer (1962) and Carol Dilley Jaudes (1973).

Brown retired in 2009 after 41 years as an educator – all but two of those at MVTHS as an American History teacher, two years, and Guidance Counselor since 1972.

He also served as Mt. Vernon Fire and Police Commissioner, Good Samaritan Regional Health Center Foundation Trustee and Counselor Emeritus at Cedarhurst.]

PROFILES IN SUCCESS ▶ Alumna Bengtson featured by AACJC ‘Reflections on the C.C. Experience’

AMERICAN ASSN. OF COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES 1990

I purchased my first Rend Lake College T-shirt in 1987. Upon graduation from Rend Lake College in 1971, a T-shirt would have been an extravagance. Much has changed in these 18 years, but Rend Lake College was the critical first step that made everything possible.

I grew up in Scheller, IL, a farming and coal mining town not found on most maps, the third of six children. Most females married after high school and pursued neither college nor career. I was high school valedictorian, but had severe self-image problems as a left-handed, acne-faced, dateless student, who washed dishes during lunch hour for my 25-cent meal. Since studying was one thing I could do right, going to college was the logical choice after high school.

Rend Lake College was 23 miles from Scheller. If I had not had access to a community college with reasonable tuition [actually, no tuition; a \$10 activity fee per semester the first five years of its existence], I would

not have been able to attend college at all. Rend Lake College was small enough that I was not overwhelmed. Many classmates were similarly from a rural background with career indecision and financial concerns.

Some of my best teachers were at Rend Lake College. These encouragers, genuinely excited about teaching, became my role models. I considered English education, math education and business as possible careers based upon which teacher I admired at the moment. Mr. Edward Kownacki (chemistry) and Mr. Richard Perrachione (mathematics), two perfectionists, ultimately gave me the confidence for a career in science or math. After receiving A’s in their classes, nothing seemed impossible.

The years have passed quickly; graduation from Rend Lake College, 1971; B.A., Microbiology, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, 1972; M.D., SIU School of Medicine, Springfield, 1976; Residency, Family Practice, Deaconess Hospital, Evansville, IN, 1976-79; Staff Physician, Purdue University Student Hospital, West Lafayette, IN, 1979-84; Staff Physician, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, 1984-present.

In 10 years as a University Physician, I have treated thousands of students and diagnosed everything from colds to brain tumors. I am getting older and younger simultaneously working with this energetic patient population.

I have tried to be a positive health model with my athletic endeavors as a marathoner and triathlete and hope to run my sixth marathon in 1990, in between running after our sons, ages 2 and 4.

The combination of medicine and sports has allowed me to work as a Volunteer Team Physician for various sports from volleyball to track to basketball. For example, I have been the Volunteer Team Physician for the North Carolina State University Women’s Basketball team since 1984.

I hope Rend Lake College can be there for others to provide them a start as it was for me and my five siblings. I wear my Rend Lake College T-shirt proudly.

[Editor’s Note: Dr. Mary Kay Witges Bengtson was honored by the RLC Foundation in 1987 as its “Outstanding Alumna” Award-winner.]

UPDATE healthcenter.ncsu.edu/people/mary-bengtson/

MARY BENGTSON
M.D., Laboratory Director
Student Health Services

Dr. Mary Kay (Witges) Bengtson joined

our clinical staff in 1984. She served as Medical Director for 16 years. She is currently the Laboratory Director and a Staff Physician. Dr. Bengtson earned a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from Southern Illinois University and Doctor of Medicine from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. She completed a residency in Family Medicine by the American Board of Family Medicine. She worked as Staff Physician at Purdue University Student Health before joining our team. She earned a Certificate of Added Qualifications in Sports Medicine and has served as a Team Physician for Wolfpack Women's Basketball since 1984. She is interested in all areas of general medicine.

STUDENT TRUSTEE ▶ From Governor to Senate President, but Hollmann could opt for teaching

MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS MARCH 16, 1998
BY GREGORY NORFLEET, EDUCATION REPORTER

Though he has been aggressively pursuing politics, even campaigning around the state, Greg Hollmann is not quite sure he wants to make a career out of it.

At 19 years old, he said he may want to be a teacher, instead.

Hollmann, a Rend Lake College freshman, last Thursday was declared the winner of the Student Trustee seat on the RLC Board of Trustees.

Just looking at the election results, he won by an impressive 15 to 1 margin over 10 other candidates. However, it is important to know three things: 1. The other 10 were write-in candidates, 2. None of whom were properly registered as candidates and 3. Only 25 people voted.

"I'm really looking forward to representing the RLC campus," he said. "I'm trying to help all people on the campus, not just the people my age."

So this was an easy win for Hollmann, but they haven't all been a walk in the park.

For the last three years, he has been President of the Jefferson County Drug Free Advisory Board. He won Vice President and President seats on the Mt. Vernon Township High School Student Council, and then became President of the student body in his senior year.

But he really pushed himself while involved with the YMCA's Youth and Government program in Springfield. He was a delegate during his sophomore and junior years, but then began a year-long campaign for the Governor's race.

The campaign was broken up into three races, said Hollmann. He started by beating the "prelegislator" in Sesser for the downstate area, then he beat out a Galesburg student to become the southern nominee and finally bested a student from Southwest Stag High School in Palos Heights for the Governor's seat.

He campaigned by calling some of the larger schools in the area, asking to speak to their delegations, and setting up debates with the next candidate he had to run against.

The final election came at a three-day conference March 19-22 in Springfield. He was elected Governor for that weekend.

Bills were brought to the floor and voted upon just like the state legislators would, with the Governor signing or vetoing the bill once it got to his desk.

Hollmann signed bills, for example, lowering motorists' blood alcohol content to .08, requiring helmets for motorcycle drivers and requiring student and teacher representatives on the high school Board of Education.

Some of the bills Hollmann vetoed included distributing condoms in high schools, removing the power of Superintendents to edit school newspaper content and raising the classification of killing someone while driving under the influence of alcohol to first-degree murder.

The delegates tried to override those last two vetoes, but were unsuccessful, he said.

Hollmann said he "enjoys helping people" and he wants to improve the environment around him.

"It has always just been natural sitting in on meetings and giving my opinions and representing people," he said.

He wasted no time getting into politics in college, winning a Student Senate seat one week and winning the Presidency the next.

He will remain President until next fall, presiding over meetings, setting the agenda and delegating the responsibility.



Ten M3C awards result in community service

AUGUST 2005

With the help of a new grant, 10 Rend Lake College students will receive \$1,000 education awards in exchange for community service.

According to Dave Warner, Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps Director, the "minimum time" AmeriCorps members must put in 300 hours of service. The education awards are provided by the Midwest Campus Compact Citizen-Scholar Fellowship, which gave \$648,000 in funding for nine states.

The M3C Fellowship provides financial assistance to 600 low-income, first-generation college students who have demonstrated academic potential and a passion for service and civic engagement activities.

In addition to the education awards, the RLC recipients are classified as student-workers. Warner indicated there is a good chance RLC will receive the grant again next year.

"We are trying to keep the retention rate up and make sure these students stay in college and earn degrees," he said.

Recipients: Samantha Ahrens (Sesser), Brandy Brashear (Benton), Amy Bruce (Benton), Amanda Carr (Mulkeytown), Denise Colcord (Christopher), Amy Cooksey (Thompsonville), Jennifer Duke (Thompsonville), Megan Pruitt (Christopher), Lesley Raiyani (McLeansboro) and Teresa Walter (Royaltown).

Fellows recently assisted with playground improvements at Ina Grade School and will mentor Benton Elementary students in grades K-4.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

1982 - 1983

1983 - 1984

1984 - 1985

1985 - 1986

1986 - 1987



RLC students (450) in '03 get \$600,000 in awards

OCTOBER 2003

Approximately 450 Rend Lake College students have been awarded a total of \$600,000 in scholarships and waivers for the 2003-04 academic year.

Recipients and donors of the scholarships were honored during the 14th Annual RLC Foundation Scholarship Dinner October 23.

Among the awards recognized were scholarships from individual donors and businesses, RLC tuition waivers and Illinois Merit Awards.

Also helping students get a head start on their college educations, according to President Mark S. Kern, are Dual Credit classes offered at no cost to high school students, who can receive both high school and college credit for designated courses.

The RLC Board of Trustees also has passed a new initiative – the High-Achievers Scholarship Award – which offers a “full-ride” scholarship to high school graduates who have an ACT composite score of 27 or higher.

“Rend Lake College is committed to recruiting the best students and reaching the most people in our district,” Kern commented.

According to Illinois Community College Board statistics, RLC reaches one in seven people in its district through credit and non-credit classes, compared to the state average of one in 12. Including extra-curricular activities, college estimates project RLC touches one in every four people in the district each year, Kern added. He noted RLC has witnessed a 6 percent increase in enrollment this year, which is an increase over a record-enrollment experienced last year.

He and his parents, Merle and Betty, are members of Faith Lutheran Church, where Greg serves as the Youth Representative to the Board of Elders.

He said he plans to go on to a small four-year university, like Millikin or Illinois Wesleyan, and major in Social Sciences with a minor in Psychology or Secondary Education.

Involved in the AmeriCorps program through RLC, the potential politician – who just happened to attend (President) Abraham Lincoln Grade School and (Lt. Gov.) Zadok Casey Junior High – works at Dr. Andy Hall School, tutoring and helping sixth-graders and trying to determine whether he wants to be a teacher.

In the fall, he will most likely serve as an intern for State Rep. John O. Jones and help him with his campaign.

He has spent more time in government than in jobs, only working for the *Mt. Vernon Register-News* as a paperboy and as a grocery bagger at Martin’s Country Fair. He held no job while in high school.

So what is his party affiliation?

“At my age, I don’t look to a party, but rather a candidate or issue,” he said, adding that he tends to be more conservative. “I’m sure at one point I’ll lean toward one way, but not yet.”

[Editor’s Note: A photo shows Hollmann in his basement bedroom office, with large American and State of Illinois flags flanking him, numerous pictures, citations and other memorabilia adorning the wall, a nameplate tucked between more mementos on an organized desktop and his computer.]

VICTIM JUNIOR AT SIUC ▶ PTK All-American Award candidate Bradley dies from auto accident at 21

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 1991

Andrea Bradley, President of the Rend Lake College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, is a candidate for the “All-American Award” sponsored by the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, *USA Today* and PTK International Honor Society.

The honoree is a sophomore from Sesser.

Purpose of this scholarship competition is to acknowledge and promote scholarly achievements of students enrolled in America’s community and junior colleges. The award recognizes students who excel in the classroom; who have the intellectual curiosity to pursue academic, career and cultural enrichment outside the traditional classroom; who show evidence of substantial develop-

ment of talents, and who show an ability to share this development with others.

“All-American Award” eligibility requirements include enrollment at the college in pursuit of an Associate in Arts, Associate in Science or Associate in Applied Science Degree. The nominee must have completed 12 semester hours with at least a 3.25 grade-point average on a 4.0-point scale. The nominee must expect to graduate in the Spring of 1991. The nominee is not required to be a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

Bradley was selected by a seven-member committee comprised of Dr. Jon Astroth, RLC President; Dean of Student Services Pam Smith; Director of Counseling Sara Davenport; Counselor/PTK Advisor Kathy Kirkpatrick, and students Michael Radake, James Wangler and Diane Hiller.

Bradley’s award application included an informal essay describing her most outstanding educational experience at RLC.

She will be formally recognized as an Award Nominee at the Phi Theta Kappa Annual Convention in Chicago March 16. Independent judges will review nominees and select a 20-member first team. Another 40 nominees will make up second and third teams.

The President of *USA Today* will present \$2,500 cash awards to each first-team member at the AACJC Annual Convention in Kansas City April 16. *USA Today* will feature honorees in its April 16 edition.

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. MAY 20-31, 1992

Rend Lake College graduate and former “All-American Award” nominee Andrea Bradley of Sesser died Wednesday, May 13, from injuries suffered in an automobile accident last fall.

Bradley, who was a junior at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale at the time of the accident October 4, had been in a coma since losing control of her vehicle.

While attending RLC, she served as President of Phi Theta Kappa national scholastic honor society and was a member of the “College Bowl” academic team.

Services were conducted May 16 for the 21-year-old Bradley, who is survived by her mother, Shirley Mae Bradley of Sesser, one sister, Sheryl Lynn Rodriguez of Hemet, CA, and a grandmother, Elsie Bradley of Benton.

Within a couple of days of Andrea’s accident last fall, her mother (the family’s sole breadwinner) suffered a heart attack.

An Andrea Bradley Scholarship Fund has been established for those wishing to make a memorial contribution.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNA ▶ The Cats meow! Broadway calls 'Jennyanydots' Dilley to New York

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH JANUARY 6, 1994
BY JOE POLLACK

NEW YORK – For six years, she fought the Battle of Broadway, winning occasional skirmishes with artistic directors in smaller sites and scoring some major victories in touring companies and at regional theaters, but no stardom. So when Carol Dilley was hired for the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis production of "Dames at Sea," back in 1987, she was happy with the job, but she never envisioned it as the beginning of a major change in her life.

Buoyed by theatrical success, love and geography, she stayed in St. Louis for six years – until, with the sense of timing the theater always shows – Broadway called her.

Today, she's Jennyanydots, the tap-dancing cat in "Cats." As she sat in her dressing room, up two narrow flights at the Winter Garden Theatre, she was still a little stunned by the suddenness of the experience.

"I was in Washington in July," she said. "My husband, Chris Jaudes (a St. Louis trumpet player), was doing a theater job there, and I went along. And then my agent called and asked if I could get to New York the next day and audition for "Cats." I didn't even have my tap shoes with me. I was on vacation."

The shoes met Dilley in New York, the audition was a success and she made her Broadway debut August 30.

"Cats," the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical based on T. S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats," is the longest-running show on Broadway, with 4,700 performances over 11-plus years, though still more than three years short of "A Chorus Line," for longest-running honors.

Interestingly, Dilley is only the fourth Jennyanydots in the show's New York history, with her predecessor, Rose McGuire, having moved down the street and around the corner for a role in "Cyrano."

"It's a role that seems to some sort of permanence," said Michael Borowski, one of the "Cats" press agents. "At the other end

of the extreme is Mr. Mistoffelees. We've had 27 of them since we opened."

"Even with my lack of experience I can see that," Dilley added. "It's a very difficult part, because you're on stage and dancing throughout, and then, practically at the end, you do your big number. That adds a lot of pressure, and tends to make you burn out faster. I'm more fortunate in that my major numbers come early."

As a new cast member joining "Cats," in one function or another, the rookie kind of joins on the fly, without much chance to work her way in. It's like running along the railroad track to catch a moving train, grabbing an arm and swinging aboard at the last minute.

"I worked for three weeks with Suzanne Viverito, who is the dance captain. She showed me my routines and worked on them with me for three weeks. Just the two of us, and it was pretty strenuous. Then, on the morning of August 30, I did my numbers with the other cast members – and I went on that night."

While she was learning the steps, Dilley also was learning to put on the makeup, a process that took almost two hours in the early days but now takes only about 30 minutes. He wig, made of yak hair, was designed and fitted, the unitard was added and Dilley was a cat, or "Cat."

At 38, Dilley might seem a little old to be making her Broadway debut, but she is thrilled at the situation.

"It was a dream," she said, "but never something that would cause me to die if it didn't come true, if you know what I mean. After six years in St. Louis, with Chris and (stepdaughter) Jacy, I really wasn't counting on it anymore."

When Dilley accepted Artistic Director Steve Woolf's offer of a role in "Dames at Sea," the Rep's 1987 holiday show, she knew it meant eight weeks of work (four rehearsing, four performing) and a chance to spend some time with her parents and family in Mt. Vernon, IL, where she grew up.

She didn't know about Diane Cessarini, who does a lot of rehearsal piano-playing for the Rep. Her husband, Bob, plays the

✱ - ✱ - ✱

Eight '83 RLC graduates receive SIUC scholarships

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 1982-83

Eight graduates of the Rend Lake College Class of '83, possibly the most ever for any one school, were recipients of tuition scholarships for outstanding academic achievement to attend Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

A maximum of 63 scholarships were given out statewide to the top academic achievers among all those transfer students planning to enroll at SIUC. Although university officials are not permitted to say, RLC's total is particularly noteworthy because last year the Ina-based college was one of the state leaders in numbers received with two.

Those students with an overall grade-point average of at least 3.5 (4.0 scale) who were scholarship recipients are Anita Aydt of McLeansboro, Darla Benard of Benton, Marla Benard of Benton, Ruth Brown of Sesser, Betty Jo Ellis of Mt. Vernon, Etha Jane Maynor of Mt. Vernon, Robin Morris of Mt. Vernon and Beth Szczeblewski of Mulkeytown.

"These students can be proud of their academic performance, as well as the excellent education and college preparation that they have received at Rend Lake College," commented B. Kirby Browning, Director of the Office of Admissions and Records at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

HONORARY DEGREE
(Posthumously) ~
JANA REYNOLDS
ADN Student murder victim
Commencement - May 13, 1988

STUDENT SUCCESSES

ANDREA BRADLEY
USA All-America Award
1991 Nominee injured
in accident Oct. 4, 1991
Died May 13, 1992

1987	-	1988	1988	-	1989	1989	-	1990	1990	-	1991	1991	-	1992
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J. Thompson demonstrated more interest than others

BOARD MINUTES APRIL 8, 1997

Mark Kern presented John Thompson with a plaque commending his service to the college and the Board of Trustees as a Student Trustee. Kern remarked that Thompson also had served on the Student Advisory Committee of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and had even hosted one of their meetings at Rend Lake College. Kern added Thompson had taken as much or more interest in the position than any other Student Trustee.

Thompson replied that he had thoroughly enjoyed the experience his experience as Student Trustee and that he would miss it. He also remarked the college was very fortunate to have Kern as President, calling him one of the best community college presidents in the state of Illinois.

Thompson added that the new Student Trustee, Russell Jay, received all write-in votes to win the election. Once the new Student Trustee was seated at the table, he indicated Thompson had been his Campaign Manager and he was looking forward to serving the college.



BEOG Grant introduced in '73-74 Academic Year

BOARD MINUTES OCTOBER 16, 1973

Skip Witunski reported that a new grant program has been made available to students at no cost to the college. It is the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant program. Funds are made available to the college on the basis of enrollment. This year our grant is \$5,318. The ceiling on a grant per student is \$600 but the college may set its own ceiling. The program presently is open to first-term freshmen only.

trumpet, and they knew Jaudes, who also plays the trumpet, and a blind date was arranged. Six months later, the trumpet player and the actress were married, and Dilley moved from New York to St. Louis.

Jacy, who is Jaudes' daughter by a previous marriage, lives with them and attends school in the Oakville district.

During the St. Louis years, Dilley was a bright spot in a variety of productions at the Rep, mainly – but not always – musicals.

She was a wonderful Annelle, the new assistant in the beauty shop, in "Steel Magnolias," and charming, innocent Minnie Fay, the assistant milliner, in "The Matchmaker." She also sparkled in "Dames at Sea" and "Tomfoolery," and especially in "A Day in Hollywood / A Night in the Ukraine," where her work as Groucho Marx was hilarious.

Dilley also worked at the Muny as Glinda, the Good Witch, in "The Wizard of Oz," and as Carlotta in the Music Company of St. Louis production of Arthur Kopit's "Phantom" at Westport.

In between, she found time to tour and to do a variety of other theatrical jobs, but she made sure that she went to New York from time to time so that if a chance arose, they would remember her.

Dilley grew up in Mt. Vernon, IL, one of three children, and attended Rend Lake College and Illinois State University, with plans to become a teacher. Although she had done some school acting, she wasn't thinking about it as a career until, when teaching music in Peoria, she had the opportunity for some dinner theater work. That led to a decision to move to Chicago and pursue acting as a full-time career.

New York was next, and after a hiatus in St. Louis, it's New York once again. Instead of her visiting Mt. Vernon, her relatives there have come to Broadway to visit her, and her husband and stepdaughter have been in at least once a month.

"Being away is a strain," she said, "but Chris and Jacy understand."

Dilley hasn't made a decision about how long her own run of "Cats" will continue, but she's looking forward to at least a year or so on Broadway unless other proposals turn up. She's back playing the television commercial field, looking for work and is taking tap lessons to improve her skills.

"Voice lessons are next," she added.

[Editor's Note: Jennyanydots and feline friends made an appearance on the late-night David Letterman Show January 12, 1994. Or

at least we are assuming RLC Alumna Carol Dilley, alias Jennyanydots, did.

The cast of the long-running Broadway hit was shown briefly from long-distance before being invited into the studio to join the host on stage, where they prowled and meowed for a minute or so. We are assuming Dilley was among the Cats in costume.]

THE REGISTER-NEWS OCTOBER 4, 1993

BY VALERIE HANCOCK

As the lights of the theater dim and chimes sound from the orchestra pit, Carol Dilley takes her place backstage in the longest-running production currently on Broadway, "Cats."

For Carol, a Mt. Vernon Township High School [and Rend Lake College] graduate, it's her first Broadway show and she's loving every minute of it. "It's definitely the most exciting time in my life so far," she said.

"Cats" is based on T. S. Elliot's book, **Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats,** with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. On Thursday (October 7), the show celebrates its 11th anniversary.

Carol began her role as Jennyanydots, the tap-dancing feline, August 30 after rehearsing about five hours a day for three weeks with a personal dance instructor. She has learned to dance while working in a variety of shows over the years, she said.

"If you would've told me that I would be a dancer in my first Broadway show, I would've laughed," she said.

Though this role is exciting, Carol said it's difficult being away from her family. Husband Chris Jaudes and daughter Jacy, an eighth-grader, are back home in St. Louis.

"They were both very excited, almost as excited as I was, until they found out how long I would be gone to New York. They are being very supportive," she said.

Carol said the audition and casting happened very quickly.

"All of a sudden my life was turned upside down and I had to make so many decisions so fast," she said.

Growing up in Mt. Vernon, Carol said, had a great deal to do with the person she is today.

"The Midwest breeds a type of 'good person.' Most people I know from the area are honest and friendly – the type of people you want to have as friends," she said.

Carol is a daughter of Edward and Kathleen Dilley of Mt. Vernon. Her sister, Nancy Gibbs, brother-in-law Brett and their family also live in Mt. Vernon.

A 13-year veteran of the theater, Carol said she feels all types of life experiences contribute to making someone a good actor.

"The best advice I could give to someone who wants a career in theater is to get all the experience you can, wherever you are and at whatever level you are, whether it's high school or college. Don't shut out other opportunities that you may feel don't have much to do with acting."

ASSOCIATES & SAVIDGE WEBSITE JULY 2012

CAROL JAUDES

Carol Dilley Jaudes appeared for five years on Broadway as Jennyanydots, the tap-dancing Gumbie Cat in the hit musical CATS!

Her career as a professional actress gave her opportunities to perform across the United States, Canada and Great Britain. Some of Carol's favorite roles have been Maria in The Sound of Music at the North Carolina Theatre, Eileen in Off-Broadway's Too Many Girls and Anelle in Steel Magnolias, Harpo in Day in Hollywood / Night in the Ukraine and the woman in Tomfoolery at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. She also enjoyed starring in the title role of Hello Dolly! at Music Theatre of Wichita.

Carol has received the coveted Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Leading Actress in Chicago Music Theatre for her performance of Young Belle in Little Me. She recreated the portrayal at Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC earning a Helen Hayes Award Nomination.

Carol is currently Special Events and Arts Ministries Director for The Eastern Territory of The Salvation Army in West Nyack, NY. She has recently released her first solo vocal CD titled "This Day." Her acting team, TAM, travels throughout the Eastern Territory and the United States communicating God's message through drama.

She is a soldier at the Montclair Citadel Salvation Army, where she serves as Young People's Sergeant Major. Carol is married to Broadway trumpet player Chris Jaudes.

[Two shows promoted by Associates & Savidge on behalf of its client, Carol Jaudes,

are A Taste of Broadway, in which the singer and her accompanist offer a flexible evening of familiar and humorous songs from Broadway as well as providing the audience with a glimpse of backstage at CATS!, and The World's Greatest Romance . . .]

The World's Greatest Romance, a one-woman play with music, is the fast-paced, light-hearted story of three dynamic women of faith who are connected by their Christian beliefs and familiar music.

Susannah Wesley – She is often referred to as the "Mother of Methodism" and rightfully so! Her two famous sons, John Wesley and Charles Wesley, were founders of the Methodist Church. Bearing 19 children, Susannah was the original "home schooler."

Fanny Crosby – Frances Jane "Fanny" Crosby was an American hymn writer and poetess who wrote over 9,000 hymns during her life. She was blind from birth.

Evangeline Booth – Evangeline Cory Booth was born in a suburb of London, England, on December 25, 1865. She was the second youngest of eight children of William and Catherine Booth, founders of the Salvation Army. In 1934, Evangeline Booth become the fourth person to be elected General, world leader of the Salvation Army.

[Editor's Note: In November 2011, Dilley-Jaudes (Class of 1973) was among those honored in the third class of Distinguished Alumni by Mt. Vernon Township High School. Also recognized were two others with close ties to Rend Lake College – Bob Brown (1964) and Sam Mateer (1962).]

ICCTA LIFELONG LEARNER ▶ Margot McAfoos 'a true ambassador' of RLC, 2006 statewide award-winner

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 29, 2006

It must be neat to have a grandmother who takes you with her on a regular basis for summer vacations in Europe and visits with family in her native Germany.

Count six kids scattered from Benton,



Enthusiastic Hollmann cited for positive attitude

BOARD MINUTES APRIL 20, 1999

President Kern stated the college had been very fortunate to have a long list of outstanding Student Trustees. In fact, Mark Michalic, a former Rend Lake College Student Trustee, had just been chosen as (co-)recipient of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Kern complimented the outgoing Student Trustee, Greg Hollmann, on his positive attitude and enthusiasm. He also complimented Hollmann's common sense and stated it had been a sincere pleasure to work with him. Kern presented Hollmann with a plaque.

(Trustee Dave) Edmison called Hollmann an outstanding individual who had done an outstanding job. Hollmann thanked Kern and the Board for the opportunity to serve as a Student Trustee. Kristin Rone, the new Student Trustee, was seated and welcomed.



Burzynski impressive in RLC race for Board

BOARD MINUTES JUNE 18, 1974

Career Politician Brad Burzynski got off to an impressive start. RLC's second Student Rep on the Board of Trustees received 110 votes, compared to 53 for Mary Jo Cockrum and 15 for Joe Accord.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

CAROL DILLEY-JAUDES

Stage Actress/Entertainer in New York & St. Louis Joins Broadway cast of "Cats" as Jennyanydots 1993-

BRENDA WEBSTER McCOLLUM

Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibit Acrylic painting, Retired, awarded "Best of Show" Hosted for first time by RLC / February 1996

BECCI DOERING

ICCTA Paul Simon Student Essay Contest Winner "How My Community College Has Changed My Life" June 1996

All-Stars Glenda Wells & Neil Linebaugh; Tim Cripps Robert Schnicker

ACADEMIC OLYMPICS ICCTA CHAMPIONS
Coach Richard Doherty Spring 1993

BRIAN HODGE ('80)
Bram Stoker Award Nominated 2nd of 5 times by Horror Writers Assn. 1994

HONORARY DEGREE ~ VICTOR & BETTY RAPP
Parents of 8 RLC graduates Commencement - May 12, 1995

3rd Place / ICCTA **ACADEMIC OLYMPICS**
Coach Steve Kennett All-Stars R. Doherty & Derek Steed / Sp '96

JOHN THOMPSON
RLC Student Trustee ICCB & IBHE Student Advisory Committees 1995-97

1992 - 1993 1993 - 1994 1994 - 1995 1995 - 1996 1996 - 1997



How well do you know our Illinois enrollees?

ILLINOIS TRUSTEE SUMMER 1994

Are the statements true or false?

T F

Community college graduates are usually between 21-24.

T F

Half of C.C. students graduated in top half of high school class.

T F

Many C.C. students already hold college degrees.

T F

The percentage of college-level C.C. enrollment constituted by minorities closely parallels the percentage of minorities in the Illinois population.

T F

Most C.C. students do not enroll in order to transfer to a baccalaureate program.

T F

"To gain a skill" is given as a reason for enrolling more often than "to obtain a degree."

Give yourself 1 point for each statement you said was "True." If you scored 5-6, you know your C.C. students. A score of 3-4 means you are aware of some enrollment trends. Lower? It is time to look closer at who's coming to college.



Educator Robert Brown: 'Need to bring good out'

NOVEMBER 2011

Robert Brown was honored as a "Distinguished Alumni" of Mt. Vernon Township High School. He honored his grandmother for raising him and instilling in him several life models. Ex., good things come to those who wait; he should treat others as he'd like to be treated.

"I never considered a young person as being bad," he said of his 41 years in education. "They made bad choices, but there's a lot of good. We need to bring the good out."

IL, to Muskegon, MI, and Denver, CO, who would agree. They are fortunate to have an active, vibrant "Großmutter" [Editor's note: or "Grossmutter," German for grandmother] like Margot McAfoos of Benton.

The six grandchildren, who get to take turns going on the annual outings, are not alone in their assessment.

• Rend Lake College organizers and other volunteers on the Institute for Learning in Retirement Advisory Board think it is neat to benefit from such a strong advocate as the worldly Mrs. McAfoos.

• Instructors in the ILR program and Rend Lake College Community Education offerings such as computer software workshops think it is neat to have the inquisitive, 82-years-young McAfoos enrolled.

• RLC Fitness Center and Aquatics Center personnel enjoy the enthusiastic approach and the example set by such a neat lady who is a twice-a-week regular.

• Recent high school graduates quickly learn it can be neat sharing classes and knowledge with a nontraditional classmate who already boasts 72 credit hours and counting. (Since 1999, she also has completed 84 non-credit courses.)

• The National Girl Scout Organization and, in particular, the local Girl Scouts of Shagbark Council, considered it pretty neat to have McAfoos as a volunteer (the first 18 years) and staff member during a span of 37 years.

That is not all. Add the Illinois Community College Trustees Association to the long list of those who know she is a pretty neat individual.

The ICCTA selected Margot McAfoos as its recipient of the 2006 Lifelong Learning Award. She was recognized at the annual Awards Banquet earlier this summer at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center in Springfield.

The honoree was joined by her daughter, Muskegon Community College instructor Kathy Tosa, RLC "Faculty Excellence" recipient Larry Williams, RLC President Mark S. Kern and other college officials.

"Margot is a true ambassador of Rend Lake College," wrote Hunt Bonan in his letter of recommendation.

Continued Bonan, Chairman of the RLC Board of Trustees and President of the RLC Foundation: "Her enthusiasm encourages older adults to realize the importance of education at all ages. It is with great pleasure and respect that we, the Rend Lake

College Board of Trustees, support Margot McAfoos for the Lifelong Learning Award."

The love affair between the former resident of Berlin and translator, who came to the United States in 1948 to marry her former boss, Captain John McAfoos of Benton, and Rend Lake College actually began in 1969, before the campus moved to its permanent Ina home. A high school foreign exchange student hosted by the McAfoos family was not sufficiently challenged, so Margot turned to the comprehensive community college for help.

"I was impressed (then) by Rend Lake College's willingness to accept her as a student. My relationship with the college was off to a wonderful start," she noted in a self-statement for the ICCTA.

In additional commentary, McAfoos indicated, "Rend Lake College was a great influence in my professional development as well as my private life . . .

"As my job became more demanding, I turned to my local community college for resources and knowledge to help me be successful . . .

"Rend Lake College permitted me to organize the first Girl Scout Leaders and Girls Training Event for the whole Shagbark Council in 1977-78. We were permitted to take over the campus; some RLC instructors even volunteered. The event still takes place today, bringing leaders and Girl Scouts from 24 counties twice a year to the Girl Scout Fair at Rend Lake College . . .

"When Rend Lake College established the Institute for Learning in Retirement, I began participating in this program. I'm also a member of the Advisory Board. I've enjoyed the historical bus trips and lectures on local historic persons. I've taken Journal Writing and Bible as Literature courses, as well as computer classes. These programs offered by Rend Lake College keep senior adults involved and stimulated. I have always enjoyed learning, and I will continue as long as I am physically able . . .

"Rend Lake College established a fitness center and built a pool. In order to keep myself fit and mentally alert, I enrolled and remain to this day a constant student. I also enjoy participating in opportunities offered by RLC's Institute for Learning in Retirement. It has and continues to enrich my life."

Retired Girl Scouts of Shagbark Council Executive Director Nancy Hickman calls McAfoos a "valued friend" and "ex-

emplary model." "Ever the innovator and teacher, Margot kept pace with the times," she informed the ICCTA. "She developed novel ways of being a change agent and encouraged volunteer adults to learn new skills in order to help prepare girls for adulthood."

ILR Instructor Evelyn Claxton, herself a statewide Lifelong Learning Teacher Award-winner, calls McAfoos an "excellent choice." "Margot has taken most of my classes, as well as many more," Dr. Claxton said. "She is good to have in a class because she asks good questions and fully participates in class discussions. She is a good example of the benefits of this program, growing and keeping her mind and body active."

McAfoos admits to having "embraced volunteerism" during her lifetime. She organized the city-wide Benton Cancer Drive in 1969-70, canvassing homes block by block and tripling the previous year's results. She was a 4-H Youth Leader for four years and served on the Shagbark Council's Board of Directors for six years. An active member of the University of Illinois Extension Services since 1954, she has served as chairperson of a unit for the past six years.

Any doubts about the worthiness of the 2006 Lifelong Learning Award-winner? Margot McAfoos is going to be a tough act for somebody in Illinois to follow in 2007.

VETERAN GOLFER DELANEY ▶ He's a Retired Major, a Music Major, a Major Novelty and a Major Player

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 1982

Jim Waugh broke a long-standing rule this past fall. On a road trip with his golf team, the Rend Lake College mentor roomed with one of his players.

Do not be surprised if the experience

taught the youngster a thing or two. Waugh, that is.

"These were different circumstances than usual," the Warrior Coach explained his unusual player/coach relationship with 62-year-old roomie Del Delaney.

So what is a guy his age doing at Rend Lake College in the first place? Let alone participating on the athletic field with 18- and 19-year-olds... which means eligibility requirements, full-time status as a student, et al.

"An old man has got to do something," responded the retired Air Force major, a native of Keenes who now lives in Bonnie.

"Besides, I tell everybody I'm 71," he adds with a chuckle.

Besides, Delaney has been playing golf since he was 13 years old or, in his words, "a few years."

"The only time I laid off was during the World War II years. I've played golf in Japan, India, Africa, China, Indochina, you name it. I even borrowed some clubs one time and played in Labrador, Newfoundland, where all they had was sand... sand greens, sand fairways, sand tees."

Courses everywhere are dotted with 62-year-old players, however. And Delaney certainly established his credentials as a player by competing among the top five individuals for RLC all fall, frequently finishing in the top three as the Warriors finished fourth in the Great Rivers Athletic Conference.

The fact he is a college athlete at 62 sets Delaney apart. The fact he is a full-time college student at 62, period.

Delaney spent 25 years in the service. He also spent time carrying mail, operating his own television and radio repair shop and starting a chicken business.

At the same time he also dabbled in school, yet Delaney did not have any kind of college degree to show for approximately three years of classroom work.



RLC product Lana Bathon award-worthy at SIUC

MAY 2004

Lana Bathon has experienced impressive success while studying Early Childhood Education in college. She hopes to parlay that success into an equally impressive career after winning several awards at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Bathon (Tamaroa) studied Child Development at RLC from 1999-2001. She enrolled at SIUC in Fall 2002 and has studied Early Childhood Education, while specializing in Child and Family Services. She is on schedule to graduate this August.

Bathon has been showered with awards during her stay at SIUC as a result of hard work, including the Highest Honors Award in Early Childhood Education - Child and Family Services; the Shirley M. Rogers Memorial Scholarship; the Bill G. and Marjorie Allen Student Award; the Glenn Abe Martin Student Award, and the University Honors Award.

"She blew them all out of the water," said Bathon's proud RLC instructor, Early Childhood Education Associate Professor Tina Grounds. Bathon was well-prepared for classes at SIUC following her transfer from Rend Lake College. Classes at the university covered much of the same material she had studied in previous RLC classes.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

MARK E. MICHALIC
RLCF "Alumnus of Year" • ICCTA "Distinguished Alumnus"
American Hero for role in helping solve Oklahoma City bombing
December 1998 • August 1999

KRISTEN ANN CLARK
The Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate
One in Million / Illinois C.C. System 1999-2000
November 1999

JACE BUGG
U.S. Amateur Golf
Quarterfinalist
All-American loses to '96 semifinal victim of Tiger Woods
August 1997

**JYL PEPPE ~ ALL-USA
ACADEMIC THIRD TEAM**
USA Today • PTK • AACC
April 1998

**4th Place / ICCTA
ACADEMIC OLYMPICS**
Coach Rebecca Biggs
All-Star Marshall Mullins
(2nd leading scorer) / Sp '99

**HONORARY DEGREES (Posthumously) ~
LAIRD D. WISELY**
Died Sept. 22, 1999 • 1999 "Alumnus of Year"
LEANN RUSSELL
Student accident victim April 25
Commencement - May 12, 2000

**2nd Place / ICCTA
ACADEMIC OLYMPICS**
Coach Rebecca Biggs
All-Star Marshall Mullins
(Leading scorer) / Sp 2000

TALISHA CHAMBLISS
PTK Guistwhite Scholarship
One of 10 finalists
February 2001

GEORGE CYBULSKI
"Outstanding Adult Learner in Illinois"
IL Adult & Continuing Educators Assn.
Fall 2001

**EMILY DALBY &
KIMBERLY JOHNSON**
First RLC recipients of
Coca-Cola Scholarships
2001-02

1997 - 1998 1998 - 1999 1999 - 2000 2000 - 2001 2001 - 2002



Four PTK reps in Touch with National Study Topics

NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 16, 1990

Four representatives of the revitalized Rend Lake College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa recently attended the Illinois Regional Conference, conducted at Southern Illinois University's "Touch of Nature" facilities in Carterville.

Phi Theta Kappa is the national honor society for two-year colleges. To be eligible, students must achieve a minimum grade-point average of 3.4 (on a 4.0-point scale) at least one semester, then maintain a 3.0 GPA or above. Service to the college and community, leadership and scholarship are emphasized.

The Rho Xi Chapter from RLC was one of 10 statewide chapters represented. Participants included President Andrea Bradley (Sesser), Vice President Helen Foster (Thompsonville), Treasurer Arleen Hackworth (Coulterville) and Advisor Kathy Kirkpatrick.

Approximately 75 participants took a closer look at "National Study Topics" and "Civilization at Risk: Challenge of the '90s," according to Kirkpatrick. A highlight of the meeting was featured speaker Mary Dee, host of the "Heart of Chicago" program on WGN-TV.

Following the weekend conference, Kirkpatrick and Bradley were joined on a tour of the Rend Lake College campus by Mike Watson, Assistant Director of the Phi Theta Kappa International Headquarters in Canton, MS.

Delaney returned again to college last spring, initially on a part-time basis. Why? "I can't answer.

"I was hurt on the job and partially disabled. That was in July of '81 and I haven't worked since," he said.

"I couldn't work, so I just decided instead of laying around the trailer all day doing nothing, I'd come over here (to the college). Part-time turned into full-time.

"I've got an inquisitive mind," Delaney added. "I figured I might as well go back and study some more."

His acceptance by other students has been about what one might expect. "At first, it was a novelty to most of 'em. Some students thought I was odd, I'm sure, but most accepted it. They just first had to get used to the idea," he commented.

"Like being part of the golf team. At first it was a novelty and they teased me a lot. But after I showed them I can play golf, the other members of the team accepted me pretty well.

"You should see," Delaney beams at the thought, "some of the other golf teams and how their players react. Sometimes, when they would see I could hit the ball as far or farther than they could, some of the players would start resenting it a little."

Of course, Delaney is not the only "novelty" on the Warrior golf team. Last season Julie Eldridge of Mt. Vernon became the first female golfer to play for the co-ed squad. She was joined this fall by Freshman Dana Todaro of Trico High School.

"Some of the fellows on teams we played would refuse to play with the gals. They would have to make up special foursomes. At least I didn't encounter any problems like that," said Delaney.

The treatment he receives from his peer group is an entirely different matter. Would it be safe to say many of his cronies give Delaney a hard time about his new-found youth? "Very much so," he replied.

"Some of the things they say aren't very nice, either," he laughs. "Some almost get angry with me. When some people get to a certain age, all they want to do is pull up a chair and sit all day. Or if they do something like playing golf, they get a cart, ride around in it and call that exercise. That's not for me!"

Perhaps they are envious? "I don't know. They will say things to me like, 'Well, you've run your gauntlet.' Have I? I don't think so."

Admittedly, it is not easy being a 62-year-old college student-athlete as it might have

been a few years earlier. Delaney is majoring in music, which means there is practice time involved other than that on the golf course.

"I play at" several instruments, Delaney said. "I'm not proficient enough to sit down and perform, but I am working on it. I'm hoping to go to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale after graduating from Rend Lake College next year. I hope to be an instructor."

The hectic schedule guarantees one thing. "When I go home at night," he deadpans, "momma doesn't have to rock me very much. By the time I practice two or three hours a day, in addition to studying and playing golf, it is time to go to bed.

"Many times I wind up on the couch trying to study and end up falling asleep there."

Delaney plans on playing golf at RLC again next fall. "If the coach will have me.

"He has the patience of Job. When I heard the college had a golf team, I called Coach Waugh back in May to see if age had anything to do with playing. He said, 'No,' and asked if I could hit the ball. That was the main requirement.

"Things have worked out great. The youngsters on the team don't smoke, they don't talk all the time about carousing like a lot of young people do and their vocabulary is pretty good. I'd have to say the majority of them are a cut above the average."

The same, obviously, could be said of this man who carries 14 semester hours of college credit, walks 18 holes while those around him are riding and served his country as an Air Force historian, efficiency expert and flight operator.

Golf aggravates his injury, Delaney confides, "but it is like taking a rock out of your shoe after you have walked around with it all day. When I get home and sit down, it feels real good."

The reactions alone are worth the pain.

"When we played a match in Metropolis at a private club, a lot of the members there were gray-headed. They saw me and asked the coach, "Is he on the team? Isn't there an age limit?"

"You know what Coach Waugh told 'em? 'He's my father; I hate to hurt his feelings.'"

MOVIE-MAKING SOPHOMORE Winston brings a little Hollywood to RLC with 'Revenge of the Professor,' 'Tarzan'

PRESSING TIMES OCTOBER 24, 1975

Tom Winston is to Rend Lake College what Peter Bogdonavich is to Hollywood.

Winston, a sophomore, plans to attend Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, where he will study cinema.

His film interest began at age 14 when he shot "Revenge of the Professor," an eight-minute comedy. Since then he has been involved in several other projects, the latest being "Tarzan."

Winston talked enthusiastically about his current endeavor. "Jim Batts, a high school senior, will portray Tarzan," he explained. The plot involves Professor P. J. Pottypan's search for Tarzan. He and his secretary, Jane, along with his mother and Fritz the African guide, portrayed by Winston, go to Africa in search of Tarzan. To finance the trip, they contact Don Vito Capistrone, a Mafia chief."

For the sake of suspense, Winston would not reveal the conclusion of the adventure-filled thriller, but he did say, "Hopefully, we can announce a date for the movie to be shown in the Commons area of the high school in Benton. Tickets will be 50 cents or \$1."

When Winston charges admission he will not be receiving 100 percent profit. In making the one-hour 15-minute movie he has spent "approximately \$300."

He said "before it is completely finished, we will spend almost \$400. Proceeds from admissions costs will go towards another movie."

Susan Kolojeski's design classes recently viewed two of Winston's earlier movies. Giggles and "guffaws" filled the room as the class enjoyed "Wild Weekend" and "House of the Undead."

"When we shot 'Wild Weekend,' we were inspired by 'American Graffiti.'" Winston and David Sneed of Benton portray two "greasers" in the '50s style. In one scene, Winston and Sneed become involved in a realistic street fight which was filmed in an alley near the Benton shopping district.

Filming on public streets has become a common practice for Winston and his movie-making cohorts.

"When we filmed 'House of the Dead,' Batts appeared on the Benton Square in his vampire cape and teeth. During some of the 'Tarzan' filming, he ran down the middle of

North Main in his loin cloth," Winston said.

The filmmakers have only been reprimanded once for their stunts – when they were recording a chase scene on a roof top. Surprisingly, Winston says his main problems in filming are technical ones which demand patience.

"Sometimes you have to shoot and re-shoot. The lighting might not be right, and once in awhile the camera stops on you," Winston said.

Does the glamour of Hollywood attract you? With a little persuasion, RLC's resident producer might make you a star.

~ Sheri Hobbs

IT'S NOT OVER 'TIL . . . ▶ First-day Psychology student Garmane opens mouth, ends up on opera stage

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 4, 2009

Cory Garmane found his voice at Rend Lake College. Saturday night, the public can find it on the grandstand at the DuQuoin State Fair.

A year ago, in his first day of Psychology class at RLC, Garmane participated in an ice-breaking exercise where he was asked by Instructor Jeannie Mitchell-Collins, "What makes you special?"

"I sing opera," Garmane replied.

"Oh really! Well, will you sing something for the class?" she asked.

Garmane sang a small section of an Italian opera. RLC Music Director Sara Alstat will never forget that day . . . the day she met Cory Garmane.

"Jeannie literally drug him from her classroom over to the North Oasis to my office," Alstat explained. "And we drug him into choir and into voice lessons!"

Since that day, the former bank employee listens to the voice inside his head telling him to follow his passion for singing. He was awarded one of RLC's Music Performance Tuition Awards, quickly changed his major to Music, enrolled in all the courses – music theory, aural skills, applied music, etc. – and signed up for Community Chorus, musicals, on- and off-campus theatre productions and anything else he could find.



Campaign announcement: Skorch, Langa join Simon

NEWS RELEASE MAY 1987

Two students from Rend Lake College were among those in attendance last week when U.S. Senator Paul Simon officially launched his Presidential campaign with a fund-raising dinner on the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale campus.

Tickets to the \$100-a-plate banquet were donated by Democratic Precinct Committeeman Bob Walsh, a former State Representative who lives in Mt. Vernon. Jefferson County Committeeman Jim McKenzie presented the tickets to RLC students Natalie Skorch of Scheller and Steve Langa of Woodlawn.

The May 18 fund-raiser in the SIUC Student Center attracted over 1,000 supporters of the Makanda native. Skorch and Langa are both students of History / Political Science Instructor Vincent Cain.



All residents of district eligible for library card

1978

College officials announced that residents of the Rend Lake College District are eligible to obtain library cards. It is not necessary to be a college student to gain access to approximately 22,000 available volumes and 10,000 items of audiovisual materials, as well as other services provided with a community-user card. Each card allows all members of the household (over age 16) to use and borrow materials.

3rd Place / ICCTA
ACADEMIC OLYMPICS
Coach Mike Mullen
Team leader Alan Phelps
Spring 2003

JASON CRAIG
World Jr. Championship
Ran leg of World Record
USA Team 4 x 400 Relay
Italy - July 2004

COREY PHILLIPS
RLC Golf Outlet Manager
Former Student-Worker
promoted to full-time post
May 2005

STUDENT SUCCESSES

2002 - 2003

2003 - 2004

2004 - 2005

2005 - 2006

2006 - 2007



Songwriter Holman hoped 'Overcome' was 'Idolized'

APRIL 2008

Mark Holman admittedly has things to overcome . . . struggling as a musician stuck in tiny Ewing, IL (population 350) being one of them.

So, what does a songwriter do? He writes a song about it. And his most recent composition, aptly titled "Overcome," could change his life forever.

Holman's song has reached the Top 20 among tens of thousands of entries in the American Idol Songwriter's Contest. Last year the songwriting contest received around 25,000 submissions in its debut as a feature of the televised, live singing showdown on Fox. The winning song will be performed by the two finalists and the winner will sing it during the closing of the Idol finale.

Written expressly for the American Idol Songwriter's Contest the week before the contest entry deadline, "Overcome" is about "looking inside yourself and finding the strength within rather than focusing on everything else going on around you," the 23-year-old Holman explained.

The title is such a broad one, it appeals to people from all walks of life, he said. "Everyone has obstacles. Everyone can relate to 'Overcome.'"

"It's surreal," Holman said of his song being chosen for the Top 20. "To have this kind of an opportunity . . . it's a chance of a lifetime for me."

Mark graduated from RLC with two Associate Degrees in December and has taken a part-time night job on campus while he works on his craft.

Although he considers the Top 20 to be a victory in itself, he still wants to win while imagining "Overcome" being sung at the American Idol finale.

"If it hadn't been for Jeannie introducing me to Sara and for (Brett) Gibbs . . . if it wouldn't have been for all these people, it wouldn't have even been music. I would have stuck with English," Garmane said.

In December, he graduated with honors from Rend Lake College, earning both an Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees. After auditioning for a panel at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, Garmane was awarded a scholarship to the SIUC School of Music, where he is now focusing on opera and classical literature as a junior. He was awarded an academic scholarship to SIUC as well.

The 26-year-old Thompsonville native will take the stage Saturday night at the DuQuoin State Fair and will be performing two opera selections - "Vainement, ma bien-aimee" by Edouard Lalo, and Roger Quilter's "Take O' Take Those Lips Away." The show is free to attend and is a showcase of talent from community colleges in the region and SIUC. It precedes the finals of "Southern Illinois' Got Talent," which also is free to attend.

With a theme of "Four Great Colleges, One Great University," Garmane definitely fits the bill. He and recent RLC grad Savannah Harrell, 20, of Opdyke are Alstat's first two students to receive Music scholarships beyond RLC. Harrell was awarded a Music scholarship to Missouri Baptist University.

"They are definitely two of the top singers from RLC," Alstat said. "Their music abilities are really up there. I see Savannah becoming a music teacher, and Cory wants to sing opera and I think he will do it. I think he will definitely become a singer.

"I'm very excited that Cory is going to SIU because that is my alma mater and I want SIU to see the talent Rend Lake, and community colleges in general, have . . . He has really dazzled them down there."

"They are both excellent students, hard working, talented, responsible, and they will do very well," said Gibbs, a retired Music Director from Mt. Vernon and current Music Instructor at RLC.

"Savannah will be a wonderful music teacher someday. It has been my privilege to work with (Garmane). He is an amazing talent, hard working, good pianist. So, he has all the tools and talents to go on and do very well."

Garmane hopes to one day perform professionally across the globe. "I've always, always loved classical music," he said.

Alstat's advice to them: "Practice, practice, practice . . . and hang in there."

Garmane's wife, Amy, is a third-grade teacher at Zeigler-Royalton Elementary School.

COLLEGE LATECOMERS ▶

Dudley: 'I had no chance to go at first.' 'My kids are really proud of me (now).'

PRESSING TIMES FEBRUARY 7, 1975

Several individuals who decided to become full-time RLC students after working and/or raising a family were recently interviewed. They all agreed entering college was the only way to reach their goals, and the easiest way to begin was by enrolling in a community college.

Clara Reed felt she would like to further her education when she and her husband lived in Lockport, where he attended Lewis College. Mrs. Reed felt a communication gap when she attended parties with people who were enrolled in college and she was afraid the same kind of gap would develop in the relationship between her and her daughters, Billie Jean, 22, Beverly, 20, and Lana, 16.

In her animated conversation, Mrs. Reed said she was not the average housewife before she became a student. "I didn't watch television, gossip or drink. 'They' say all housewives drive! I was bored and wanted to get out of a rut, but I did not have the capabilities to get a worthwhile job."

Before entering Rend Lake College, Mrs. Reed received a high school equivalency certificate through the GED program.

The GED program, which allows people who haven't completed formal high school graduation requirements to receive the Illinois High School Equivalency Certificate, and other programs such as the Basic Grant and Illinois Veterans Scholarship, enable many people who haven't gotten an education to earn one.

Dick Kehrer is one of the many RLC students who has returned to school with the help of the Vets Scholarship program. Before entering the college, Kehrer lived in Arizona 12 years.

"Young people here are more conservative than those in Phoenix," he said. "People are friendly on campus, but you don't see them over the weekend, whereas in Phoenix everyone went places on the weekend."

Kehrer works at Lakeside Boat and Motors when he isn't attending Automotive Mechanics classes. He lives with his wife

and children outside Opdyke. His children, ranging in age from 9 to 22, have christened him "Prof" because he helps instruct a shop course in Automotive Air Conditioning on Fridays.

"You have to go to college to achieve, and I definitely wish I had begun college immediately after high school," Kehrer said.

Only two students interviewed disagreed with Kehrer's idea college immediately after high school is better. One of the exceptions is Flo Dudley.

Mrs. Dudley commented, "I had no chance to go to college at first because I had to work and I wouldn't have appreciated it at first anyway."

Speaking with an honest sense of thankfulness, Mrs. Dudley recalled her experience with her daughter, Bev, who is 20 and lives in Ohio. "I called her to let her know I was beginning college, and we both cried for joy. My kids are really proud of me."

Her children - Bev, Charles, 27, and Jimmy, 6 - had a great influence on her returning to school. "Bev and Charles were my life. Seeing them finish their schooling and grow up made me feel like a nobody. It just killed me, because I lived my life through them."

By the time youngest son Jimmy is old enough to have a career of his own, Mrs. Dudley hopes to be teaching elementary education. "I might be able to help a child some day and that would give me true satisfaction."

Mrs. Dudley said beginning school made her change her lifestyle. "I had to reshuffle my values. I learned homework is more important than housework."

[Editor's Note: Flo Dudley was named the RLC Foundation "Outstanding Alumna" Award-winner in 1994, shortly after the 65-year-old honoree retired after 16 years as an elementary school teacher.]

Joyce Poorman shares Mrs. Dudley's ideas about waiting to enter college. "When I graduated from high school, my parents told me they would send me anywhere to

college, but I was sick of going to school. If I had started (then), I know I wouldn't have finished.

"The time I spent out of school was not wasted. My three children - Bryan, 11, Troy, 10, and Robyn, 5, now are in school the same hours I am."

Mrs. Poorman lives in Woodlawn with her husband who, she said, is "sick of hearing about algebra and children who don't mind doing their homework because Mother has to do it, also."

She wants to continue her education at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and teach art at the high school level. "I feel everyone should have some art training, and so many small high schools don't."

She also commented about RLC students, "I love to watch the young people because I can see myself in them. Everything they do makes me remember something I did. I'm really having fun."

An observer at lunchtime in the cafeteria may notice a man sporting a moustache who seems to be having fun, surrounded by giggling ladies. The man, Jim Fenton of Wayne City, and two of his companions, Frances Bravard and Barbara McKay, both of Mt. Vernon, are enrolled in RLC's Associate Degree Nursing program.

They may be happy because, unlike many students, they already have careers and are students only because they want to improve in their field.

"We were doing the same work as Registered Nurses but receiving less pay because we were only Licensed Practical Nurses," commented Mrs. McKay. Fenton and his two companions stressed the idea the nursing field's job opportunities are wide open. Their goal is to gain opportunities by returning to school and earning the title of RN.

Rev. Joe Wilson is another student with a definite goal. He eventually wants a degree from a Bible college. Rev. Wilson, who lives in Belle Rive with his wife, Sue, and children



Prep students on-campus for Beta Club Leadership

NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 19, 1975

More than 100 outstanding students from 32 Illinois high schools will convene at Rend Lake College Saturday, September 27, for the Illinois High School Beta Club Leadership Conference.

The Beta Club is a national organization of high school honor students.

The conference will begin at 10 a.m. in the Student Center. The RLC Collegiate Choir will provide entertainment and Dr. W. Travis Martin, President of Rend Lake College, will speak to the Beta Club leaders.

Rend Lake College faculty and staff members will conduct workshop sessions on a variety of topics, and Student Senate members will take Beta Club members on tours of the Ina campus.

High schools to be represented are Anna-Jonesboro, Brookport, Cairo Camelot, Carrier Mills, Cave-in-Rock, Century (Ullin), Clay City, Cobden, Crossville, Deer Creek-Mackinaw, Delavan, Dongola, Egyptian (Tamms), Elgin ACD, Enfield, Equality, Fisher, Goreville, Grayville, Hopedale, Joppa, McLeansboro, Mascoutah, Mounds Meridian, Norris City-Omaha, Ridgway, Robinson, Shawnee (Wolf Lake), Shawneetown, Vienna, Wayne City and Webber Township (Bluford).

STUDENT SUCCESSES

KENYAN BOAZ LALANG
2008 Beijing Olympics competitor in 800M Run
Takes INA to CHINA, misses finals berth by one spot
Summer 2008 / Turns pro after returning to RLC as sophomore

LEROY DAVID GRIFFIN
NJCAA D-I Men's Golf Individual Champion
First-Team All-American first RLC winner
/ Summer 2009

MICAH RAINWATER
RLC Alumna / Ball State U. Grad Student makes presentation at Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting in San Diego / February 2010

Fornear Family Scholarship
MARSHA LAMZCYK
TRAVIS ZETTLER
10th year for SIUC awards
2007-08

COLLEGE GRADUATES ~
ALEXANDRIA HAWKINS
MADDELYNN HAWKINS
H.S. Graduation May 18, '08
Commencement - May 9, 2008

MICHAEL MOSLER
SkillsUSA National Champ
Gold Medal in Architecture
First winner from RLC
Spring 2009

STEPHEN SAMBU
10 x National Champion
Kenyan wins 2x in Cross-Country, 3x Indoor Track, 5x Outdoors/ 2008-2010

3rd Place / ICCTA ACADEMIC OLYMPICS
Coach XXXXX
Team leader Jim Dreas
Spring 2010

VICTORIA BROWN
Essay winner gets free trip to Las Vegas for Radiologic Technologists Educational Symposium / June 2012

2007 - 2008 2008 - 2009 2009 - 2010 2010 - 2011 2011 - 2012



Above and beyond the call ... Players rush to aid victim

NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 2013

President Terry Wilkerson and Liberal Arts Chair Buster Leeck had the pleasure of presenting three student-athletes a Rend Lake College Humanity Award during Homecoming celebrations February 20.

The award was given to Warrior Baseball team members Brian Deaton (Mt. Vernon), Zane Xanders (Mt. Vernon) and Jason O'Brien (Emden) for their actions earlier this semester to help retired Professor Sue Tomlin.

Dr. Tomlin was struck by a car on the Ina campus and the three students rushed to her aid, called for help, stayed by her side and assisted first responders. Tomlin suffered a broken ankle in the incident.



Ag Marketing students at Mercantile Exchange

NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 1989

Students in the Agricultural Marketing class co-taught by Mark Kern and Terry Clark recently visited the Chicago Mercantile Exchange as guests of A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.

Class members were permitted to be on the trading floor when the market was in session.

The class studies the use of the futures and stock market to hedge agricultural commodities. The Mercantile Exchange is the largest futures market for livestock commodities in the world.

Arrangements for the trip were made by Victoria Kirk of A.G. Edwards, according to Kern.

Class members and instructors also took advantage of their Windy City visit by taking in the Chicago Board of Trade, the Sears Tower and the Field Museum of Natural History.

Joey, 8, Wendy, 3, and Tammy, 2, said he has no problem keeping up with all his interests and being a student.

"I am Pastor of the Assembly of God Church in Belle Rive and run Wilson Janitorial Service at night," he said.

He talks enthusiastically about his plans for the church. "We want to build a new church and start Royal Rangers, which is a program for boys of all faiths, similar to Boy Scouts. We first held services in a building which had been abandoned for three years. You can imagine the mess."

He wants to attend Ozark Bible Institute or Southern Assembly of God College.

All the students interviewed were very glad they had returned to school, although they are all busy people. Foremost in their minds is achieving the goals they have set for themselves.

~ Sheri Hobbs

ALUMNA OF YEAR DUDLEY ▶ Dreams can come true ... older student gets more education, shares with others

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 1994

There may never have been a more reluctant honoree, nor a more deserving one.

Those who have gone before her include two medical doctors and a couple of others worthy of the Dr. title in academia, an actress, a rocket scientist and a State Senator, among others.

Yet could any of the previous dozen "Alumnus of the Year" recipients or any of the nearly 10,000 Rend Lake College graduates over the past 27 years deny the truly amazing success story that accompanies 1994 selection Flo Dudley?

The 65-year-old Bonnie resident retired recently after 16 years as an elementary teacher. She will be honored as the 13th "Alumnus of the Year" at the RLC Foundation Annual Dinner.

Nontraditional students are becoming more and more commonplace on the typical community college campus, with the average age of all students at RLC well beyond 30 and increasing annually.

Dudley certainly was atypical, however, we pick up her saga in the mid 1970s. She first returned to school to work toward her high school equivalency (General Educational Development or GED) certificate, then an Associate Degree from Rend Lake College and eventually her Bachelor's Degree from nearby Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Before she was through, she

had added 53 more hours beyond her Master's Degree.

Enrolling in school 29 years after she had first left in order to become a teacher was not the original goal Dudley had set for herself. "I was fulfilling a dream, but that was not to be a teacher. My desire was simply to have more education. That had been a problem that bothered me for 29 years, and I didn't like that feeling. Actually, it 'haunted' me; that's just the way it was. I know it bothered me more than it would have most people."

In reality, Dudley was an honor student at Crab Orchard High School. If she had maintained her grade-point average, she was destined to be the class valedictorian had she not dropped out her junior year to accept a bookkeeping job at a local mine, a difficult decision that met with approval from her family. The job was eliminated six months after by a miners' strike.

When she confided in husband Walt years later how much of a void that decision had left in her life, "He gave me 100 percent support to fulfill my dream."

The reluctant heroine still remembers how her finger shook and her voice trembled as she dialed the Rend Lake College telephone number. It was simply to make an inquiry, that is all.

"To be honest, I really didn't even know when I called that the college would have a program to help someone like me. I was seeking advice. I just knew I wanted more education than what I had. I was not even thinking about college or teaching. And I was scared to death," she recalls.

The Dudleys had combined families a few years before that, and a fourth child had joined them. "It was not easy to devote that much time to school, what with being a wife and mother and helping on the family farm, but he (Walt) made it easy for me," Flo continued. "I have to give him a lot of credit. It really helps to have that strong family support."

Encouragement continued. The very first paper she had to write in a college English class was one of those chosen to be read aloud. "That," she remembers proudly to this day, "gave me a lot of self-confidence that I could achieve and compete with the younger students.

"I knew right then that if I could start out that way, surely I could do more. I realized I was not at a disadvantage if I gave it my best effort."

If she wasn't yet hooked, she was by

the time her first report card arrived with straight-A's. "I knew I wanted to do it after that. I wanted to prove that I could make it in life and be a success.

"Don't misunderstand. I felt good about my home life and my contributions at home. I felt as if I were a good wife and mother, but I still needed that fulfillment, that pride, that sense of wholeness."

It was not unusual for Dudley to help by hauling grain to the elevator and studying while waiting in line.

By the time she graduated from Rend Lake College, Class of '76, and moved boldly into the Elementary Education program at SIUC, the nervousness was long gone. She was hired in Fall '78 to teach at J.L. Buford School in Mt. Vernon.

"I had the self-confidence and knew I could be one of the best teachers they had ever hired. I knew I was capable of giving a good effort, and I knew I had the advantage over other people who did not have the years of experience I had," she admitted.

Jerry Clemens was in his last year before retirement as Principal of Horace Mann Grade School when he "inherited" Dudley. After 14 years in the Mt. Vernon City Schools system at Buford, teaching primarily third-graders in the open classroom concept, she was making the move to kindergarten in a totally different environment.

"A very pleasant lady," Clemens recalled. "She was willing to go way beyond the call of duty in working with her peers and dealing with the kids. Whatever it took, she was concerned about meeting the needs of the kids, the classroom and the school. She was pleasant and accommodating – you could use all of those kinds of adjectives you want – but she was almost all business. She bought things for her classroom out of her own pocket, and she was a good "team" member. She came early and stayed late."

What kind of teacher did she try to be? "I really feel I was a teacher who kids will remember. I'm not saying that just because I had that self-confidence, but because I put the kind of effort into it that it takes to be a good teacher."

Dudley indicated a secretary at the school

"used to tell me what she admired most was that I treated all children with great respect and I treated them all alike, all fairly. I tried to see things through their eyes. I tried to go in every day as if it were a new day and give it my very, very best. I treated each child with great respect and as an individual."

Most of all, perhaps, she "did my best to instill in each student the value of receiving a good education."

Dudley had not planned on retiring at age 65, but the state's "Five-Plus-Five" program helped make the decision for her. "I can honestly say that I was just as excited the last day I taught as I was the first day I taught," she said.

Her nomination by former students for inclusion in **Who's Who Among America's Teachers** in 1992 helps serve as a reminder to Dudley that she had indeed reached her goal in life and gone beyond.

"Because of the education I received," Dudley explained, "I was able to touch the lives of many others. These things would not have happened without the help I received at Rend Lake College.

"If it hadn't been for that very first day I called and somebody was kind enough to understand my situation and help, I don't think any of this would have been possible. If somebody had been curt with me on the phone, or told me to call back another time . . . even something little like that probably would have been enough to discourage me."

She continued, "What I remember most about Rend Lake College is how helpful everybody was. You were made to feel comfortable and a part of it. I felt I belonged."

The reluctant honoree is embarrassed by the attention. She will "suffer through it."

"I really don't like all the 'fuss.' I really appreciate it, don't get me wrong, but I feel a lot of other people have done what I have done. I'd be just as happy if somebody else had received the honor. The intrinsic part – getting good grades, becoming a good teacher – that was my reward."

But if she has to be an example, "I would hope that people realize anybody who wants to receive a college education and is willing to work at it can get it," Dudley re-



Six AmeriCorps students share stage with Clinton

SEPTEMBER 1995

Six Rend Lake College students were among honored guests in attendance when President Bill Clinton came to the Southern Illinois University campus, the first visit to Carbondale by a sitting president since Harry S Truman in 1948. The RLC contingent was part of the 125 national service volunteer project AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois membership seated on stage behind Clinton.

RLC AmeriCorps representatives were Aurelia Hudgens, Katrina Mellott, Brianna Richardson and Travarr Rudd, all of Mt. Vernon, Emily McCormick of Belle Rive and Amber Phelps of Bonnie.

At least 10 others from Rend Lake College joined the special invitees for the opportunity to hear Clinton, including front-row spectators Cindy Hamilton, Mary Ann Lewis, Pat Mitchell and Connie Ruffino (they each got a Presidential handshake), Valerie Dawkins, Rex Duncan, Elaine Johnson, Lisa Price, Julie Mumbower and Bob Ross.

Clinton met with students in addition to delivering an address on education funding. His visit was one of several stops federal officials made at schools and universities across the country in an attempt to raise public awareness of the battle over spending for education and proposed cuts in various programs, according to a White House spokesperson.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

2012 – 2013

2013 – 2014

2014 – 2015

2015 – 2016

2016 – 2017



The Society of Success initiated for RLC leaders

NEWS RELEASE MARCH 1, 2005

Rend Lake College students now can take advantage of the benefits of The Society of Success and Leadership, an international group of motivational speakers, success coaches and materials dedicated to helping them achieve their dreams.

The mission of The Society of Success and Leadership, or Sigma Alpha Lambda, is to help individuals create the lives they desire by helping them discover what they truly want to do and by giving them the support, motivation and tools to achieve their goals.

According to the organization's website, the Society was created through a nationwide effort of professional motivational speakers who wanted to truly impact student's lives on a long-term continuous basis, rather than giving them a one-time motivational speech.

Jeannie Mitchell-Collins, RLC Associate Psychology Professor, said recruitment of students into the Society will focus on students with a 3.3 or higher cumulative grade-point average, "but we welcome any student who aspires to better themselves through the many learning activities associated with membership."

There will be a "kick-off" ceremony at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 24, in the Rend Lake College Theatre with the Society's International President, Gary Tuerack.

Due to expensive speaker fees, travel and materials, schools cannot often afford to bring multiple motivational presenters to campus, the website states. Even when schools can, they lack the continuity between presentation and

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plied. "That's what I would like to reflect."

Walt Dudley is a livestock and grain farmer. The Dudley family includes Charles McKenzie of Marion; Clinton resident Beverly (McKenzie) Jones, another Rend Lake College graduate and a member of the first class to attend classes on the Ina campus; Wyn (Dudley) McIntosh, a college instructor in Williamsburg, VA, and Jim Dudley.

Jim, 26, was elected earlier this year to the state board of the YMCA-sponsored "Youth and Government" program. During his high school days, he served as President of the Senate for that prestigious organization.

Unfortunately, Jim was involved in a serious automobile accident and suffered head injuries on July 10, barely a month after his mother's retirement. Tutoring and any other retirement plans were put on temporary hold while Flo made daily trips to St. Louis. Jim currently is in therapy, "doing very well and improving all the time," a relieved mother reports.

No doubt her youngest son would echo the thoughts of her former boss.

"Congratulations to her . . . you made a good choice," Clemens said.

"I did not get to know her all that well on a personal basis, because she was so good about getting you to talk about yourself. It was hard to get her to talk about herself. She just liked to do her job and quietly go on home."

LIFESAVING RESPONSE ▶ **AmeriCorps in S. Illinois volunteers heroes to injured state police officer**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

By TARA SULLIVAN
RLC Learning Enhancement Specialist

There is a certain type of person willing to stick his or her neck out for others, to take a chance in order to help someone else. People who fit this description are commonly referred to as volunteers.

Whether the act of kindness comes at a nursing home, an educational setting or any number of other places, it is not unusual to find the same characteristics demonstrated by volunteers seem to influence all parts of their lives and actions.

On Wednesday, July 30, two members of the statewide AmeriCorps program directed by Rend Lake College had the opportunity to demonstrate how this spirit of selflessness could even save someone's life. They didn't disappoint.

It appeared to be a normal training trip

to the Cache River for AmeriCorps members John Laury of Vienna and Brittany Freeman of Metropolis. That was before they showed their dedication to the fundamentals of volunteerism by assisting in the rescue of a State Police Officer from his overturned vehicle.

The two were riding in a van of participants in the AmeriCorps program when they spotted an accident which had just happened along the highway near Karnak.

Laury and Freeman immediately noticed there were no paramedics or police officers on the scene and asked Land of Lincoln Southern Seven AmeriCorps Director Dave Warner if they could stop and help since they both had medical experience.

Because the traveling party was so close to its final destination, Warner decided it was best to get the rest of the members to a secure location and then return with Laury and Freeman to the scene of the accident.

Laury and Freeman surveyed the situation and wasted no time taking control while waiting for other paramedics and officers to arrive.

The State Trooper's vehicle had been completely upside down. However, during the time the AmeriCorps personnel had dropped off other members and come back to the scene, community bystanders had taken it upon themselves to flip the vehicle right side up. Laury knew this potentially could have been a fatal move for the person inside if he there was a neck injury involved, so his first move was to stabilize the officer.

Laury, a native of St. Louis, is EMT-trained and has been a volunteer for years in settings such as a firefighting unit, in camps and with the American Red Cross. His current AmeriCorps position is with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service doing Environmental and Outdoor Education in the Cypress National Wildlife Refuge.

His 12 years of experience prepared him to go directly into action. Was he nervous or scared about getting involved? "No," Laury responded just as quickly as he had reacted. "Something just 'clicks' and you get in there and just go."

After controlling the bleeding, with the aid of Freeman, a Medical Technology student who has had EMT and Licensed Practical Nursing training, Laury worked to calm the officer and held his body weight up in the 45 degree-angled squad car until an officer arrived with equipment.

While Laury stayed with the officer, Free-

man took charge of the site and other people on the site. She directed traffic, cleared bystanders and served as an information channel to professionals arriving on the scene. Brittany's AmeriCorps position is with the Faith Cares Mentoring Program in Metropolis. It is a nondenominational tutoring/mentoring program that also supports a food pantry and does family outreach.

Freeman was considering a change in her career track but now says, "Since this incident, I have decided to continue in the nursing field and become a fully licensed professional. This was very rewarding."

Both Laury and Freeman say volunteerism is a way of life for them. They are of the ideology that by giving back to the community they are repaying some of the kindnesses given to them along the way.

Hopefully, some of the people Brittany Freeman and John Laury have touched will continue with this cycle of giving and performing an outreach of their own.

GOLD MEDAL WINNER ▶ Architectural Tech Graduate Mosler first to claim Skills USA National title

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 2009

KANSAS CITY – Rend Lake College has its first SkillsUSA National Champion in Architectural Technology graduate Michael Mosler.

Mosler, 20, of Mt. Vernon brought home the Gold Medal in the College/Post-Secondary Division of Architectural Drafting at the 45th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference June 22-26. It is the first time a student representing RLC has earned a national title in the eight years the institution has competed in SkillsUSA.

"It was overwhelming," Mosler said of winning. "I didn't think I was going to win."

Mosler was one of 28 in the division and scored 781 points out of 1,000 to take the championship over Silver Medalist Emberly Valgardson of Utah Valley University and Bronze Medalist Robert Gill of Western Dakota Tech Institute (SD).

"I think it is exciting that we have a good enough quality program to have a national champion," said RLC Professor of Architecture and SkillsUSA Coach Kevin Weston. "We've had a Silver Medalist when Ryan Reu took second place in Architectural Drafting at the 2002 contest. Now we have a Gold Medalist."

Mosler also is RLC's first student to win back-to-back state titles on his way to

nationals. Last year, he placed ninth in the nation in Architectural Drafting. Through his participation in SkillsUSA at Mt. Vernon Township High School and RLC, Mosler competed four years at the state level.

"This year, with the program at the college and my previous experience with Gary Hatfield at (Mt. Vernon) high school, I dedicated my time and my energy and I came out first . . . Coming from Mt. Vernon High School to Rend Lake College, those programs really work well together."

He credited his success to those programs and years of summer architecture camps through Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, where he will start the Architecture program this fall. He also will be working a part-time job in the department.

"Another thing I credit is I have spent a lot of hard work and dedication to architecture and architectural drafting. And my parents and my family have encouraged me to stick with it. There have been times I thought I wasn't going to make it or I would get discouraged. But you just get back on your feet and do it. Coming in ninth last year, I didn't think I would do so well this year at nationals. You just get on your feet and you try again. Anyone can do it. I'm a testament to that. I'm not good in math or certain skills, but I placed first at nationals. Anyone can do it."

The youngest child of Alan and Susan Mosler said his interest in architecture began at a young age.

"As a child, I always played with Legos . . . build with blocks . . . draw buildings."

His plan is to get a Master's Degree from SIUC with a minor in History, earn his license and build a career as a historical preservationist architect – a field that would combine his love of architecture and fascination with history. He did very well in his two years at RLC. He was a regular on the Vice President's List for high academic achievement while working toward an Associate Degree and holding down an on-campus job in the Informational Technology department.

He said RLC's program – starting from a basic house structure to surveying and a final project of designing an entire commercial building – was well-rounded with Weston and professional architects teaching the classes.

"You dabble in a little bit of everything. The order it goes in is just perfect. My education at Rend Lake College really has set me that far ahead," Mosler said.

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Success Society (cont.)

follow-through to get students to take action on what they have learned.

The speakers who formed the Society teamed together to create a plan that gives students continual motivation, support and leadership training in a way that is both more cost effective for schools and which impacts students' lives in a more powerful, lasting way.

Through the Society, schools can secure a year's worth of motivational speakers, success coaches, a nationwide network, chat times with the presenters, a library of success materials, mastermind alliance teams to hold students accountable for taking action and other benefits.

The Society has changed the face of motivational presentations. Students no longer need to experience a one-hour presentation and then attempt to apply new concepts to their personal lives on their own.

The Society gives young adults guidance and direction, showing them how to develop action plans and hold each other accountable so that they reach the success they desire.

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Wife, coffee-stained robe keep McHaney humble

REGISTER-NEWS DECEMBER 3, 2010

. . . The RLC Foundation also honored its Alumnus of the Year, the Hon. Mike D. McHaney, a Judge for the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court.

"My wife, Laura, keeps me very humble," he said. "As I was preparing for this, she reminded me of my first week on the bench. They announced, 'Please stand for the Judge,' and people stood up, and I bounded up the steps. I fell on the first step and spilled coffee on my new robe."



'Once I started writing, I couldn't stop,' Muir says

NEWS RELEASE NOVEMBER 2009
Excerpts from the News Release when Jim Muir ('97) was named RLC "Alumnus of the Year" . . .

"I don't know how to describe it . . . Once I started writing, I couldn't stop," explained the ex-Coal Miner turned Writer-Publisher-Broadcaster.

He had a new perspective on the world. He began to see the storyline in everything and grew to love the work of digging for the stories that needed to be written. Muir has a natural ability to draw every ounce of humanity from a story and deliver it in a neat package to his readers. Of the thousands of stories and columns he has written, a few key columns hold a special place in his heart.

"I wrote one right after my Dad died about cleaning out his garage. There I was going through a man's life, finding pictures of him when he was 19, pictures I had never seen, from before I was alive. That column meant a lot to me."

Another column he wrote was about going to meet the people who bought his parents' home, realizing as he reached for the front door that he could no longer just walk right on in. He also wrote one about keeping Christ in Christmas that elicited support from people in 20 different states, even France . . .

... It has been an unbelievable run, he said. Through it all, one constant has kept Muir fired up. "The people of Southern Illinois. They have a quality you can't find anywhere else. They are hard-working and they love Southern Illinois," he said.

It takes a supporting cast to pull off his schedule of producing three magazines and eight radio shows each month. He credited a lot of his success and accomplishments to his

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His mother played a big part in getting him where he is today and imparting in him a hunger for more knowledge, whether it's researching advancements in the field or teaching himself the latest software, he said.

"My mother is a teacher. She always instilled into us that we need to learn. It is an important thing."

Mosler likes architecture because he can design or remodel work that will be put into action. In addition to a hefty gold medal, his prizes for first place included a new Gateway laptop customized for running high-end computer-aided drafting software, \$1,500 in architectural software, textbooks, T-shirts and other various items from corporate sponsors.

'ALUMNA OF YEAR' McCANN ▶ RLC: First time I realized person could 'pretty much determine own future'

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN DECEMBER 7, 2000
BY LINDA A. KRUTSINGER

BENTON – Sometimes coming from a small-town background can help propel a person into a wider world of opportunity.

For Benton native Holly McCann, Acting National Director for the Internal Revenue Service, being honored tonight as the Rend Lake College "Alumna of the Year," that fact certainly rings true.

"I think my first realization that there was a larger world out there came when I first started Rend Lake College," McCann, 44, said. "I can remember starting out that first semester feeling independent and a little scared, too."

"Attending Rend Lake College was the first time I had been exposed to people from some of the larger surrounding towns," she said. "It was the first time I realized there were a lot more opportunities for the future than I had previously known about and it made a big impression on me."

"It was also the first time that I had the realization that a person could pretty much determine their own future," McCann said.

McCann, the second-oldest of five children born to Charles E. and Shirley Ryan McCann, is a 1973 graduate of Benton Consolidated High School and a 1976 graduate of Rend Lake College. She began her career with the IRS in 1979 when she moved to Springfield.

She continued her education in Springfield, at Lincoln Land Community College and later Sangamon State University, where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Ac-

counting in 1985 and became a Certified Public Accountant in 1987.

Her career continued as a Secretary and Audit Accounting Aide with the IRS from 1979 to 1986. She then took a two-year absence from the IRS to work as an Economic Analyst/Auditor with the Illinois Commerce Commission.

In 1988 McCann returned to the IRS, where she served as an Agent and Supervisory Agent before a promotion in 1995 led to an office in Washington, D.C., with the National Director of Excise Taxes.

In July, McCann was named Acting National Director for the Office of Interest and Penalty Administration.

"Well, you know what almost always comes to mind when people ask me about my career?" she said with a laugh. "I always think about all the parents who want to brag about their kids, and my poor Mom has to tell everyone I work for the IRS and that I work in Washington, D.C., which seems ominous somehow."

"As far as working in Washington goes, it is not political at all, that is just basically where the job is. But I do feel I have a different perspective coming from a small community and working in the nation's capital," McCann said. "Sometimes I do think about the differences between Benton and Washington, and it brings me back to those days at Rend Lake College when I was undergoing such a time of personal growth."

"I think going to Rend Lake College helped me to begin seeing more of the total possibilities for the future, and that helped me go out into a larger world while still maintaining small-town values," she said. "I have thought back over my career as well as everything else since getting the call that I was going to get this award, and I have to say that I feel pretty good about the progress of my career since leaving high school."

"Sometimes kids just graduating from high school are so focused in on getting into a four-year school so they can be on their own and away from home that they forget about the quality education they can receive at the community college," McCann said. "A community college education is not a second choice. I think it is very much a primary choice. I think it is very much a primary choice, and sometimes the best choice."

"I am very shocked and humbled that my community college, the place where I started to learn about the world, has brought me

back from that world to honor me," she said. "Although I have not been on the campus since 1976, I have kept tabs on its growth and development. I'm quite proud to tell people that I started my career, my journey into the wide world, at Rend Lake College, not because it was my second choice, but because it was my best choice."

The 19th annual award will be presented tonight during the RLC Foundation Annual Dinner Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn.

[Editor's Note: As of May 2012, McCann was still with the Department of the Treasury's Internal Revenue Service as Chief of the Excise Tax Program.]

DOGGONE GLAD ▶ Teamwork? Yes. Homework? No! Krutsinger, Gaither a winning duo

BENTON EVENING NEWS SEPTEMBER 25, 1996
BY JIM MUIR, STAFF WRITER

Enrollment totals for the Fall Semester at Rend Lake College show that the community college has more than 3,100 full- and part-time students . . . and one dog.

Gaither, a 110-pound Rottweiler, draws a lot of attention as he and his owner, Linda Krutsinger of Benton, make their way around the Ina campus.

Krutsinger, 39, has a deteriorating spinal condition that limits her ability to climb stairs and lift objects.

That's where Gaither enters the picture.

The 7-year-old Rottweiler went through 600 hours of intensive training at "Canines for Independence" – a St. Louis-based obedience school – to learn to help assist Krutsinger in her daily activities.

Krutsinger said she would be unable to attend classes at RLC without assistance from Gaither.

"He helps me walk, helps me out of bed and out of chairs," Krutsinger said. "He makes me feel much more independent. Because of Gaither, I don't have to rely on people as much."

Krutsinger, who is Editor of the college's newspaper, *The RLC Times*, said Gaither can carry up to 15 pounds of books in the back pack he wears each day on campus.

Krutsinger got Gaither when he was only a puppy specifically to begin preparation for training.

She added that Rottweilers, because of their size and strength, are usually trained to be assistance dogs.

"He's trained to do a wide variety of

things," Krutsinger said. "He's even been trained to pull a wheelchair if necessary. He does all the little things I can't do and helps me over the rough spots that happen each day."

Krutsinger is the first student in need of an assistance dog to attend classes at RLC.

Jay Lewis, Director of Counseling at RLC, said the college was required to send notices to all of Krutsinger's instructors informing them that there would be a four-legged visitor in their class.

Lewis said Krutsinger provided documentation that Gaither had been through training.

"Our faculty and administration has been extremely supportive," Lewis said. "There are rules, regulations and policies to deal with, so we informed all the instructors about Linda's schedule and that Gaither would be with her in class."

Lewis called RLC's commitment to helping handicapped students "a source of pride."

"There are certain things we are required by state and federal law to do," Lewis said. "It's not a matter, though, of us having to do it . . . it's a matter of us wanting to do it."

Krutsinger, who is scheduled to graduate from RLC in December, said Gaither stays beside her desk during class.

"He hasn't caused any disturbances in class," Krutsinger said, "but sometimes when the class is taking a test and it gets quiet he falls asleep and snores."

Krutsinger said one of the biggest obstacles she has faced is attempting to educate the public about the duties of an assistance dog.

"I find it interesting that everybody wants to pet him," she said, "however, if he gets used to people petting him, he might get distracted and not be able to heed a command when I need him."

Because of her own physical limitations, Krutsinger said she had difficulty developing an exercise program to help keep Gaither in shape. A little ingenuity on her part, however, solved the problem.

"A big dog needs a lot of exercise," said Krutsinger, "more than he would get from just walking around with me."

Krutsinger attached a 16-foot flexi-steel leash to her car and let Gaither run alongside.

"He loves it," she said. "We go everyday before school and again in the evening."

She also takes Gaither to Lake Benton where he goes for a daily swim.

"He likes to swim," Krutsinger said, "but he also likes to chase boats."

Krutsinger said some people have ex-

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'Once I started ...' (cont.)

wife, Lisa, and the fact they are together. Credit also goes to their six children – four girls and two boys, ranging in age from 15-30. The Muirs have a granddaughter and two more grandchildren on the way.

"It's a very big family and they are very, very supportive," he said. "God has really smiled on me in many, many parts of my life. I feel very blessed. I know where my blessings come from . . . I always say God watches after idiots and little children. And I'm no child."

Muir can put health on the list of blessings, too. He is "disgustingly healthy" and full of energy without requiring much sleep. He doesn't see business slowing down at all. In fact, he is considering venturing into another publication very soon. "I'm going to keep rolling as long as I feel good doing what I'm doing. I don't intend to slow down."

He had worked 19 1/2 years at the Old Ben Mine – just six months shy of the 20 required for health insurance benefits. In 1994, Muir made the difficult choice to turn around and finish what he started. He took a leave of absence from writing and was hired back by Old Ben – in Coulterville – and worked 12 months of straight midnight shifts, driving 60 miles one way to work. It was the longest year of his life, but looking back the 20-year UMWA member says the benefits are worth it . . .

"Life can change in so many different directions," he said. His advice to others: "Don't get locked in thinking you have to do one thing. I worked at a job 19 years and my life changed 180 degrees. Set your goals, follow your dreams and stay away from negative people. Get away from them as fast as you can."



Back-to-School Bus Tour makes enriching RLC stop

NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

U.S. Department of Education officials met with Rend Lake College students, administrators and staff Wednesday on campus as part of the department's cross-country Back-to-School Bus Tour.

Sue Liu, Special Assistant for Community Colleges in the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, said her visit to RLC was an enriching stop in the USDE's "Education Drives America" campaign to learn about best practices and needs at community colleges across the U.S.

"This is the best part of my job. I get to go around the country and talk to students. We know, for sure, that the best ideas do not come from Washington," Liu told a group of around 15 RLC students, many of whom are part of the college's Student Transfer and Retention Support (STARS) program.

She heard from each student about where they come from and why they chose to go to a community college. She asked what was that "light bulb" moment that made them decide to enroll at RLC.

"I want to be better than what people expect me to be," a young woman said after telling about growing up with major financial hardships. Another woman said she wants proof of her accomplishment, not just to show potential employers, but to be able to answer the question, "Where did you go to school?"

"For me - coming from a family where education wasn't established beyond a high school diploma - it's been so rewarding to share [where I went to college] with others." Liu asked them what advice

(Continued at far right on next page)

pressed concern that Gaither never gets a chance to be "just a dog."

"When he's in his harness he's totally in tune with what I'm doing," Krutsinger said. "When he's not, though, he acts like any other dog. If he can steal a snack off the table he'll do it."

Krutsinger will begin classes at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale in January.

She and Gaither are currently in training to get adjusted to the bigger campus.

Krutsinger said the large squirrel (four-legged) population on the Carbondale campus has proven to be somewhat of a distraction for Gaither.

"The squirrels are not afraid and he is real interested in them," she said. "It's a real temptation to him . . . everybody has their temptations to deal with, I guess."

Krutsinger, who will major in Journalism at SIU, said she expects Gaither to be by her side until she receives her Bachelor's Degree. "I just wish I could teach him to write my papers for me," she said.

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. MAY 4, 1998

RLC graduate Linda Krutsinger recently was presented with two major awards from the School of Journalism at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

The Charles C. Clayton Scholarship is presented annually to an individual who exhibits outstanding scholastic skills, potential for a career in the journalism profession and a strong dedication to the community.

She also won the William Harmon Award, presented to a Journalism student who has worked at the *Daily Egyptian*, in recognition of an article concerning domestic violence which was part of a series dealing with social problems and issues.

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. JUNE 15, 1998

The new Franklin County Correspondent for *The Southern Illinoisan* newspaper is a former Editor of the *RLC Times*.

Linda Krutsinger, who returned to school as a nontraditional student after a work-related injury and is now a senior Journalism major at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, was scheduled to start her full-time reporting position this week.

She was one of 40-plus applicants, according to reports, and was offered the job after submitting her resumé and clippings from work on the *Daily Egyptian*.

"It's really a good opportunity for me," Krutsinger said before starting her new assignment. "It's a chance to get my foot in the door. Being a correspondent, I also get

to do some photography, which I enjoy, and write stories."

In addition to the usual features and meetings, "One of my projects is going to be to focus on local people . . . features on interesting people around Franklin County."

As with any correspondent, "I'll be looking for story ideas all the time," she added.

Krutsinger will mix school and work in the fall. She will return to SIUC as a full-time student.

Her office will be in her home the rest of the summer. When college resumes, she will work out of the Carbondale office as well as her home.

During her time at RLC, Krutsinger not only was active on the student newspaper but also was instrumental in helping Associate Professor Therese Howard start the ultra-successful, annual fund-raising "Students for Students" Art Auction.

2005 'ALUMNUS OF YEAR' SIUC's Shields 'quite the salesman . . . he can be pretty persistent'

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE NOVEMBER 2005

The Rend Lake College "Alumnus of the Year" for 2005 believes wholeheartedly in the program he promotes. He can be just as verbose in his belief in each individual he recruits into that program.

Right back at you, Bill Shields. Those individuals you have touched are believers, too . . . in you.

Shields (Class of 1958) is the fourth Mt. Vernon Community College graduate to be recognized as "Alumnus of the Year," after Robert L. Brown in 1983, Dr. Harl E. Ryder Jr. in 1985 and Dr. Gary R. Sweeten in 1986.

As the off-campus recruiter for Southern Illinois University-Carbondale's Workforce Education program, which gives up to a year of college credit for work experience and encourages those in the work force to return to college to earn a four-year degree, and promoter of an every-other weekend program for postgraduate studies, Shields boasts an allegiance of followers who have nothing but the best to say on his behalf.

"Education has been your passion and you are very deserving of this honor," Rend Lake College Foundation CEO Pat Mitchell informed Shields in her letter of congratulations. And, yes, Mitchell's Bachelor's Degree was earned through the SIUC Workforce Education plan.

"He is quite the salesman," says RLC Architectural Technology Professor Rick

Marlow, who succumbed to Shields' sales pitch, graduated from the SIUC program and now teaches part-time in it.

Marlow was a licensed architect serving on the RLC Advisory Council when he first had thoughts of becoming an instructor. "I could do that" he remembers thinking.

"Then Bill came along. He does that, just drops in cold to tell you about the program. I can honestly say I don't remember if I contacted him or how he found out I might be interested in going back to school. But there he was one day, and he can be pretty persistent.

"But I have never regretted doing it," Marlow said. He also is convinced Shields had a say in Marlow being selected, despite the absence of a Ph.D., to teach WED core courses in "Individualizing Training," "Linkages to Workforce Education" and "The Foundation of Workforce Education."

Retired Administrative Assistant Jerri Ruemmler, one of many RLC employees to earn a Bachelor's Degree while working full-time, commented, "Bill Shields' energy and enthusiasm for the SIU program is contagious. He gives each student his attention with personal encouragement and the 'push' to achieve full potential. He convinced me I could attain my Bachelor's Degree. He is very dedicated to that program. I enjoyed the classes and the new friends I made. Thanks, Bill!"

RLC Book and Retail Store Manager Dorothy Feira was completing her Associate Degree, with no thoughts of seeking a four-year degree, when someone on campus pointed Shields in her direction.

The end result: Feira has both Bachelor and Master's Degrees in Workforce Education from SIUC and has been featured in the *Southern Alumni* magazine.

"I didn't think I had the background to go to a university," recalled Feira. "He not only told me about the program, he insisted I could do it even though I was leery about taking that first step.

"Bill has been very supportive all along. He would take the time to stop by and talk about how things were going – even coming to my home once – and offering encouragement. His way of doing things on a one-on-one basis probably made the biggest difference for me.

"I don't think I would have had the confidence to do it if it hadn't been for Bill Shields. If it weren't for him being so caring..." Feira continued. "He finally got through

to me and made me believe in myself. I am a big supporter of that program and his counseling. It is one of the best programs I have ever seen. The classes in that program give you things you can use in everyday life and things that help you in your career."

According to support staff in the SIUC Workforce Education program, Shields submitted documentation for 2,413 hours of work in 2004. He estimates he works about nine hours per day five days per week "and a lot of weekends." He took no weeks off in 2004, four days thus far in 2005.

Rend Lake College graduates of the WED program include Dr. Sharon Beasley, Allied Health Division Chair, and 2005 products Dr. Jim Hull, Vice President of Instruction, and Dr. Sarah Ochs, Applied Science and Technology Division Chair.

The Bill Shields Fan Club also could include Dean of Instruction Lisa Payne and Dean of Special Programs Andrea Witthoft, Physical Plant Director Randall Shively, Director of Counseling Lisa Price, Center for Business Director Ed Ruffino and Curt Mowrer, Executive Director of the Small Business Development Center and RLC MarketPlace.

Faculty graduates of WED and/or its Occupational Education predecessor also count Tina Grounds (Early Childhood), Henry "Buster" Leek (History), Nigel Thompson (Automotive Technology), Bonnie Tolbert (Practical Nursing) and Kevin Weston (Architecture Technology). Other staff, including some December-to-be WED grads, are Nicki Bowlin, Lisa Conner, Yvonne Hallam, Rita Harriss, Paula Myers, Linda Odle, Connie Sample, Elizabeth Shew and Marcia Whitehead.

Another dozen or so retired or former college employees also took advantage of the opportunity Shields & Friends provided.

Shields has been in the business of making friends for SIUC for most of his tenure there. Between 1995 and 2000, he coordinated Workforce Education and Development Off-Campus Weekend programs at the Jacksonville (FL) Naval Air Station, Savannah River Site in Aiken, SC, and Mayport (FL) Naval Station. He was on assignment for a week earlier this month in Florida.

Except for the year after graduating from SIU with the first of his two degrees from there, when he joined the faculty of Mt. Vernon Township High School, Shields has been part of SIU and vice-versa.

He was presented the "Outstanding



School Bus Tour (cont.)

about college they give to students or someone they mentor.

"This is a great school," a student replied. "I tell them, 'While you are here, use the resources.' There are really great resources here for them."

"Do what makes you happiest," another said. "No one can take your education from you. You have to learn who you are and where you want to be."

Liu asked for recommendations to take back. The majority responded programs like STARS should be available to more students.

When meeting with administrators and staff, Liu heard about best practices in place to make students successful and how the college operates in recruitment, retention and completion. She heard about dual credit and tutoring initiatives.

Meetings on campus – coupled by RLC President Terry Wilkerson later joining U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education Tony Miller for a discussion at Continental Tire the Americas – put the spotlight on RLC's student services and partnerships with local business and industry.

Liu said it was an "enriching" experience. She said they gathered some good feedback.

"I was so impressed by the students I met, in terms of their experiences and where they came from... how much perseverance they've had getting to school... and having really strong goals for themselves in education and future jobs."

Another, she said, was the college's strong support system and student advocacy in place.



The perfect Rapp sheet: 100 words per minute

NEWS RELEASE MAY 2013

Kristi Rapp, an Office Systems Technology Health Information Assistant major, typed 100 words per minute with no errors during finals testing.

Instructor Sarah Bilderbeck said Rapp is the first student to reach this goal in the 10 years she has taught at Rend Lake College. Bilderbeck said many students have typed 100 words per minute, but Rapp is the first to do it without a single error.

Two years ago, Rapp was laid off from a job she held for nearly two decades. With help from the federal Workforce Investment Act, administered through Man-Tra-Con, Rapp went back to school to train for a new career. This month, she graduated with her Associate Degree, along with three Occupational Certificates she completed in the Office Systems Technology program. Curtis and Kristi Rapp have three children – Levi, Lynsi and Lyle – and two grandchildren.



Distinguished MVTHS grads with ties to RLC

Mt. Vernon Township High School "Distinguished Alumni" with close ties to RLC . . .

- 2011 MVTHS Recognition
Robert Brown (Class of '64)
GED Instructor • RLC Alumnus of Yr.
- **Carol Dilley Jaudes** ('73)
1988 RLC Alumna of Year,
- **Sam Mateer** ('62)
RLCF Director / RLC Trustee
- 2009 MVTHS Recognition
Sarah Capps ('64)
Art Professor • RLC Alumna of Yr.
- 2007 MVTHS Recognition
Harl E. Ryder Jr. ('56)
1985 RLC Alumnus of Year,
- 1998 MVTHS Recognition
C.L. Schweinfurth ('48)
RLCF Board of Directors
- **J.D. Shields** ('44)
MVCC Basketball Coach

Teacher of the Year" Award in 1982. In both 1974 and '78, he was recipient of the "Outstanding Service Award" from Iota Lambda Sigma, which he served as President on three occasions and has been Secretary-Treasurer since 1978.

Among research grants he has received are one for \$250,000 in 1969-71 as Director/Organizer of the Curriculum Research and Resource Center in the Technologies at West Virginia University and another to conduct A Follow-Up Study of Industrial Education Graduates at SIUC, 1953-63.

In addition to heading the MVCC Student Council for two years as a nontraditional student, where fellow representatives included longtime area educator Jim Burnes and Mt. Vernon business man Larry Martin, the military veteran played basketball for the Warriors under his cousin, the late Dr. J.D. Shields, and alongside Burnes, Martin and former MVTHS Ram Coach Sonny Ellis.

The 1958 Pyramid Yearbook depicting a handsome, smiling Shields also featured classmates and future Mt. Vernon educators Jerry Clemens, Lucy Baker, Mary (Tinsley) Burnes and Shirley Woodrome; Jefferson County Board member-to-be Curtis Grothoff Jr., and Mildred (Baker) Jones, wife of State Rep. John O. Jones. The Freshman Class included Fred Deichman, Merle Fullerton and Charles York. The faculty and staff section by that time already included such MVCC-RLC mainstays as Dean Howard Rawlinson, Betty Ann Ward, James Yates, Barbara Luchsinger, Art Samford, Imogene Book, William Myers and Ed Kownacki.

THE ONE AND ONLY BILL SHIELDS ▶ Lessons in Life 101 – 'I like life. I like my job. And I love people'

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE NOVEMBER 2005

Excerpts from what could be a class syllabus for "Lessons in Life 101" shared daily by the indomitable Bill Shields (Mt. Vernon Community College Class of 1958), senior member of the faculty at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and 2005 Rend Lake College Foundation "Alumnus of the Year" . . .

• **AGE AND RETIREMENT** – Shields is not opposed to telling his age, but he doesn't go around bragging about it, either. "I recently celebrated my 23rd 50th birthday," he admitted. Translation: 72.

Retirement plans? "I always tell people I am going to retire February 15, 2033. I'll be 100 then. I probably won't retire, though, I'll just change jobs."

"I am still working because I love to work. I still look forward to getting up each morning and coming to work. I really don't like weekends. My work is my hobby."

• **WORK AND RELATIONSHIPS** – "I am 24 / 7 on duty. I am available to my students 24 hours a day, seven days per week. If anybody wants to call me at 2 in the morning and talk, it is OK. If you want to come over to the house, come on over. You don't have to call first."

"I like life. I like my job. And I love people. That's my Mom and Dad all rolled into one, too. We always enjoyed life around our house."

"I just enjoy working with people and trying to help people whenever I can. I have been very, very fortunate in my life. I am lucky to be alive and be able to help."

"I like to try to do something for someone every day. But I was always told, if you don't have to go out of your way to do it, then it doesn't count."

• **OUTSIDE INTERESTS** – Maybe there is life after work after all.

"I have always liked motorcycles and airplanes and I am into Corvettes," he explained some of his passions. "I got my first motorcycle in 1949 when I was still in high school. I rode them until about (age) 62, when I finally got away from that."

Corvettes? "I've had 14 of those. I have a '78 sitting in the shed right now that I am going to have completely restored one of these days." A favorite color, perhaps? "It has got to be red or it is not a Corvette," says the gospel according to Shields.

Shields decided to take his first flying lesson when he was driving past the airport one day and suddenly pulled in and acted on the urge. The first time he jumped from an airplane was in 1952. "A forced jump," he recalled. "I was serving in Korea at the time . . . When the plane quits, you jump." He has owned his own airplane and is a glider pilot.

Count bungee-jumping among his experiences as well.

He has helped restore 14 houses and has No. 15 in his sights. "I am going to buy the house (in Salem) I was born in and restore it," he says. Believe him.

"I want to do everything once. I just like the challenge of doing new and different things."

• **EARNING RESPECT** – Shields recently received a thank-you note from a nontraditional teacher-turned-student who he had

encouraged to return to school to pursue his master's degree. "You never get too old to better yourself," Shields has encouraged hundreds and hundreds of Workforce Education enrollees. "This fellow said he had followed my advice, cleaned up his act and become more professional. He said he was actually dressing up to teach his shop classes and it had made a difference in the way his students were showing more respect for him."

• **ATTENTION NOT NECESSARY** – The humble Shields was stunned to learn he had been chosen to receive the RLC Foundation award. Given time to think about it, he called CEO Pat Mitchell back, thanked her again and turned it down. A follow-up call from President Mark S. Kern convinced Shields the recognition would be good for his program.

"He (Kern) called and put the pressure on me," laughed the honoree. "I never try to think about myself. It certainly is a nice honor, but knowing I had been selected is enough for me; I didn't necessarily need all of the rest of this (attention)."

• **MARLYS AND A SILVER 19TH** – Shields and his wife, Marlys ("a good Norwegian name"), have been married for 43 years. [Editor's Note: In other words, they have celebrated their 19th 25th anniversary.]

However, Shields was not completely honest when they first met. Marlys, a nurse, was en route from Minnesota to a new job in Kentucky when they met one morning in the lobby of a Mt. Vernon hotel where Shields was staying at the time. He was headed to the Ellis Cafe for breakfast; she wanted directions to a local church.

"I saw this girl sitting in the lobby and said to myself, 'I've got to meet this lady.'" Told her destination was Owensboro, Shields blurted out, "I go there all the time." "And I had never been there in my life," he now admits. An acquaintance helped Shields track her down, he did start going to Owensboro all the time and the rest, as they say, is history.

Daughter Lynn lives in North Carolina, where she worked in Explosive Ordinance Disposal as a Paratrooper. Marlys was still employed in the nursing field until about three years ago.

• **HE'S POSITIVE: EVERYTHING'S GOOD** – "I used to work with a lot of younger people," Shields commented. "Now I work more with older students, but I rely on a lot of the same experiences. I just never tire of helping people."

"The No. 1 thing" he advises people of all ages, "is you have to learn to develop a good positive attitude . . . and find the good in everything."

The respect Shields holds for his parents is undeniable. He paid homage to Fred and Sarah Shields frequently during his conversation. "I am fortunate to have had great parents," he said. "They were the ones who gave me a good attitude. They were great. My determination goes back to my Mom and Dad, because they were very determined to be the best parents they could be. They always told me I was No. 1 and encouraged me. Dad worked for Sohio Petroleum and worked long hours, so I was accustomed to that."

"When I was old enough, they always insisted I have a part-time job of some kind and taught me to save my money. By the time I graduated from high school, I had enough money saved I could buy a brand new '51 Chevrolet for \$1,600." (It would be another 12 years before the Corvette came along.)

• **INFLUENTIAL TEACHERS** – "Teachers always have been a big influence on me, especially coaches," admits someone who did not let a lack of size prevent him from being a member of the 1950 Mt. Vernon Township High School Rams state championship basketball team. He advanced to the IHSA State Track Meet and was a 140-pound guard for the Ram football team.

He rattles off the names of high school Science Teacher Archie Woodrome; Coach Scott Gill; Coach/Athletic Director Noble Thomas; Junior High Music Teacher Ruby Johnson; English Teacher Margaret Cummings, and Mt. Vernon Community College Coach J.D. Shields, his second cousin.

"Bill Shields, you are the worst singer I have ever heard," he recalls Miss Ruby Johnson pleading with him to stop. Miss Cummings perused his first book review, made the author stay after class, "thrust it out at me and said, 'Take this back, re-write it about four times and you might get a passing grade.' I didn't know any better, but she made me do it right! Some times you have to do things 4-6 times to get it right."

Nor will Shields ever forget the day he forgot to take his chewing gum out before entering Woodrome's classroom. The teacher put his finger on the student's nose, grabbed him by the shirt and started shaking him back and forth, with his classmates giggling and his books falling to the floor. "I learned my lesson that day. I don't think



High Middle Ages come to campus in reenactment

SEPTEMBER 1998

Student Lori Aydt helped bring a part of history to life for other members of Dr. Barbara Luchsinger's British Literature class. Instructor and students took a break from "Beowulf" when Aydt, alias Osanna, and friends brought a reenactment of the High Middle Ages to the Learning Resource Center front lawn, including a fight in full suits of armor using rattan swords. "The Shire of Far Reaches of the Middle Kingdom," a group of Southern Illinois history buffs and performers, is part of the Society for Creative Anachronism. The group included Aydt's husband, Tim Aydt, a Rend Lake College graduate who works in the office of the Jefferson-Hamilton County Regional Superintendent of Education. Others taking part included Michael O'Brian, or "Bran," a retired high-rise construction worker from Thompsonville; Adrienne Will, a fifth-grade teacher from Cobden, and staff and students from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. The SCA "is a not-for-profit, family organization dedicated to the study of the Middle Ages. It started in Berkeley, CA, in the mid '60s; today, there are thousands of members worldwide. There is an event somewhere almost every week. Our members represent all types of people and professions," Lori Aydt commented. The Shire of Far Reaches meets monthly either at SIUC or in Marion.



ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC SUCCESS

STUDENT VIEW BOOK 2007

“Rend Lake College has given me the opportunity to succeed both academically and athletically. With its small class sizes, highly qualified instructors and financial affordability, Rend Lake College was the ideal choice for me.

“I was also drawn to the school because of its strong athletic program. Rend Lake College Warrior and Lady Warrior teams have consistently received both regional and national recognition both on the court and in the classroom. I am proud to attend Rend Lake College and am grateful for the many opportunities I have received here.”

– TAKITA EARL

Elkhart, IN (Central H.S.)
/ RLC Class of 2007

A 6-foot forward for the Lady Warriors Basketball team, Takita Jenea Earl graduated with both Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees before accepting an athletic grant-in-aid offer to continue her playing career at Fordham University (NY). Her freshman season at RLC, the team posted a composite 3.36 GPA and earned National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Academic All-America distinction, tied for ninth-best in the country among 38 Women’s Basketball Teams to be recognized. As a sophomore, Earl and her teammates were 24-8 overall, 11-5 in the Great Rivers Athletic Conference, and finished runner-up in Region XXIV post-season competition.

I ever did that again,” the impressionable young man recalled much later.

• **ONE MORE PIECE OF ADVICE** – “Always be dependable, but never be predictable,” Shields passes on more advice he has followed. “In other words, don’t do the same thing over and over. Try to do different things. Spontaneity is important.”

“As for those people who say nothing ever happens to me, they may be right if they are just waiting around for something to happen. You have to make it happen!”

MULTI-TALENTED JORDAN MCCOY ▶ ‘I could see her (on Broadway) in a few years,’ Director says, but McLeod first

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 4, 2011

After wowing Rend Lake College audiences for the past year, actress Jordan McCoy will spread her wings with McLeod Summer Playhouse in June. The 19-year-old from Mt. Vernon has been hired to play the housemaid “Ursula” in “Sound of Music,” which opens June 25, and “Vicki” in “A Chorus Line” that starts the following week.

“I’m really excited,” McCoy said. “The rehearsal schedule is from 9 in the morning until 10 p.m., every day. We get Sundays off for church. I’m stoked. This is what I want to do professionally and this is kind of like my first paid professional stage actress job. I want everyone to come out and see it.”

Named after long-time Theater Department Chair Archibald McLeod, McLeod Summer Playhouse through Southern Illinois University-Carbondale has been committed for more than 30 years to presenting popular professional theater to the Southern Illinois region. Tickets and information for this summer’s shows can be found online at www.playhouse.siuc.edu.

“It’s boot camp for actors,” RLC Theatre Director Tracey Webb said of rehearsal and production. “You start [in the morning] . . . on what they call “condition dancing.” After three or four hours of dancing, you rehearse, take a short lunch break, then rehearse all afternoon. And if you are in production you take supper and you do a full show at night. From morning to night it is nothing but show business.”

“You learn an entire show in about a week and a half,” RLC Music Director Sara Alstat added. “It’s intense. But that’s good. It’s a top-notch facility and they have wonderful costumes and scenery.”

Both Webb and Alstat played in McLeod Summer Playhouse just as their student

McCoy is getting ready to do. Webb was in “A Chorus Line” in 1994 and Alstat played “Grizabella” in the 2006 sold-out production of “Cats.” Neither offered any advice for McCoy. That probably is because of how much confidence they have in her and her dream of acting on Broadway.

“She’s amazing,” Alstat said. “I think Jordan has enough talent she is going to make it one of these days in musical theatre. She is one of the most talented kids I’ve seen come through since I’ve been [at RLC]. She has the three qualities they look for in musical theater – acting, dancing and singing.”

Webb said when she played in “A Chorus Line,” actors from all over the Midwest and as far away as New York City came to audition for the fiercely competitive and exhausting productions.

“It’s pretty hard, you have to be a virtuoso – acting, singing and dancing to get in this year,” said Webb. “Jordan has lots of training as a dancer so that really helped.”

McCoy is involved in everything she can be as a theatre and music student at RLC. Under Alstat, she sings in several annual events with the college’s Community Chorus and was “Alice” in the 2010 Madrigal Dinner Theatre production “Alice in Blunderland.” And with Webb’s direction, McCoy was “Ensign Nellie Forbush” in the recent RLC Spring Musical, “South Pacific,” and played the lead role in “Cabaret” last fall. In fact, McCoy’s first steps on stage were in children’s productions through RLC.

But Webb and Alstat are not the only teachers helping McCoy hone her talents. For the past two semesters, she has received vocal training from Dr. Elizabeth Pettilot. Alstat said it is working wonders.

“Her voice has improved so much in the past year she has been taking voice lessons,” Alstat said.

“Because I did pop music for so long, my musical theatre voice went untapped and unrehearsed, and I lost a lot of the elements you need for musical theatre,” McCoy said. “I’ve improved so much and learned so much.”

The lessons she has learned do not stop at singing, acting and dancing. McCoy has grown in many other ways while learning to reinvent herself. And she dreams big – The Juilliard School (in New York) after RLC and then on to Broadway, she says.

“No matter how good people tell you you’re doing, or how good you think are doing, you can always be better,” she said.

"There is always someone better than you, so you have to keep practicing always. Always. I'm practicing all the time. I keep myself busy doing productions. With each show I think I get better. And I'll just continue to do it until I can't."

"She is realistic," Webb said. "She's got the talent and she could make it. I could see her [on Broadway] in a few years. She has to be just as she is now – very professional. It's about perseverance. Just because one person tells you 'no' doesn't mean you won't make it. You have to keep auditioning."

AG LAND LAB MANAGER ▶ Notre Dame grad Chavez discovers his 'niche' down on the farm at RLC

REND LAKE COLLEGE SPRING CLASS SCHEDULE 1981

You can take the boy out of the country. And perhaps you can't take the country out of the boy.

But the real question is: Can you put the boy in the country? And once there, can you ever again get the boy out of the country?

Yes. Probably not.

Tony Chavez, longtime city-slicker, thinks, "I've found a niche."

The 25-year-old graduate of University of Notre Dame found his "niche" down on the farm . . . as Manager of Rend Lake College's student-oriented land laboratory agriculture operation.

Until the time he graduated with a Liberal Studies Degree in the Great Books of the Western World from Notre Dame, Chavez was hardly a candidate for overalls and pitchforks. His farm background consisted of a grandfather who was involved in truck farming and uncles who lasted just six months in a futile attempt at raising hogs. Or, as he readily admits, "Actually, I had spent almost no time at all around a farm of any kind."

It is what you might expect from someone reared in the East Bay Area of California.

Two more years on the West Coast following his first graduation from college brought little more than frustration as he looked for apprenticeships.

That is when he decided to do something you would not expect most people to do.

Chavez returned to college, this time to learn a vocation.

"I didn't want to be called a person who didn't have a goal. Some of us get it a little later in life," he laughed, "but I think I've found a niche."

He now hopes to continue his second

education at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale once his degree requirements at RLC have been completed. He harbors thoughts of some day owning and working a small piece of his own land, but his main desire is to become an agriculture teacher.

"What really made an impression on me," Chavez had said earlier, "concerned the people I have met here. They do have goals. They are kids who have worked most of their lives. They know exactly what they want to get out of this place.

"You run into a lot of people at a large university like Notre Dame who aren't goal-oriented; they don't know what they want to do with their lives."

Chavez is convinced, after a summer of managing RLC's "farm," "If a man is willing to take a chance on himself and commit as many of his resources as available, he would be able to make a go of it" in farming despite today's economic conditions.

"I think things might turn around for this country," he continued, "if men would quit being afraid to face a few obstacles.

"This idea of being whipped before ever starting out never has set too well with me."

Chavez was not whipped even though as the father of a 3-year-old, Jessica, and the husband of a working wife, Kathleen, who is expecting the couple's second child in February, he suddenly found himself down on the farm 16 hours a day.

During the summer planting season, Chavez usually arrived at the college around 5:30 a.m. "so we could be in the field by 8." The typical day ended around 9 p.m., Saturdays included.

According to RLC Department Chair David Scott, "I like getting up and getting going, but Tony almost always was here before I got here. Many, many times he was still here after I left."

Chavez was not whipped even though, initially, "I found attending school here to be different than what I was used to until I got into the farm work.

"Now I do enjoy it. It is tremendously rewarding and stimulating." Once he began putting his hands to work doing what he had been taught, "I found it quite challenging."

Chavez was not whipped early in his RLC education when he brought in a Volkswagen engine to work on in his Basic Engine class. "Unheard of in an Ag class," recalled Scott, noting the difficult task of rebuilding such an engine.



ILLINOIS ARTICULATION INITIATIVE SCHOOL

STUDENT VIEW BOOK 2007

"I began my (work) career at 18 as a meat-cutter in Mt. Vernon. After moving up to a management position which I held for some time, I was laid off through company downsizing. I looked for another job, but it seemed that everyone wanted a college degree.

"Some teachers at Rend Lake College went to my church, and I talked to them about what opportunities I would have there. After speaking with my wife, I soon decided that it would be in my best interest to start at Rend Lake before going to a university. I also learned that Rend Lake College was an Illinois Articulation Initiative school and that would help me when I transferred to a four-year institution. This has been one of the best decisions of my life."

– JAMES HALL

Mt. Vernon

/ RLC Class of 2007

James L. Hall Jr. graduated with honors (3.50 GPA or higher on a 4.0-point scale) while earning A.A. and A.S. degrees.



LOCATION, LOCATION PROGRAM

STUDENT VIEW BOOK 2007

"I chose Rend Lake College because it was very close to home and offers an excellent Art program. I had been out of school for several years and wanted to attend a college that offered me the opportunity to pick up where I left off. Rend Lake did just that. I am very proud to be a student at Rend Lake College."

– KEVIN GRAY / RLC 2008

Kevin Lee Gray graduated with both A.A. and A.S. degrees.



LANDING A CAREER

STUDENT VIEW BOOK 2007

“There are several reasons I chose to attend Rend Lake College. The faculty, the affordability, the convenience of classes, closeness to home . . . but the most important reason is that Rend Lake College has given me the opportunity to work towards landing a career that I can be happy with myself doing. I'm very thankful for that opportunity.”

– CARMAN GRAY
RLC Class of 2008

Carman Shantel Gray graduated with honors with an Associate in Fine Arts Degree from RLC in 2008.



START MY COLLEGE CAREER INITIATIVE SCHOOL

STUDENT VIEW BOOK 2007

“I came to visit Rend Lake College because my high school Track Coach first told me about it. After meeting the coaches and seeing the campus I knew that this was where I wanted to start my college career. The atmosphere was everything I was looking for in a Track program as well as academics. I am honored to be a Rend Lake Warrior.”

– CHARLES HOWELL
Plainfield (Westminster H.S.)
/ RLC Class of 2006
/ RLC Homecoming King

The sprinter accepted an athletic scholarship to continue his track career at Eastern Illinois University . . . but not before he had helped the Warriors to back-to-back runner-up finishes in the NJCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships [edged 108.5-107 in '05 by defending champ Barton County (KS)] and to fifth and 12th nationally Outdoors.

“After I got the whole thing back together, I discovered I had left out one piece which required me to take the whole thing apart again,” explained Chavez.

“People around here found out about that and gave me heck for awhile. That bridges the gap in a hurry.”

But Chavez was not whipped. He had enrolled for Fall Semester 1979, and by that spring he was undergoing on-the-job training, helping last year's farm Manager, Duane Price, by driving the combine, hauling grain and doing routine maintenance work.

Scott, in turn, “had no reservations” about turning over the Farm Manager's role to Chavez “from the day he drove the tractor for the first time.” He speaks of the perseverance, push and drive exhibited by the rookie farmer.

As the Farm Manager, Chavez is responsible for administering a plan created by fellow students for operation of the college's 380-acre operation. He has a different boss every two weeks – members of the Ag faculty take turns – and his student help in actual production changes every two days.

As Scott explained, “If you're going to have a farm, our philosophy is, it's going to be a laboratory and it's going to train students. Students in our Soils class are involved, along with our Crops and Chemical class. The Farm Management class draws up the overall master plan.”

Chavez was not whipped that second day on the job. Embarrassed, yes; whipped, no, when he was disking by himself, got stuck in the mud and had the chain wrapped around the most delicate piece of equipment on the machine. “This was the day after I had split the main axle in half,” he concedes now with a smile.

The main axle already was damaged, Scott insists, but there are no excuses offered for that learning experience in the mud.

Suffice to say, Chavez was not even whipped by this past summer's weather, although he says, “I took it personal at first. When I found it was the worst summer (for farmers) in 35 years, I didn't feel quite as bad.

“I never really felt I was in charge, really. It was a total effort. It was just that every day I was involved; I was the only one responsible for seeing that everything got done.”

Freshman Richard Meyer became a year-round assistant. His desire, much like that of

Chavez, came in for praise from both Scott and Chavez. “If it hadn't been for Richard, we'd have been in trouble on the harvest,” commented his student-boss.

“The working relationship Tony had with the others?” Scott was asked. “About the only way I can describe it is 'beautiful.' The respect certainly was there. I really think the boys, when they would arrive for their two-day work stint, looked forward to it.”

This relationship, mind you, was between many homegrown farmers and a former – not farmer – outsider.

“No,” Chavez said he never was made to feel out of place or shown any resentment by his younger classmates. “I just tried to relate to them the best I could.

“I wanted to find out their ideas about doing things, because I realized I can learn from them. I looked at it as another challenge to get along with people.”

He added, “The most difficult part was the fact most of these guys all come from farm families. They know what they're doing. So I learned as much or more from them as they did from me.”

All learned their lessons well, apparently. Despite the worst summer conditions in 35 years, Rend Lake College boasted a yield of 21-23 bushels of soybeans per acre, about 43 bushels of corn and 44 of wheat. “We're happy . . . considering. We've got about 4,000 bushels of corn in the bin now waiting for the best price,” Chavez said.

Farming has been everything Chavez had hoped it would be and then some.

“Everything I had hoped to get out of this program, I have, and it has been quite worthwhile.”

Concluded Chavez, “I had some idea what was going to happen this past spring and summer, but It's a whole lot different when it's your baby.”

WORKED IN FIELD PREVIOUSLY ► Chef Dylan Lipe proves to be a hit; S.I. Miners especially dig his cuisine

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 2007

Imagine for a moment that you are the head chef at a multi-million-dollar baseball facility. You come in on Tuesday to prepare for a visit from the League Commissioner with four team owners in tow, a 50-person office party requiring walleye and 16 pans of ribs, a 200-person hors d'oeuvres party of corporate sponsors, 225 picnicking patrons and food service for about 1,500 seats behind home plate.

If that is not enough, your sous chef is gone after being hospitalized two days ago, a prep cook gave you a two-day notice of resignation three days ago and you have been shorted peppers on your produce order. While picking up peppers at a local grocer, you get a call and find out your kitchen manager – the only person left to help you on day shift – is currently running to the rescue of a sick daughter in school and will not be returning to work that day.

Can you say “Murphy’s Law?”

No sweat! At least not for Dylan Lipe. He is a graduate of the Rend Lake College Culinary Arts program and is trained for a day just like Tuesday. In fact, he handled this exact situation and nobody was the wiser. Except him. Call it, “On the job training!”

“Every single party went off without a hitch,” he explained while reminiscing about that Tuesday.

And there were a lot of “Tuesdays” as an Executive Chef for Aramark’s Sports and Entertainment Division charged with delivering a fantastic menu of food and beverage at the Southern Illinois Miners Rent One Park in Marion. But, he admitted, that particular Tuesday was exceptionally trying.

Lipe recently closed the kitchen on the team’s attendance-breaking, inaugural season in the Frontier League.

“It went by fast,” he said.

Now, he will wait to hear what Aramark has planned for him in the off-season. The Fortune 500 company operates in 12 National Football League (NFL) organizations, 11 Major League Baseball (MLB) teams, the National Hockey League (NHL) and the National Basketball Association (NBA). In 2008, Aramark has the Olympic games in China.

“They never tell me,” he said of his next destination. “Being a Bears fan, I hope it is Chicago. But . . . Chicago in the winter . . . maybe somewhere warm.”

Lipe, 28, from DuQuoin, started his quest for culinary greatness as a part-time worker at his hometown Dairy Queen. He graduated from the Culinary Arts Program at RLC this spring.

Prior to becoming a student, he was the Assistant Banquet Chef at a Marriott location in the Virgin Islands for about a year. The choice to pack up his things and leave paradise for Southern Illinois must have been a difficult one. But it was a smart one.

“I realized I had gone about as far as I could in the business as quick as possible

without my degree,” he said. “To get to the position I am in now from where I was would have taken me about seven years without a degree. Or, I could go back to school for two (years) and get the degree.”

Already having worked in the field, he knew exactly what he wanted to take from courses like Professional Cooking, Restaurant Management, Exploring Wines, Professional Pastry Principles, Culinary Math, Professional Baking Techniques and Garde Manger – French for “cold kitchen.”

What he did not anticipate was how much he was pushed to do it on his own terms. Under the direction of RLC Chef Instructors Brian Kalata and Loughton Smith, Lipe was encouraged to break through the confines of traditional cuisine and create new, bold recipes of his own.

Likewise, in the Miners’ first season, Lipe tested the foot-long limit of ballpark fare by introducing blackened walleye, Jamaican jerk shrimp, chocolate BBQ ribs and specialty salads like fresh blueberry vinaigrette and balsamic glaze with fresh goat cheese. He offered taco pizza, seafood pizza, white chicken Italian pizza and a honey apple pie with habaneras, topped with ice cream that the fans could not get enough of.

“Everybody loved it. I didn’t have any left. I had to make like 12 extra for people.”

A big part of being able to be creative in Culinary Arts at RLC is that students can order ingredients they may not be able to afford on their own. Additionally, state-of-the-art equipment is at each student’s fingertips. According to Lipe, the RLC program teaches a well-rounded approach to culinary arts that focuses more on baking and pastries than do other programs of its kind.

“They foster a lot of creativity,” he said. “They taught us to not just open the book and look at a recipe and prepare it. I always try to do something different. I like to get playful.”

As the Miners’ Executive Chef, Lipe set a goal of challenging the typical idea of a meal at the park.

“I’d like for it to be a dining destination that also features baseball games,” he said.

He credits RLC Culinary Arts Management with getting him where he is today.

“I love it with Aramark,” he said. “If you are in high school and you think you want to go into culinary arts, get a job in the field. Get a job in the field even if it is at McDonalds. If you can’t handle being around food at that level, then you are not going to be



INSTRUCTORS ARE ONE OF A KIND

STUDENT VIEW BOOK 2007

“I chose to attend Rend Lake College out of high school for two reasons. One was that I was offered a scholarship to play baseball here and it seemed like an excellent opportunity given the team’s past success. The other reason was coming out of high school, I felt as if I was not yet ready to attend a college where there could be up to 200 people in each class and the Professor has no clue as to who I was.

“At Rend Lake, the Instructors are one of a kind. They genuinely care and work with their students to help them succeed. The personalized education, the ability to grow through athletics and the chance to earn my degree are why I have enjoyed my two years of college here.”

– CHRIS CLARK

Paducah, KY

/ RLC Class of 2006

A middle infielder, Christopher M. Clark received both an A.A. Degree and A.S. Degree and accepted an offer to continue as a student-athlete at Delta State University (MS).



DIVERSITY

STUDENT VIEW BOOK 2007

At RLC, students have the opportunity to meet people from many different places. Our students come from various towns in our district, other cities throughout Illinois, other states and even other countries. Most students will experience a much more ethnically diverse environment than they did in high school. It can be exciting, fun and eye-opening, as well as a large part of one’s educational experience, to learn about other races and cultures!



START MY COLLEGE CAREER INITIATIVE SCHOOL

STUDENT VIEW BOOK 2007

“Rend Lake College will prepare me academically and socially before I transfer to a state university. The small class sizes at Rend Lake allow instructors to interact with their students and make it easier to obtain assistance.

“I was very pleased to receive a two-year scholarship that will help me financially and academically. With the financial help and the degree I will receive from Rend Lake, I will be able to transfer to the college of my choice to further my education.”

– ALYSSA REED

Christopher

/ RLC Class of 2007

Alyssa Danae Reed was recipient of a Presidential Scholastic Scholarship (only top 10 percent of graduating class eligible) from Rend Lake College and served as a Student Ambassador her sophomore year. She graduated with both Associate in Art and Associate in Science degrees.



Numbers: Evening classes; revenue tied to enrollment

SPRING 1971

Total headcount for Evening Classes at the beginning of Spring 1971 is 613, with 52 classes evenly divided – 26 on the Ina campus and the rest off-campus in Mt. Vernon (12), Pinckneyville (five), McLeansboro (four), Benton (three) and Bonnie (two).

BOARD MINUTES JUNE 22, 2007

According to Vice President of Finance and Administration Bob Carlock, figures show 79 percent of the total revenue of the college is dependent on enrollment.

able to handle it at this level. It’s one of the few professions you can dabble in before you go to school for it. If you want to be a lawyer, you can’t just go and practice law. If you want to be a doctor, you can’t go practice a little medicine and see if you like it. In culinary arts, you have that advantage.”

He said one of the first questions he gets from people who he meets or works with is “Where did you go to school?” He recommends RLC Culinary Arts to anyone looking for a sensational learning experience that can launch a student into a rewarding career.

“The program is outstanding,” he said. “Two thumbs up!”

DR. GARY SWEETEN ▶ Overlapping ministerial life streams: education, counseling, care/cure of soul

<http://healingcertification.com/course-developers/dr-gary-sweeten>

Dr. Gary Sweeten (Mt. Vernon Community College Class of 1960) is Founder and Chairman of the Board of Life Way Counseling Centers and Founder and President of Sweeten Life Systems, a not-for-profit research, training and consulting organization focusing on helping people build a lifetime of great relationships with God, self and with others.

His education includes a B.S. in Education (Southern Illinois University), a M.S. in Higher Education and Counseling and an Ed.D. in Counselor Education (University of Cincinnati). Gary wrote a dissertation on Training Peer Christian Helpers and his post doctoral work focused on Family Systems Therapy and Pastoral Counseling.

Gary’s professional and ministerial life has been divided into several overlapping streams: education, counseling and the care and cure of the soul. He has been involved in social and spiritual healing. He has not only ministered personally, but has also designed and developed centers around the world to equip God’s people to minister to others.

He has written several books and is a noted speaker and trainer in the United States and abroad. Gary has been married to his wife Karen since 1961, and together they have two children and four grandchildren.

Sweeten Life Systems continues a tradition of ministry that was first launched in Cincinnati and has grown to have a deep, rich American and international presence.

The ministry began in the early 1970s, with the Fourth Great Awakening (often called the Jesus Movement) on University of Cincinnati campus. Students, drawn

to the safety of Gary and Karen Sweeten’s home, shared joyful stories of youth as well as painful stories of drugs, alcohol, sexual deviations and abuse that cried out for healing. In order to understand and respond to their needs, Gary earned a Ed.D. in counseling. Gary’s doctorate focused on integrating faith and psychology to equip Christians to grow strong personally and serve others as peer helpers.

In 1973, Gary joined the staff of College Hill Presbyterian Church as discipleship minister, charged with overseeing all educational programs of the large, dynamic church. At that time, the church faced new and overwhelming challenges of a culture out of control. Parents and pastors both sought help in rearing children able to resist the temptations of a society gone wild. In response, Gary and his colleagues developed classes on marriage, parenting, small groups and creative Bible studies.

In addition to offering classes, the church Elders recognized a need to train lay people to provide care and cure for troubled souls. Using the knowledge and skills Gary gained studying for his doctorate, the College Hill Presbyterian Church Elders created a ministry of equipping called the Teleios (or Wholeness) Center. In the next 10 years, the center blossomed, developing classes, materials, and programs designed to prevent problems and promote the personal maturity of every member.

From the most mature learners emerged a group of people who had a passion to use their talents, experiences and gifts to assist people in distress. This group, the Teleios Team recruited, equipped and deployed numerous members to serve as para-professional helpers. Teleios grew and grew, and thousands of people received care and counsel from the volunteers. (www.chpc.org)

As Teleios grew, pastors and counselors learned of its successes and asked for support and materials in an effort to replicate it in their own churches or organizations. In response, the team developed a non-profit, faith-based charity called Equipping Ministries International (EMI). Established in 1978, EMI takes the philosophy and strategy begun at Teleios to cities and countries around the world. (www.equippingministries.org)

For the next step in the journey, Emmett Cooper, M.D., Ph.D., Medical Director of Emerson North Psychiatric Hospital, contacted Gary to help establish an adult

in-patient unit that integrated faith with the medical and psychological aspects of psychiatric treatment. In 1989, Dr. Cooper established the holistic adult counseling program called Life Way.

The Life Way program integrated medicine, psychotherapy, family interactions, prayer, Bible studies and group dynamics. The most innovative aspect occurred as the residents learned the same caring skills developed at Teleios and used in churches. The unit became a loving, powerful community of wholeness that promoted health and ongoing growth rather than sickness. The team also developed an outpatient clinic.

Gary resigned from EMI in 1994 and created a new organization, Life Way Inc./ Sweeten Life Systems, a 501(C)3 faith-based, non-profit charity that continues to this day. Our tag line expresses our focus: "A lifetime of great relationships."

More recently, Gary resigned from Life Way Counseling Centers to concentrate on the goal of helping all persons grow in healthy behavior. He allowed his counseling license to expire and is no longer legally allowed to provide clinical counseling services.

Sweeten Life Systems never provides clinical counseling services, and does not diagnose and treat mental and emotional disorders. We provide coaching and consulting services using an asset based model that looks at strengths of people rather than deficiencies.

One of our passionate desires is to recruit and mobilize Seasoned Believers so they can bring their creative and entrepreneurial gifts, talents and business wisdom to social and spiritual issues such as job creation, alcohol and drug recovery, family health, missions and education.

Selected Sweeten Publications:

- **Listening for Heaven's Sake**
- **Hope and Change for Humpty Dumpty**
- **Healing Souls Touching Hearts**
- **Marriage Mentoring Videos**
on SweetenLife YouTube Channel

Under Development:

- **Power Thinking for Christians**
- **Family Healing Processes**

www.sweetenlife.com

At Sweeten Life Systems we:

- Help people build a lifetime of great relationships.
- Train people in business, teams, leadership and families to live effectively and healthily.

- Consult with organizations and provide coaching and mentoring.

Great relationships help people feel better about their work, themselves and others as well as inoculate them against emotional and relational problems. We focus on using and teaching the latest ideas from Positive Psychology and biblical wisdom to foster wholeness and maturity.

Let us help you build great relationships within your family, organization and business.

A Welcome From Dr. Sweeten and a Challenge

Hello, we are glad you are here. It is difficult to write on a web page because it is so impersonal and our life and work are all about developing "A lifetime of great relationships" and that requires getting to know each other face to face. Since I was a small boy my family, classmates and teachers sought me out for friendship, support and encouragement. That focus has been my lot in life no matter what job I was doing.

As a teacher, mechanic, college administrator and a minister, I always believed that building good relationships was the most important thing I could do. However, I did not know exactly how to go about building good relationships. My harsh personality and childhood wounds left me with many bad habits and poor interpersonal skills that rubbed many people the wrong way. Despite these barriers, I worked hard to be a caring man, but my knowledge of what was effective was sorely lacking.

During college I learned how to relate with more health in some of the classes. Thanks to a warm, caring wife I received many practical lessons in listening to others. But not until I had finished all the course work for a doctorate in counseling that I was finally introduced to the skill practice of building great relationships. The lessons I learned from Dr. Rich Walters in 1974 at age 44 were life changing and liberating. So helpful in fact that I developed a passion to teach those skills to others so people could be blessed as much as I, and hopefully, much earlier in life.

Since the Seventies I have focused on developing my own skills and it has been a humbling battle. It is not pleasant to look at myself in the mirror of honest feedback from teachers and peers. As Pogo the Possum of olden cartoon days said, "We have met the enemy and it is us." One reason I like to write and teach both theory and practice of developing better interpersonal relationships is because I need it so much myself.



RLC Co-op Kuerth interns with 'Show Me St. Louis'

NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 2004

Rend Lake College's Jacob Kuerth of Mt. Vernon is helping a St. Louis television station show off the city thanks to an internship through the RLC Co-operative Education program.

Kuerth was one of more than 100 applicants for internships with NBC-affiliate KSDK-TV Channel 5, according to Co-op Ed and Employment Services Specialist Mark Clark. The broadcast station only hired five interns for five areas, the most desired of which were a sports information position and a spot with the "Show Me St. Louis" daily magazine show. Kuerth claimed the latter.

According to Clark, Kuerth works with the production of the show. "He will get a first-hand account of exactly how a broadcast station works," Clark said. "He is learning all aspects, from gathering information to producing the final product."

Kuerth said his goals at the station include becoming proficient in editing and writing, tracking new information for stories and becoming familiar with all aspects of the news business. His volunteer internship will continue through August; he will earn college credit through the Cooperative Education program.

"Very few students have the opportunity to gain the experience he will," admitted Clark.

"We believe interns should be put on the right path for a career, so we try to help them prepare for the job market," said Ava Ehrlich, Executive Producer of Special Projects for KSDK. "Since its establishment in 1985, more than 800 students have been through the program. Many are happily employed in the business."



Jefferson Co. Chamber, RLC team to aid student

NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 2004

Rend Lake College and the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce have joined forces to present a \$1,000 scholarship to a high school student intending to enroll in RLC.

According to Brenda Malone, JCCC Executive Director, the Chamber already has two Student of the Year Scholarships which can be used to transfer to the college of the student's choice. This new award will be used exclusively at RLC.

Malone said the Rend Lake College award will be based on the same criteria as the other Student of the Year awards. It will be a merit-based award centering on grade-point average, citizenship, extracurricular activities and other factors.

Malone credited Pat Mitchell, RLC Foundation CEO, for coming forward with the proposal which originated from the RLC President's Cabinet.

"The Jefferson County Chamber Student of the Year award is a great way to reward our young people," Mitchell said. "We are proud to be a part of this wonderful program."

"We are looking for the outstanding citizens of our future," said Malone. She added winners usually have participated in a dozen or more extracurricular activities, are articulate and have near-perfect GPAs."

To be eligible for these awards, students must be residents of Jefferson County, attend a high school which is a member of the Chamber and go through the application process. Winners are selected by the Chamber's Educational Clearing House Council and announced at the JCCC Annual Dinner. "It's a tough choice to make. We have a lot of great students," said Malone.

How about you? Have you volunteered to learn better how to improve the ways you relate with your spouse and kids? Do you find yourself getting impatient and short with the ones you love the most? Do you treat strangers better than you treat those closest to you? Jesus said that we would recognize other Believers by their fruit. Can others tell that you have a godly growth of the fruit of the Spirit? (Galatians 5:22)

Sweeten Life Systems can help you "build a lifetime of great relationships."

B.C.H.S. SALUTATORIAN ▶ **Freshman activist Dorchincez enjoys three-month internship for Obama**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 2007

Nina Dorchincez is an activist with big plans. On Monday, she made her local community college a part of them.

Rend Lake College freshman standout Dorchincez served her local community of Benton, the State of Illinois and the nation before walking across her high school graduation stage as Salutatorian. The day before her recent freshman orientation at RLC, she concluded a three-month internship at U.S. Senator and Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama's office in Marion.

In high school, Dorchincez racked up an eye-rubbing list of accomplishments that she calls "the usual things." And she is right. There is nothing unusual about this extraordinary person. She is down to earth, loves her family and enjoys music and seeing local bands perform. Pretty average for an 18-year-old girl from Benton.

However, just ask her and she will tell you there is nothing that scares her more than being average.

"My dad always said to me, 'I know you can aspire to do great things,'" she said. "Now that I realize it, I want more. I can see myself doing great things now that I know I am capable of it."

Finding out what she is capable of has become a sort of hobby for her. Whether it was co-organizing a nine-band benefit concert called Extravabandza or dealing with a man who repeatedly reported the government was controlling his mind, she made it a point to stretch her comfort zone and learn from it all.

"All the tasks I have completed over the years, they are now starting to click," she said. "When I think back on them, I'm like, oh yeah, that was important because . . ."

At Benton Consolidated High School,

Dorchincez was National Honor Society co-President, Vice President of Jobs for Illinois Graduates, Student Chamber President and Executive President of Student Council.

Settling for average went out the door with a visit to Scotland and London her sophomore year. The trip led her to create an ever-growing list of personal accomplishments she would like to check off before she is 30 years old, she said. That list includes skydiving and scuba diving.

It does not include working on U.S. Rep. John Bradley's Youth Student Advisory Council, being a member of the Southern Illinois Society for Achievement, receiving the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award, earning a Jobs for America's Graduates Certificate of Mastery or being listed in the Southern Illinois Society for High School Achievement. She has done all that.

And she can now check off "intern for presidential candidate" although it probably was never on the list. Dorchincez doubted her chance of being selected for the internship. She would not have applied if it were not for the encouraging words from her mother and high school teacher.

"He told me, 'Why not?'" she said. "And he brought up a good point. I had as good of a chance as anyone else."

A month later, she was the last candidate to interview for the position and the rest is history. Her favorite part of the internship was working with her colleagues at the Marion office, as well as those in Chicago and Washington D.C., she said. Everyone was helpful and friendly to her, despite her low position on the political pecking order.

"They were always so helpful," she said. "This internship has been the first workplace experience I have had that I have really enjoyed. And it has made me more ambitious."

Her experiences before and during the internship enabled her to meet celebrities and officials like rapper Cornell "Nelly" Haynes Jr.; Rep. Bradley; Illinois Rep. Jerry Costello; Loretta Durbin, wife of U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, and State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulas, to name a handful.

She was most impressed by Sen. Obama's wife, Michelle, whom she met for the first time three weeks ago.

"When I met her . . . I expected her to be super human," she said. "But, when you meet someone you hold in that light, and they turn out to be so down-to-earth and centered, you kind of take a step back when

you realize they are just like you are. I have been inspired by people and impressed by people. But, I have never been inspired and impressed by the same person. She just seemed like she would be willing to sit down and talk with anybody."

Despite meeting celebrities and politicians, Dorchincez's hero is someone she has known her whole life. Her mother, Ellie.

"She is an amazing woman," Nina Dorchincez said. "I love her. I look at her life, and while she hasn't done anything anyone would really carry on about, it is still amazing."

She recalled a day when Ellie – a former Floridian model turned Southern Illinois business owner – gave away a cart of groceries to a woman, despite her husband allegedly stealing food from their store a day before.

"His wife was crying and saying she couldn't feed the kids," Nina explained. "(Ellie) is such a good person and she would do anything for anyone. It amazes me."

"Nina is an inspiration to me," Ellie says.

Her internship in Obama's Marion office ran from May to August. Her jobs included answering the phone, opening mail, preparing itineraries and routing callers to Obama staff in Chicago and Washington D.C. Much of it involved community outreach in Southern Illinois by acting as the Senator's proxy at events that called for an Obama representative to attend. Throughout the internship, she interacted with individuals who were glad to speak to her and some who were not.

"It was a learning experience in how to handle different types of people," she said. "And I think you learn a lot about yourself talking to others and dealing with so many other personalities."

She discovered the importance of social networking, she said. Whether it is her neighborhood garbage man or a U.S. Senator running for President – every connection can make a difference, according to Dorchincez. She decided to attend RLC for its local connections.

"Some people see Rend Lake College as a last resort, but it has a lot to offer if you use the resources. There are a lot of great people here and a lot of connections. I don't think everybody realizes that."

She has not declared a major and admits she is unsure of exactly what she wants to do for a career.

"In a perfect world, I can see myself being someone's personal assistant, being a field representative for an area or doing

something in marketing. I like the business aspect of how people sell things or organize a campaign."

While going to RLC, Dorchincez will be a student-worker two days a week and help out mom and dad at the family store. The three of them make a pretty good team.

"When I would say, 'You know, mom, I don't think we are going to be able to do this,' she would say, 'You are going to be able to do it,'" Dorchincez said. "I guess everybody needs that extra little push. She has always been amazing for me. Anything I ever thought about doing or wanted to do she was always behind me, 100 percent of the way. It's nice to have somebody like that."

Don't forget dad, B.J., and brother, Blaze – the comic relief for times when Dorchincez feels too wound up, she said.

"My dad has been my rock," she said. "Like any other daughter-father relationship, we weren't as close early on. But, as I am getting older, I am starting to see his way. I'm starting to understand his reasoning behind things."

The success of this "tight-knit" family has been honesty, openness and trust, she explained.

"I'm pretty open and honest with my parents. They put a lot of trust in me, so, I guess it's been kind of a give-and-give situation. They have given me trust, so I am going to trust them, too. We stay informed about what is going on in each other's lives, despite the running. We always make a point to know what is going on with each other."

Dorchincez said she was like any other high school graduate struggling to decide where to go to college. Her search far and wide brought her right back to her own backyard.

"You don't know what is out there until you go look," she said. "We looked at a million other schools. We looked at so many different schools."

Once it was time to choose, she started thinking about all the events she had been involved in through the college and the many opportunities she experienced because of Rend Lake College.

"I guess it was just one of those things that felt right," she explained. "Before, Rend Lake just seemed like something that was there, but it is a great stepping stone and outreach for me with what I want to do."

"I've come into more opportunity being associated with Rend Lake already than if I would have enrolled at some big school



RLC Times rates a first from Scholastic Press

NEWS RELEASE MAY 11, 1990

The student newspaper of Rend Lake College, the *RLC Times*, is recipient of a first-place award from the American Scholastic Press Association, which serves over 2,000 schools nationwide.

The blue-ribbon national recognition is a first, according to Dr. Steve Tietz, Department Chair. In 1986 and '87, the paper earned second-place awards from the ASPA and the Columbia University Scholastic Press Association. Last year, the publication received a third-place from Columbia.

Sponsor Michael P. Mullen, a Journalism/English Instructor, and student Co-Editors Doris F. Troutt and Mike Peeples were singled out for their efforts, along with other staff members.

"You have a very fine publication," the judges commented. "Articles display a broad spectrum of story content. It is evident there is much cooperation and dedication on the part of those who produce this newspaper. In general, your staff, editor and faculty advisor are to be commended for this publication. Congratulations!"

Troutt, a sophomore from Opdyke, is the Student Trustee on the RLC Board. Peeples, a sophomore from Mt. Vernon, works part-time for the *Mt. Vernon Register-News*.

Other members of the 1989-90 *RLC Times* staff are Reporters Kelly Clark (Mt. Vernon), Amy Grewe (Dahlgren), Cynthia Harris (Mt. Vernon), Pam McCubbins (Benton), Cory Robbins (Sesser) and Traci Williams (Bonnie) and Secretary Bridget King (Mt. Vernon).

"You can't do any better than a first-place award in a national competition," Tietz said. "We are proud of them."



Student Trustee choice: Liske, 19, vs. Holloway, 70

RLC CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE
MARCH 6, 2014

The Rend Lake College student body will vote on who will represent it as Student Trustee for 2014-15. The two candidates this year are Elijah Liske of Okawville and Arthur Holloway of Waltonville.

While the candidates have their differences, one issue they both agree upon is the lack of involvement between the community and the students. Both parties hope to improve that issue.

Eli Liske, 19, is an Okawville native and a 2013 graduate of Okawville High School. He describes himself as a happy-go-lucky kind of guy who always tries to do his best. He is currently an agriculture major at RLC and plans to transfer to either Murray State University or Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He is also involved in the Ag Club.

He was approached by one of his teachers to run for the role of Student Trustee, as a representative of the agriculture department.

A few of the things Liske would like to see at Rend Lake include more food options on campus for students and more events like Fun Fest. He would like to see more student and community involvement and believes this would help with that issue.

Holloway, 70, of Waltonville, has been back in Southern Illinois since 1972. His original plan was to become a funeral director, but he instead enlisted in the military, working on a missile program. Holloway is majoring in business at RLC.

He agrees that there is not enough interaction between

(Continued at far right on next page)

like U. of I. (Illinois). And the people at Rend Lake are great to work with. I know it sounds cliché, but, it's nice to start out small and work up to big."

SIGMA ALPHA PI ▶ **Fourteen encouraged to 'serve others' by Society of Success / Leadership**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 2007

Fourteen Rend Lake College students were honored Thursday (April 5) as the newest members to be inducted into the esteemed Society of Success and Leadership – Sigma Alpha Pi.

To qualify for the honor, students are required to have at least a 3.25 grade-point average on a 4.0-point scale and have completed a minimum nine hours of college coursework.

Jeannie Mitchell-Collins, an Associate Professor of Psychology and Certified Instructor of Leadership Development Studies at RLC, introduced the guest speaker for the induction ceremony, Interim Dean of Student Services Mary Bornheimer.

Bornheimer said of all the definitions for leadership, "serving others" is her favorite.

"I think we all look for a way to make a difference," she said. "Leadership is one way to do that. Embrace leadership for that reason, to serve others."

She used RLC students Bret Tate and Casie Byerley as examples of leading by serving. Tate and Byerley spent Alternative Spring Break in Louisiana, where they repaired hurricane-damaged homes.

Bornheimer stressed the importance of integrity through a story about an RLC student. One day, the student found a bag of money next to an on-campus vending machine, she said. Instead of keeping it, the student took it to the nearest staff member, much to the relief of a vending machine operator who was frantically searching the campus for the misplaced money bag.

Randall Shively, Physical Plant Director at RLC, told a similar story involving integrity during his acceptance speech for the "Outstanding Faculty Member" Award. In his story, a contractor called him to report he had left a digital camera on campus and was sure it would not be found. Shively said a student already had given the camera to campus security.

Society member Heather Webb presented Shively his award. She said he has shown great leadership throughout his career and particularly during his 12 years at RLC.

"He is a great leader who I admire and respect," Webb said.

Shively co-teaches a leadership course with Mitchell-Collins. In his speech, he gave many examples of leadership, saying that "leadership development is a much higher priority than it was 10 years ago and beyond."

He said 92 percent of SSL members are able to land the job of their choice and 86 percent of those credited the SSL for that ability. He focused on two leadership attributes he thinks are important.

The power of encouragement, he said, was taught to him by his late mentor and father, who passed away in 1993. Today he is reminded of that power through his 11-year-old son, who is diagnosed ADHD and bipolar.

He spoke about another power – momentum. "Momentum is a leader's best friend," he said. "Many times, the only difference between winning and losing is momentum."

Olen Rodriguez, a 28-year-old sophomore from Benton, was inducted at the ceremony. He spoke to the group about the history of the society and the meaning behind its name.

Sigma Alpha Pi can be broken down by letter, he said. Sigma signifies a quality business model. Alpha is the brightest star in the galaxy. And Pi is a transcendent number with a value that cannot be computed.

SSL was created by a group of motivational speakers whose nationwide effort was to provide continuous leadership support through literature, presentations and discussion, according to Rodriguez.

"One motivational speaker is probably not going to change your life forever," he said. "That is why this was created."

In addition to being an inductee, Melissa Galvão (Mt. Vernon) was honored as this year's "Outstanding Member." Joining her as inductees were Rodriguez, Kelsey Woodrow (McLeansboro / Hamilton County Sr. H.S.), Erica Anselment (McLeansboro / HCSHS), Eric Friederich (McLeansboro / HCSHS), Rebecca Heathcoat (Benton), Kelsie Knapp (DuQuoin), Crystal Rajcok (Mount Erie), Kaylee Champ (Mt. Vernon), Janetta Stallons (Mt. Vernon), Chelsey Milt (Mt. Vernon), Charity Duran (McLeansboro / HCSHS), Sandi Tite (Pinckneyville) and Marie Rhine (Valier).

REND LAKE COLLEGE SELF-STUDY REPORT 2008

Started in March 2005, the Rend Lake

College chapter of the Society for Leadership and Success presently has 197 lifetime members. Students with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.25 who have completed nine credit hours are invited to join.

Through the Society, schools can secure a year's worth of motivational speakers, success coaches, a nationwide network, chat times with the presenters, a library of success materials and mastermind alliance teams to hold students accountable for taking action and other benefits.

The Society gives students guidance and direction, showing them how to develop action plans and how to hold each other accountable to their goals so that they reach the success they desire. The activities offered by the organization also provide many networking opportunities for students. A job bank comprised of companies and individuals seeking applicants with a strong background in leadership is available to members.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

During Spring 2014, Public Information Specialist ReAnne Palmer produced several feature stories on successful Rend Lake College graduates from a variety of programs and their resulting vocations. Herein are all or parts of some of these news releases . . .

FREE-LANCING BRITTANI WYNN ▶ Jack of all trades designs career path ...Hobby Lobby to Florida Georgia Line

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 2014

Only six years have passed since former Pinckneyville native Brittani Wynn traversed the halls of Rend Lake College, but since then, she has gone miles.

The Graphic Design major at RLC graduated in 2007 with an Associate of Science Degree before moving on to both a Bachelor and a Master's Degree in Professional Media and Media Management at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Wynn said it was her experiences in RLC's Graphic Design program that helped start a successful career that has begun with designing material for a local ESPN network and the country band Florida Georgia Line.

"We had small class sizes at RLC, so we got to be a small family together for our two years. Two classmates of mine actually became my roommates later. I feel like that helped me a lot," said Wynn. "We all had to have the same credits to graduate, so we were in all of the same classes together. We learned off each other's styles and provided

helpful criticism. We learned one another's strengths and weaknesses, and we were able to focus in on those a lot better."

Wynn added it was the college's proximity to her home and low costs that initially drew her in. "It was the local college, and I knew I wanted to start small and go on to a university. It was a lot cheaper and, at the time, a lot easier, because I didn't want to move out immediately. I wanted to stay close to my family and get a good education at the same time," she said.

Even after leaving RLC, Wynn said her Instructor, Jennifer Tarantino Linsin, continued to help in her career as an advocate and driving force.

"First of all, my teacher was extremely inspirational in getting me on the right track. She was always pushing us to explore our interests and believing in us. She has been immensely helpful in my career and she's been my inspiration," said Wynn.

In addition to her Graphic Design program, Wynn also was on RLC's Homecoming Court and was a member of the National Honor Society of Leadership and Success. Now living in Carterville and working for River Radio, Wynn said her education at Rend Lake College set the stage for her to learn even more on the job.

"Right now, I'm learning a lot. I'm freelance designing for a couple places and getting my foot in the door," she said. "I'm working between 50 and 55 hours a week."

In the recent past, Wynn has completed some unique projects, from designing a banner for a show called "Riding the Pine" for local ESPN station WXLN at the Southern Illinois Miner's Rent One Park to creating a certificate for a sound check party at HerriFesta with the band members of Florida Georgia Line. She said the certificates were auctioned off last year and were a part of an effort to raise more than \$258,000 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

"I'm really a jack of all trades. I've done commercials and graphic work here at River Radio. I've also made home décor that is being sold in Hobby Lobby and Kirkland's around the nation," said Wynn. "I co-hosted the sound check party for our Z100 station where I got to go and meet, and hang out, with Florida Georgia Line."

This year, Wynn again had the opportunity to design the Z100 St. Jude Radiothon T-shirts and, thanks to the generosity of the community, raised over \$270,000, surpassing the 2013 total.

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Sweeten, Randall head MVCC Alumni group

PYRAMID TIMES DECEMBER 23, 1966
The Second Annual MVCC Alumni Dinner was held Saturday evening, December 17, at the L&N Cafe.

The Alumni organization is an informal group started for the purpose of establishing better contact with former students of Mt. Vernon Community College. Officers are striving to establish a more active and better working organization.

The officers are: President, Gary Sweeten; Vice President, Bill Randall; Secretary, Mrs. Gene Fairchild; Treasurer, Ronald Harper.

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Trustee: 19 vs. 70 (cont.)

the community and students. If elected, he said he hopes to change that. He would also like to see more courses and opportunities for RLC students.

Holloway wants the students and community to have an interest in what is going on with their college, he said. He added that, if elected, he hopes to influence more students to attend the Board of Trustees monthly meetings, held mostly on the second Tuesday of each month in the Student Center. The complete meeting schedule can be found online by clicking on the Board of Trustees link located at www.rlc.edu.

The Student Trustee attends alongside the members of the board at these meetings, sits in on closed session, and has a nonbinding, advisory vote on agenda items.

~ Shelby Patterson

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Liske was the leading vote-getter and took his seat as Student Trustee for 2014-15 at the April Board meeting.]



Non-traditional grad Chullen a WWII 'Rosie the Riveter'

JUNE 2013

Ella Stewart Chullen, who died June 6, 2013, at age 92, had the distinction and pleasure of doing something very few others have accomplished during their lifetime.

The Benton resident received her Associate of Arts Degree from Rend Lake College in Spring 1979 along with Daughter Cinda Chullen, who would go on to become a NASA Engineer and the RLC Foundation "Alumna of the Year" in 1992.

Ella did all right after graduation as well. According to her obituary, she completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Eastern Illinois University, leading to a career as an institutional Food Service Manager. Following her official retirement, she managed a child care business from her home until the declining health of her husband of 66 years, John, required her full-time attention.

But the Pre-RLC Life of Ella Stewart Chullen may have been even more interesting.

A great cook who also loved to dance, the obituary noted, "She started her work life as a 'Rosie the Riveter' building aircraft during World War II. She served as a midwife delivering 33 babies in Eastern Kentucky and spent many years as a Postmaster and Social Worker."

Ella Stewart Chullen likewise "adamantly supported education."

She was survived by daughters Cindy (Joseph) Riccio of Houston and Claris Ann "C.C." Chullen of Thompsonville, son John Lee (Susan) Chullen of Benton, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In the future, Wynn hopes to expand her knowledge of graphic design with the continued support of her family.

"I just want to see where design takes me," she said. "I am also grateful and lucky to have had the support of my family, especially my brothers, my dad and my mom, Danielle Weinhoffer, who has always encouraged me to be the best person I can be."

HAIR DESIGN'S JULIE RUSHING ▶ Studio RLC product returns to roots, forms special Clique with stylish friends

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 19, 2014

Julie Rushing, one of the earliest graduates from Rend Lake College's Studio RLC, is back in Southern Illinois with her own salon and is looking to make a difference in her industry. As the owner of Clique Hair Design in Marion, Rushing said her success started almost a decade ago in the classrooms of the RLC MarketPlace.

Rushing is a native of Royalton who graduated from Zeigler-Royalton High School in 1999 and Studio RLC in July 2005. She and her husband Alex, who works for Professional Salon Concepts out of Joliet, have a 10-year-old son, Clay. Post-graduation, Rushing worked in a number of salons in Carbondale and St. Louis before returning to her roots in 2011 to open her own salon with the help of her parents.

"Owning and creating a business was never a dream of mine, especially opening a salon. When I was living in St. Louis, I found myself missing my family back in Southern Illinois," said Rushing. "My clients in St. Louis were great, but they didn't compare to the ones I had at home."

Her parents, Jack and Rhonda Bartlow, are the owners of Jack's Roofing, Siding and Windows in Royalton. With 30 years of business expertise, Rushing's parents were who she looked to for advice when she first started the salon three years ago.

"My mom was the first to give me the idea to open a salon in Marion," she said. "They gave me their support and told me they would help teach me the details of running a business if I decided to move back. I eventually decided opening a business would be my next adventure. I moved back and opened Clique in March 2011."

Since opening, Rushing and her team have moved the salon toward becoming a better community business by eliminating approximately 500 pounds of waste from landfills every year. Some of the products,

such as hair color, are purchased from her husband's company, Professional Salon Concepts.

"Clique Hair Design is the first salon in Southern Illinois to recycle 95 percent of all its waste, including color tubes, used hair products, foils, hair and other products," said Rushing. "I want to continue in this environmental, eco-friendly and sustainable direction. We use color lines and products that support this vision, also. Who knows, maybe one day we will be the first solar-powered salon in Southern Illinois."

The salon also participates in a community service project monthly, including cutting hair for underprivileged and homeless families at The Promise in Marion. The Promise in is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization that supplies clothing, food, toiletries and more for homeless and needy families.

"I hope to continue this beautiful relationship we have with the founders of The Promise as well as get involved in more community service and volunteer projects," said Rushing.

"I also hope to see more photo shoots and creative work in Clique's future. Currently, we team up with *Isis* magazine, a quarterly magazine from the Southern Illinoisan, to style the model's hair and makeup for each magazine cover, and help with other various shoots around the area."

It was at Studio RLC where Rushing got her first practical experience in cosmetology, and where she learned skills she still uses today in her own salon, she said.

"Attending the Rend Lake College Cosmetology program definitely helped prepare me for my career. Just three weeks in, I was already obtaining hands-on education, unlike most cosmetology programs, where hands-on learning isn't given until at least three or four months into the program," she said. "The RLC Cosmetology program continually keeps up to date with trends and teaches students how to sell product and create a repeat guest, as well as the foundations of hair styling."

Rushing said she wants most of all to thank her clients for being the support that drives her to work hard every day in the industry she loves.

"My clients in Southern Illinois make me feel special, and unique relationships are created each day. I knew that if I didn't try and didn't take the risk of opening my own salon, then I never would know if I

would be successful. I thought about and prayed about it while living and working in St. Louis, and realized, it is better to try and fail, than to not try at all," said Rushing.

"And now here we are, going on our fourth year. I take it one day at a time and know this wouldn't be possible if not for the grace of God, the support of my salon team, family and the help of Professional Salon Concepts."

CHEFS x 2 = KARCHER-RAY ▶ Seasoning Bistro a thriving business: affordable, home-cooked, hearty food

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 27, 2014

After nearly three years in business, local restaurant entrepreneurs Katie Karcher and Troy Ray have had many things to celebrate, from their successful business on the square in Benton to the birth of their two children, and good things don't seem to be slowing down for the Rend Lake College alumni.

Karcher and Ray opened their own restaurant, Seasoning Bistro, in August 2011 after leaving RLC's Culinary Arts program. The duo named the restaurant for their love of seasoning food and interest in switching up the food on the menu, depending on the season of the year.

"We rotate the menu twice a year. We just like to switch it up," said Ray. "We're still going pretty strong. Recently, we've been really busy on weekends. There are some people who come in every weekend."

Seasoning Bistro's forte is home-cooked, hearty food at an affordable price. And no matter what is on the menu, patrons can eat assured that it is fresh.

"We try to get as much food and ingredients as we can at the Farmer's Market. If they have fresh tomatoes, we don't order tomatoes, it just depends," said Ray.

Outside of their thriving business, Ray, originally from Herrin, and Karcher, a Dahlgren native, have since brought home their first child, Stella, and a second, Harvey.

"We've started a family and we're still trucking along," said Ray.

Both became interested in the culinary arts while in school prior to RLC. Ray started working with his mother, JoAnn Dempsey, at the Marion Holiday Inn, where she was Food and Beverage Director. Before Seasoning Bistro, he ran a catering business with his mother and worked at Walker's Bluff in Carterville as a Chef.

Likewise, Karcher was always interested in cooking, but decided to become a chef

while in high school. A fresh graduate from Hamilton County Senior High School, she enrolled in RLC's Culinary Arts program. Like Ray, she worked her way up at Walker's Bluff to Pastry Chef.

Together, they say their education at RLC in the Culinary Arts program was essential for their success.

"I loved my experience there," Ray said. "I wouldn't have it any other way. The program was affordable and close to home, so it was an easy decision to make. Katie and I really enjoyed our time there and we would definitely recommend it to anyone looking to go into the culinary arts industry."

When asked about the future, Ray said expanding would be a nice option to look into; however, no serious plans have been put into place.

"If we could do it, we'd definitely like to. Right now, we have around 15 employees, and we'd like to be a bigger part of the community. If we could expand, that would be more people with jobs around here. That would be great," said Ray.

'ACE' STUDENT BRANDON BULLARD ▶ Rare opportunities take Business grad to PGA Golf, Chamber Exec and more

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 17, 2014

As a former student-athlete and alumnus of Rend Lake College, Brandon Bullard of Mt. Vernon can boast about having good fore-sight to see what a quality education at a community college could do for both his game and his education.

After graduating from RLC with an Associate Degree with a focus on Business Administration in 1999, Bullard used his golf skills to earn an athletic scholarship to Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, where he played for another two years, graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and a minor in Public Relations.

Bullard said starting his education at RLC for two years helped him prepare for the day-to-day life of a university student once he transferred.

"More than anything, coming out of high school and going to Rend Lake College definitely helped me prepare to get started at a four-year university," he said. "I went down to SIU with people who had never been near that scale of an education level and they were freaked out, but I had done it before. I hit the ground running. My little brother is the same way. He visited SIU, and

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They starred in college long before their time

COLLEGE YEARBOOKS 1966 - 1976

Who knows how many of them ever became RLC students?

Some would be easier to track than others, because their last names would lead one to believe they were sons or daughters of members of the Mt. Vernon C.C. / Rend Lake College administration, faculty or staff.

But for one night, each took center stage at a major happening sponsored by the college for a shining moment.

All were youthful participants serving either as Flower Girls or Crown Bearers for college dances – Christmas Dance, Homecoming or Spring Formal. Both their pictures and identifications were included in Pyramid / Tarn annuals.

1965-66 – Mary Beth McCullough and Richard Abraham (the latter no doubt related to Christmas Spring Formal Queen Janice Abraham) (and '65 SFQ Kathleen Abraham).

1967-68 – Cathy Waugh and Ronnie Lowery. (Cathy is the daughter of Instructors Jim and Lila Waugh.)

1967-68 – Libby Martin and David Shields.

1968-69 – Cathy Ann Waugh and Wallace Loettigins Jr.

1969-70 – Marguerite Hoyt and Darin Boyd.

1971-72 – Sharon Kay Webb and Jay Smith.

1972-73 – Lori Ward and Timmy (or Jimmy) Doherty (children of Dean Phil Ward? and Instructor Richard Doherty).

1973-74 – Shelley Jones and Jimmy Doherty.

1974-75 – Vonny Phifer (Instructor Larry Phifer?) and Bart Melvin.

1975-76 – Laura Martin and Philip Ward (President Travis Martin and Dean Ward).



Homework vs. housework: Potential struggles worth it

PRESSING TIMES NOVEMBER 1975

"I feel as though my mind has lain dormant for years," said Pat Myers, one of the many women who have started back to school after several years of being housewife and mother.

Myers has been married for 11 years and has three children. Her husband is the Pastor of First Baptist Church, Sesser.

Myers said her main problem has been trying to divide her time between housework and homework. "I feel guilty spending time at school, especially when the children are home, but I think you have to sacrifice if you want anything. The time I spend now in school will pay off later," she stated.

Thousands of wives and mothers across the country are getting a college education after years of working and seeing no tangible results. Cleaning a house is not very rewarding. The results are always the same. After cleaning, baking and running errands, tomorrow arrives and beds have to be made again, dishes are dirty and laundry is still there.

After years of talking about babies, recipes and the latest childhood disease your children have been exposed to, it is very rewarding to be able to communicate with adults again. To realize your mind is still capable of expanding is worth every effort it takes.

Without the support of husbands and children, most wives agree, it would be almost impossible to keep up with the housework and homework.

— Carol Wilkerson

shared my sentiment that, right out of the gate, it can be overwhelming."

Additionally, he said the Business classes and golfing schedules from RLC combined to help him better manage his time and education with fun.

"Business classes at Rend Lake College prepared me for Business classes at SIU," said Bullard. "Time management is also a huge piece of the puzzle for a student-athlete. The golf schedule was better at RLC than it was at SIU as far as travel, so kudos to Coach Dave Smith. He really knew the ins and outs of what we were all going through, and he helped us a lot. I don't know if I would have made it going to SIU first without golfing and everything at RLC."

Following graduation, Bullard worked for the Southern Illinois Golf Association as its Executive Director. He moved to Jacksonville, FL, where he was the Operations Manager for TPC at Sawgrass, home of the PGA Tour Players Championship.

"I got to meet some pretty awesome people while I worked there. You learn a lot catering to and working with that caliber of business people and guests," he said.

In 2009, Bullard was named Executive Director of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, a position in which he thrived and became a community fixture.

Now, embarking on a new adventure, Bullard is spending most of his time working as the Marketing Director at Rare Chop House in Mt. Vernon, a new restaurant serving steaks and seafood, along with a diverse and exotic menu. Bullard said he accepted the position after years of discussions with Steven Beal, restaurant owner and President of National Railway Equipment Company.

"The job came to me because of my work with the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, where I worked with many area businesses, and one of those businesses was National Railway," said Bullard. "Steven had done things with me in the past; he's a big supporter of the Chamber. He knew what his vision was for this restaurant, but he couldn't do it alone. He's running a global business, so he came to me with it a couple years ago and I jumped at the chance for this project."

Bullard accepted the new career and resigned from the Chamber in May 2013 after five years as the Executive Director. Now, Bullard said he has got his hands full with a new adventure.

"I've really hit the ground running. It's been a whirlwind last couple of months, but it's exciting," said Bullard.

I.T. SPECIALIST ADAM POWELL ▶ **The basics started with Novell, Windows, Linux, Cisco Routing ... and Psychology**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 9, 2014

In the ever-changing world of Information Technology, one thing is certain: Knowing the fundamentals is a must.

Rend Lake College graduate Adam Powell testifies that, through his early education in community college, all other aspects of his career have come by building on the basics he learned more than a decade ago.

Powell, originally from Thompsonville, graduated from RLC in December 2003 with an Associate Degree in Computer Networking. Afterward, he attended Mid-Continent University for a Bachelor's Degree and is currently completing a Master of Business Administration Degree at McKendree University.

He said he initially chose RLC because of the IT program and the platforms the classes used – a decision that has helped advance his career to the IT Specialist position at the Marion VA Medical Center.

"When I started, Rend Lake had one of the best Cisco and Networking programs in the area," said Powell. "The programs were multifaceted where they covered many areas of IT, such as Novell, Windows, Linux, computer maintenance, electronics, and, the most important to me at the time, Cisco Routing and Switching."

Once he got into the classroom, Powell added it was his instructors and small classes that kept him coming back.

"I liked the smaller classes and the personal relationships that are developed with the instructors," he said. "I still keep in contact with many of my instructors from RLC today – 14 years later. I also have had a few RLC students in the IT program come and job shadow or intern with us."

Those instructors included Computer Networking Professors Martha McCreery and Ricky Robinson, Computer Networking and Wireless Communications Professor Chris Sink and Psychology Associate Professor Jeannie Mitchell.

"I would say Martha McCreery and Ricky Robinson stand out the most as for their excellent experience and teaching of Cisco Routing and Switching. Those classes prepared me the most for the technol-

ogy side of my career. Chris Sink has also helped me for the maintenance side," he said. "I also took Psychology classes with Jeannie Mitchell. One would think that a Psychology class wouldn't prepare you for the workforce in IT; however, there are many different personalities out there, and her classes allowed me to develop and establish skills to work with those people I have encountered."

Powell started working as a Dell Contractor replacing computers. He was hired through the Marion VA Medical Center's Internship Program in January 2009, and has worked his way up to IT Specialist. Powell's daily activities vary so much now he never lives the same day twice.

"From day to day, I perform Tier II support to end users and other colleagues along with project management, equipment orders, advanced software support, and with liaison between our department and others at the facility," he said.

"I also maintain our system security and contingency policies and work closely with the facility and regional emergency preparedness and disaster response teams. For the most part, I never really know what a day may bring, and no two days are ever the same, so the spontaneity of events keeps me alert and on my toes."

Outside the workplace, Powell spends his time traveling and doing photography. He also volunteers at his church with sound, lighting and online service broadcasting. Powell said he has no immediate plans to leave the job he loves.

"I truly love my job and what I do. I can only go where God leads me and follow His direction for my life," he said. "As for now, this is where I am supposed to be, so I will carry on 100 percent until I feel called to move on. As for retirement, put me on a beach with warm weather and ocean spray and I'll be good to go."

LAB SPECIALIST CAILAH BROCK ► RLC on-job-training at Southern FS key to life after Ag Business degree

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 14, 2014

For many students, on-the-job training and internships are just as important when it comes to learning about a career choice as the classes they take during college. This is especially true for Rend Lake College alumna Cailah Brock, who turned her experiences at RLC into a career she hopes to grow for years to come.

The Benton native and now resident of Herrin graduated in 2011 with an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Agricultural Business. Knowing what she wanted to do from the start, Brock set the foundation for her future in the classrooms of RLC.

"When I went into Ag, I decided I wanted to be a rep, and the classes at Rend Lake College definitely helped me with certain jargon and terminology. Also, to graduate, I had to take a class that was like a 'getting you ready for life' kind of class where we talked about tips and different avenues to look into. It was required and having it that early definitely helped," she said.

As part of the Agriculture program, Brock spent several summers working in an on-the-job training at Southern FS, getting first-hand experiences that prepared her for the future.

"To graduate from RLC with an Ag degree, you have to do on-the-job training for two summers. Not only did I get to work, but I got paid for it, and received three credits for each summer toward my degree. I worked at the same place, Southern FS, for three summers," said Brock.

[Editor's Note: Just before leaving RLC, Brock was recognized as the co-"Outstanding Agriculture Student of the Year."]

But it did not stop there. After graduating, Brock said Southern FS helped her land the job she has now as a Product Specialist at Precision Laboratories, the job she hopes to build upon throughout her career.

"In January before I graduated, I sent out résumés, and Southern FS worked with Precision Laboratories, so Southern FS sent my information and Precision contacted me about the position. Southern FS really helped me get my job. I had no experience in sales, but Precision went by my connections," said Brock.

In addition to her on-the-job training, Brock said the individualized education in the classroom helped her get a step ahead of others in her field.

"The Ag program is really great, especially being around all of the other Ag students and instructors," she said. "It really is a top-notch program and I loved everything about it. One of my instructors, Kathy Craig, and I still talk. The job I'm in now had a six-week interview process, and I would talk to her through the whole thing for advice and tips. She's been great."

Brock added the small class sizes and one-on-one teaching time she received at

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Miss Southern Illinois Beverly Lawson in '76

PRESSING TIMES MAY 6, 1976

Miss Southern Illinois for 1976 is Beverly Lawson of Benton. She is a student at Rend Lake College.

As Miss Southern Illinois, Bev reigns over the 17 southern-most counties in Illinois. Her sponsor for the pageant was the Bank of Benton. All those competing in the scholarship pageant had to be attending college.

The title opens many doors for Lawson, who will now compete for the Miss Illinois title in late June-early July in Aurora. She served as hostess for the world-famous Hambletonian harness-racing classic in DuQuoin and was an honored guest at the Apple Festival in Murphysboro. She also made an appearance on the KFVS-TV Channel 12 Cerebral Palsy Telethon.

At Rend Lake College, she is Editor of the Ozone literary supplement publication, a member of the Collegiate Choir and Executive Secretary for the Engineering and Science Technology Club.

Upon completion of her studies at RLC, Lawson plans to attend Florida State University, where she will major in Meteorology.

Lawson's talent, which will play a major role in determining a Miss Illinois winner, will feature singing a medley of songs from "West Side Story."



For Glassblower/Curator: 'Dream, Achieve, Inspire'

NEWS RELEASE JULY 16, 2015

It is a big year for Lee Knaus, working artist and Rend Lake College graduate. After years of schooling and working hard, Knaus has embarked on two life-changing paths: The first as a curator for a traveling art exhibit opening tonight in Chicago and the second as an entrepreneur in his own glass-blowing company in Florida.

Not only is it a big year, but today will be a day to remember. The 2012 RLC grad has been working for months as the curator for the "Dream, Achieve, Inspire" Exhibit, which opens at The Magnificent Mile Doubletree by Hilton in Chicago this evening. All of the artists featured have cystinosis, a rare disease impacting about 2,000 people worldwide, including Knaus, when it causes the amino acid cysteine to accumulate throughout the body.

Knaus has been featured on the Cystinosis Research Network's website (cystinosis.org) as an artist who continuously overcomes his disease to create magnificent work. "Katie (Larimore, Exhibit Chair) called me to see if I'd be interested in putting something together and donating to the show. She asked if I would mind helping her, and of course I said yes I'd do it," said Knaus. Knaus, originally from Texico but now living part-time in Florida, has been traveling back and forth to Chicago in preparation for the international event, which debuts at the Cystinosis Research Network Family Conference. As curator, Knaus assists in set-up prior to opening night to be sure artists and their works are shown in the best light.

(Continued at far right on next page)

RLC were a bonus when compared to her time at a university.

"The smaller class sizes are very, very personal. I made several great relationships I plan on keeping," she said. "A lot of my friends were going straight to SIU (Southern Illinois University) and I decided to save money and go to Rend Lake. The Ag Department is the best of the best in my book, and I consider choosing Rend Lake College over four years at SIU one of the best decisions I have made. Not many can say they graduated on a Saturday and started work that following Monday. RLC holds a very special place in my heart."

Once graduated, Brock said the transition to SIU was a hard one, but thanks to her experiences at RLC, she was ready to dive in head first.

"I was terrified of going to SIU. On my first day, I remember I had a couple of general classes and an Ag class. I thought, 'I don't want to walk in here and be behind,' so I was really nervous. When I got there, the instructor pulled out the book for the class and it was the exact same book that we had used in a class at RLC. All the weight of the world dropped off my shoulders and I felt so relieved," she said.

Graduating in May 2013 with a Bachelor's Degree in Plant and Soil Science, Brock said she hopes to be able to grow in her career while staying in the area.

"I'm very family-oriented. That was one of the main reasons I decided to go to Rend Lake College and SIU. My goal is to make a life in Southern Illinois. The reason I wanted the job was because it is in Southern Illinois and I can continue to grow here," she said.

BROOKE SUTTON: BEST DECISION ▶ 'Involved' student-worker benefits from variety of experiences, contacts

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 16, 2014

Many educational experiences in college do not start in the classroom, but by engaging with a culture uniquely different from anywhere else. One alumna, Brooke Sutton, learned there is a lot to be said for doing hard work in both the classroom and with various clubs and activities on the Rend Lake College campus.

As a relatively recent graduate, Sutton completed her Associate in Science and Associate in Art degrees at RLC, with a focus in Pre-Veterinary Medicine, in Spring 2011 with the help of high test scores and dual-credit classes.

"I decided to attend RLC when I earned a scholarship by receiving a high ACT score. I had also taken several dual-credit courses while at Pinckneyville Community High School," said Sutton. "I truly believe starting my collegiate education at a community college was the best decision I made to further my education. It was a perfect transition from high school to college."

In addition to enthusiastic instructors, Sutton stressed she gained a lot of real-world experience by being involved on campus in clubs and as a student-worker.

"The instructors are all dedicated to helping students succeed in their courses. The experience of working on campus opened many doors for me," said Sutton. "I was very involved on campus as a student-worker, a Phi Theta Kappa member, and a Student Ambassador. This allowed me to network and gain valuable contacts and references I still make use of today."

[Editor's Note: Sutton was honored as a PTK Academic All-Illinois/USA nominee for 2010-11 by the local Rho Xi Chapter.]

Based on her experiences, Sutton said she recommends RLC to those just starting out on their post-secondary educations.

"I tell everyone who asks the best decision I made when it came to college was deciding to attend Rend Lake College before going to a university," she said. "The contacts and experiences I attained while attending RLC continue to prove invaluable as I pursue my goals. I recommend RLC to anyone considering a college career."

After graduation, Sutton transferred to Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO), where she graduated in May 2013 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agribusiness: Animal Science.

Before she graduated from SEMO, Sutton took a job with current employer Hinduja Global Services (HGS) selling animal health products to dairy producers for Elanco Animal Health.

Sutton is looking forward to growing in her current position at HGS. "I hope to advance my career within the company. My employers know I have goals to continue on, and they support my efforts and tutor me while on my road to success," she said.

SKY(LER)'S THE LIMIT FOR TAYLOR ▶ Kennett, Plato's Allegory of the Cave led Graphic Designer on long journey

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 25, 2014

Though the path was winding, 2002 Rend

Lake College graduate Skyler Taylor has used his Graphic Design degree to find the perfect fit for himself and his family: Vine Church in Carbondale.

Taylor said he loves what he does . . . working for a non-profit in design that allows his creativity to flourish, but it also gives him time to set aside for his family. For him, it is not going to work every day, it is living the life perfect for him.

Originally from the Wayne City area (Sims), Taylor attended RLC from 2000-02 when he received an Associate of Arts Degree with emphasis in Art and Design.

[Editor's Note: Taylor was recipient of a Presidential Scholarship Award both years on campus. He also was a member of the RLC Student Senate and was elected Homecoming King as a sophomore.]

He then took that degree to Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design.

"Being from Wayne City, a small rural town with a graduating class of 50 students, SIUC seemed like a metropolis. It sounds funny to say now, but the first time I was on SIUC's campus, I was almost sick to my stomach because of how large it was," said Taylor. "RLC was a great transition for me, because I learned a lot of life lessons. I think I would have had a lot further to fall if I went all in at a university."

At RLC, Taylor said he remembers several staff members who stood out and pushed him the most toward getting an education, including Dorothy DeAngelo, Steve Kennett and Tracey Webb.

Though not technically an instructor, DeAngelo taught Taylor several important lessons, including one he is not likely to repeat any time soon.

"She hired me to work at the Bookstore stocking shelves, but, well-intentioned as I was, I couldn't seem to get to work on time. Once, she asked me to open the store while she was on vacation, and I was 30 minutes late," he said. "When she returned, she quietly fired me. Luckily, I learned my lesson, and that job remains the only one I've been fired from."

When it came to instructors, Taylor said Kennett was the one who pushed him the most academically.

"His Philosophy class usually filled up very quickly, and when I finally got in, I understood why. No one had challenged me intellectually the way he did," he said.

"Many of my assumptions of who I was to 'be' were never the same after his class. Plato's Allegory of the Cave, for instance, still sticks with me, and started the long journey that eventually led me to give up commercial work and go full-time at a non-profit church."

"Being involved in the theatre productions with Tracey are among my fondest memories at RLC. I loved every moment of it, even when she was frustrated with us for barely trying. Our improv troupe was also incredibly fun."

After graduating from RLC and SIUC, Taylor started getting serious about his graphic design career.

"I have been fortunate in that I was able to get a job in my major almost immediately after graduating SIUC," he said. "I started doing graphic design at a T-shirt shop. While I was there, I did illustration and layout for silk-screened shirts."

About one year later, Taylor took a job with Arthur Agency, a small start-up advertising agency, where he kick-started a career with big projects, such as one for the Southern Illinois Miners baseball team. Together with the Arthur Agency team, Taylor created a logo, the mascots, team uniforms, and other elements found in the stadium today.

"They were small, but they had big dreams and were willing to take a lot of risk," said Taylor. "I had a lot of fun and gained valuable experience working with clients, managing projects, getting files ready to print and developing brand strategy for a variety of companies."

Currently, Taylor is the Art Director and Lead Designer at Vine Church in Carbondale, where he gets to balance his personal values with his love of design. On the side, Taylor does freelance work that varies from branding local businesses to developing websites to planning technology conferences. His website – www.skylerraytaylor.com – showcases all of his work.

"Of course, with all the opportunities I've been afforded, I do make sure my family gets the priority it deserves. Part of my decision to work at a non-profit in a place as small as Carbondale is too allow for my attention to not get diverted too easily from what I feel matters the most in my life," Taylor added.

Taylor said he is not planning any big career moves, but leisure travel may be in the works.



Bizarre! Springer Show 'Love Triangle' all an act

F.Y.I. SEPTEMBER 11, 2000

A Rend Lake College student has made the big time!? Chris Chaney of Benton made an appearance Monday (September 4) on the Jerry Springer Show. "It was all an act," insisted RLC Theatre Manager Tracey Webb, who said the subject matter that night was "Bizarre Love Triangles."

Chaney almost stole the show last fall as Bishop Hereford in "Robin Hood." He played Pee-Wee Drummond in "Meet Me in St. Louis" and will be a party guest in "The Beverly Hillbillies" November 2-5 while also serving as Costume Assistant.

According to Webb, the Springer show was taped approximately four months ago. Chaney was not aware of when it would be broadcast. (F.Y.I. The producers supposedly did know it was all an act.)



Dream, Achieve (cont.)

There are 103 pieces (from 100 artists living in 30 different countries), including one of his glass works. "The show will be going to different countries – 19 – and I'm hoping that I get a ticket to go when they travel. I know they're headed to Mexico, Brazil and Spain next."

Knaus recently started his own glassblowing company – Knaus Art Glass – out of the Imagine Blown Glass studio where he works in Jacksonville, FL. Though still a work-in-progress, he said it has been a dream of his for a while.

"I've just started Knaus Art Glass and I'll be selling my work on my website. I've been working for Kimberly Young for a while now. We're family here, so I don't need my own studio at this point," said Knaus.



Famous RLC Alums (?) you may not realize

Fame has preceded many RLC students . . .

■ Greta Garbo was the ultimate Hollywood star, envied by millions. The Swedish-born actress came into this world as Greta Lovisa Gustafson in 1905 and became a legend after first landing a part in "The Saga of Gosta Berling" and legally changing her name in 1923. The silent film and Golden Age product was awarded an Honorary Oscar in 1954 and nine years after her death (1999), was rated the fifth greatest female star of all time by the American Film Institute. In 1975, Greta Garbo appeared on the RLC stage as cafe owner Grace Hoyland in "Bus Stop." The Benton sophomore also was a member of the chorus in "Brigadoon," will be remembered as part of a Puppet Skit in the "Blackouts" Variety Show and served as Music/Departmental Reporter for *The Pressing Times*. She was recognized in 1976 by **Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges**.

■ Baseball Hall of Famer Brooks Robinson was considered the greatest defensive third baseman ever during his 23-year career as a Baltimore Oriole. He played in four World Series and 18 All-Star Games; he was named American League "MVP," 1964; All-Star Game "MVP," 1966; World Series "MVP," 1970, and winner of the Roberto Clemente Award, 1972. He won 16 straight A.L. Gold Gloves.

Brooks Robinson (Carbondale) was a member of the first RLC Warrior Men's Soccer Team in Fall 2008.

■ Author Charles Dickens (1812-70) is best known for such literary icons as **Great**

(Continued at far right on next page)

"As much as I'd like to set out on another adventure and embark on something new, I know Carbondale is a good fit for my family right now. I feel like the work I'm doing in Carbondale at Vine Church is meaningful work, and I count myself fortunate to be a part of it," he said. "At the same time, I'm allowing room for the possibility of travel, and even international travel, if the opportunity arises. At this point, I have friends in Switzerland, India, Scotland and on both U.S. coasts, so there are a lot of venues open."

WELCOME TO CRAWFORD'S KINGDOM ▶ Ears wide open...Here's hoping Disney keeps opening new opportunity doors

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 29, 2014

Crossing from one stage to another – that is just what one Rend Lake College grad has done by transforming his favorite classes and extracurriculars into an internship with hopes of big career moves in the future.

Steven Crawford is a 20-year-old RLC alumnus from Benton, who graduated in May 2013 with two Associate Degrees in Art and Science. For the last year, he has been living and working at Walt Disney World in Florida as a Main Entrance Merchandise employee in Animal Kingdom.

"The internship hadn't been something I had my mind set on. A few summers ago, Cady Summers from Benton came to a rehearsal of the show I was in, and she was telling us about her experience in the Disney College Program. This is when it hit me. I really didn't have a major decided, so I decided to do this program, hoping that it would open doors to more opportunities and maybe help me decide on a major," said Crawford.

"I was in two plays and a musical while at RLC. At Disney, when you are working, you are on stage, so having the opportunity to be on stage before has helped me the most," said Crawford. "I'm so grateful to be doing this in Disney World. It has already been a life-changing experience."

The Benton Consolidated High School graduate said it was Acting and Speech courses that best prepared him in the classroom for his day-to-day duties in Florida.

"The Acting class gave me the opportunity to be on stage, and any chance you get to perform helps you become more comfortable in front of an audience," said Crawford. "Then the Speech class was another chance to perform and get prac-

tice. Everyone thinks, 'I'll never use this,' but let's be honest – in most jobs, you will speak to people and it will somehow involve the public."

After two years of study at RLC, Crawford went from a student walking across the stage in Waugh Gymnasium to get his diploma to the warm and welcoming entrance at Walt Disney World – in one day.

"The day I graduated from Rend Lake College, May 18, I left Ina and headed to Florida, so RLC was where I last stepped foot in Southern Illinois," he said. Crawford indicated he has not ruled out returning to school if he finds the right field. "If not, I will continue to network my way up at Disney. I'm hoping Disney opens some doors to new opportunities," he said.

Crawford said it was his unpreparedness to attend a university and leave family and friends that led him to enroll at RLC.

"I didn't feel like I was ready to move to a university level yet, and I didn't have a major, so I saw no point. Plus, I see no point in going to a university where I'm getting the same classes but paying so much more," he said. "It's much closer to home and I get to be with friends and family. It was one of the best decisions I ever made."

ARCHITECT KELLEN MINOR ▶ Creative trip: Frank Lloyd Wright House to MVTHS/RLC/SIUC/tvsdesign/Ai3

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 6, 2014

Early on, Kellen Minor knew he was interested in architecture and design, giving him a leg up when it came to his education. By starting with specific classes in high school, Minor quickly jumped ahead of the pack, landing him with several big opportunities across the globe at the beginning of an ever-growing career.

The Waltonville native currently lives in Atlanta, where he works at a small firm called Ai3, focusing his time on projects in boutique restaurants, furniture design and mixed-use developments.

It all began when his mother encouraged him to be creative as a child and a trip to tour Architect Frank Lloyd Wright's Dana Thomas House in Springfield in middle school.

By seventh grade, he knew architecture was what he wanted to do with his life. Minor started by taking Architectural Drafting courses through Mt. Vernon Township High School's dual credit program while attending Waltonville High School.

"I chose Rend Lake because it was the most economical starting point for me after high school," said Minor. "I remember having the latest computers and software at my fingertips, and it allowed me to express my ideas in the design profession and put me ahead of the curve after transferring. RLC gave me the tools and instruction I needed to be well prepared for the road ahead."

He said two instructors really stood out: Architectural Technology Professors Kevin Weston and Rick Marlow, the latter having since retired. He said Marlow introduced him to the base knowledge of architecture, whereas Weston familiarized him with the latest computer software.

"I believe the Architectural Technology program as a whole is very strong," he said.

Minor graduated with an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Architectural Technology in 2001 before moving on to SIU-Carbondale, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Architectural Studies. In 2005, he earned a Masters in Architectural Design from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

For the next eight years, he worked at tvsdesign, an Atlanta firm that worked on large-scale international, religious and higher education projects. Specific projects include Sykes Chapel at the University of Tampa and a chapel at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church in Atlanta. Minor said he always looks for ways to motivate others.

"I don't know what the future holds, but it will definitely be working in the design profession. I love to create spaces and objects for people to enjoy, and inspiring others through design is always a big reward," he said.

RECENT GRAD VALERIE HENDERSON ► Medical Coder up to the challenge, leaps from clinicals to full-time job

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 22, 2014

As a member of one of the first graduating classes from the Rend Lake College Medical Coding certificate program, Valerie Henderson was not sure where her education would take her.

But it did not take her long to find out. After graduating last week, Henderson has already found her place as part of the Medical Coding staff at Harrisburg Medical Center.

The McLeansboro native said it was only a few weeks after her clinicals ended

when Harrisburg Medical Center contacted her for a full-time position in Coding. Though she had not yet graduated, Henderson said it was thrilling to have an employer approach her with the offer.

"I did my clinical work there and it was a great experience," said Henderson. "While I was there, I sat with the coders and learned the department and the flow of information in their hospital. I visited a few different departments where I would do some coding under supervision. It was a great, real-world experience for me."

The Medical Coding program started last fall at RLC, aimed at students who wanted to work in the medical field, but who preferred to avoid hands-on patient care. Medical coding is the process of converting descriptions of medical diagnoses and procedures into universal medical code numbers.

"I knew the program was new, but I also felt that if Rend Lake College was creating this new program, then there was a need for the profession in the area," said Henderson. "I was working as a dental assistant before, but I quit to go back to school full-time, and it has already paid off."

Employment of Medical Records Technicians is expected to increase 21 percent from 2010-20, faster than the average for all occupations, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

As a Coding professional, Henderson must possess a thorough understanding of diagnostic and procedural phrases in order to translate the information into coded form. Medical Coders must also be familiar with the laws and regulations relative to disclosure, confidentiality, maintenance and retention of medical records.

"It's a challenging program, and I don't think everyone understands that," said Henderson. "I think people get the impression that, because it's a certificate, it's going to be a cake walk, but there's a tremendous amount of information to learn in one year. In the first couple weeks, I kept thinking, 'What have I gotten myself into?' It was great to learn from Lora Phillips, and I know I came out of it with a great education and a long-lasting career."

Phillips, RLC Medical Coding Instructor, added she thinks Henderson and the two other Medical Coding students who received job opportunities immediately after graduating this year will do well as they take the first step into their new career.

* - * - *

Famous alums? (cont.)

Expectations, Tale of Two Cities, A Christmas Carol, Oliver Twist and David Copperfield.

He was the most popular English novelist of the Victorian era. His novels and short stories have never gone out of print.

Charles Dickens was a valued member of the Rend Lake College faculty from 1979-98. The soft-spoken, mustachioed Dickens taught Electricity and Electronics in the Mining and Industrial Technology Dept.

■ As "Friends" go, could anyone do better than Courteney Cox? Cox is best known as Monica Geller on the TV sitcom, "Friends," and reinvented herself on "Cougar Town."

But Rend Lake College has had a "Friend" of its own for many years in Courtney Cox . . . Student Achievement Recognition (SAR) Award-winner in 1971; married to another RLC product, Leslie; part-time instructor and then full-time Music Instructor, 1977-79; defeated candidate for RLC Board as a Southern Illinois University law student in 1980; musical entertainer for multiple RLCF Annual Dinners; father of RLC graduates; member, RLC Foundation Board, 1988-89; Trustee, RLC Board, 1999-2005.

■ Audie Murphy was the most decorated American combat soldier of World War II, receiving every decoration for valor our country offers. His gravesite is the second-most visited at Arlington Cemetery.

Within four years of his release from the military, he became an actor, starring in 26 films. His 1949 autobiography, "**To Hell and Back**," was a best seller. He died in an airplane accident in 1971 at age 47.

Audrey Murphy (Harrisburg) – maybe it is not the same, but close – was a Lady Warrior

(Continued on next page)



Famous alums? (cont.)

outfielder in softball for teams that won 79 games between 1997-99. The "Dean's List" student completed her career at Cumberland University (TN).

■ When four-time National "Coach of the Year" Dean Smith retired in 1997 after 36 seasons as the Head Coach at University of North Carolina, he boasted more wins (879) than anyone in the history of D-I Men's Basketball. His Tar Heels won two NCAA titles and reached the Final Four nine other times. He also coached the 1976 U.S. Olympic team.

Dean Smith and RLC go back a long way. The Pinckneyville resident was among Perry Countians serving on the college's original Steering Committee.

Dean Smith of Benton also was a President's Scholarship recipient in 1988-89.

■ John F. Kennedy served as 35th President from January 1961-November 22, 1963, when he was assassinated in Dallas by Lee Harvey Oswald. John Kennedy (Pittsboro, IN) was a member of the Fall 2005 Warrior Cross-Country Team and ran track for two springs.

■ Jackie Kennedy epitomized class when she occupied the White House as First Lady during JFK's Presidency. Jackie Kennedy (Mt. Vernon) was a Section Editor for the 1970-71 TARN yearbook.

■ The English author, Jane Austen, lived from 1775-1817. Her novels, including the three-volume classic, **Pride and Prejudice**, continue to stand the test of time, prized for their light irony, humor, depiction of contemporary English country life and underlying serious qualities.

Jane Austin was a talented, nontraditional, part-time RLC Art student in the 1980s and '90s.

"In class, Valerie was eager to learn, and was always asking questions. She was able to understand coding quickly, and showed a passion for it," said Phillips. "I think she'll do a wonderful job."



ASKED TO COME BACK ▶ GED's Pokorny better than expected; proud to be looking for job at age 70

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 8, 2005

Like many of his childhood friends, Don Pokorny left high school early and went right to work. It was not until after he retired when he realized just how important having a high school diploma can be.

Pokorny (DuBois), 69, said he recently applied for a part-time job at a local business to keep himself busy for the winter. He was told by company representatives that they would not hire anyone who did not have a high school diploma or GED.

Pokorny's daughter heard the news and began calling around about sending her father back to the classroom. She found Rend Lake College's Adult Education and Family Literacy Department, and soon Pokorny was hitting the books with a group of other GED students at the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon. Pokorny had the distinction of being the senior among the group, he joked.

He recalled being asked for his Social Security number and said he had not brought his card with him. He replied, "I can show you my Medicare card, though."

Getting back in the swing of school was not easy, Pokorny said. After being in class for a couple of weeks, the instructors began asking him to write essays. The writing was difficult for him, and he began to think it was not worth the effort, so he did not return to class.

However, Yvonne Hallam, Workforce Coordinator with the Adult Ed program, had other ideas. She called Pokorny and convinced him to keep trying, and Pokorny returned to class.

"It's amazing how things come back to you," said Pokorny. He singled out Hallam and Math Tutor Yaro Hospadarsky for their help in guiding him through the classes.

Pokorny took the GED test February 22. When the results showed up in the mail a few weeks later, he was not sure what to expect.

"I was a leery of opening that envelope," he said. "But I did better than I expected."

Pokorny said he may use his GED to find a job next winter. "Now that I've got

it, I'm pretty proud of it. It's an experience and once you accomplish it, it's something to be proud of," he said.

He also met another goal in the process – to earn his GED before he turns 70 in June.

Pokorny left high school in the 11th-grade and went to work for St. Louis Spring Co., which made and repaired springs for the trucking industry. Pokorny drove for the company and eventually was named General Manager of the small business. He stayed there until his retirement.

Pokorny and his wife, Barb, will celebrate 50 years of marriage in September.

BOUND FOR UNDERGROUND ▶ Mine training challenge is all the same for mixture of scholarship classmates

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 3, 1979

Generation gap? Says who?

Gene Bennett and Bob Wiggins are perfect examples no such gap exists.

Bennett, a 1974 Christopher High School graduate from Valier, is a former pre-med student. The 23-year-old once worked for a year and a half on a construction crew building mines.

Jefferson County native Wiggins, 48, is the father of six children. A longtime Dowzer Electric employee in Mt. Vernon and part-time Baptist preacher, he spent the past two years as an independent truck driver.

Beginning July 16, Bennett and Wiggins could find themselves working side by side, just as they spent the past 39 weeks as Rend Lake College classmates in the Inland Steel Scholarship Training Program.

A total of 18 students graduated Friday following the eight-hours-a-day, five-days-a-week program in which they received training in the areas of welding, electricity, hydraulics, mechanics and production. It is the third such group to complete the Inland Steel-sponsored program.

Graduates receive 64 hours of college credit. All were offered jobs by Inland Steel Coal Co. at Mine No. 2 in McLeansboro.

Some, like Wiggins, find it simple to pick up a few more electric courses along the way and earn their Associate in Arts Degree. Wiggins went to school day and night to get his A.A. diploma, along with fellow Inland Steel trainees Bennett, Joe Pillow of McLeansboro and Robert Jones of Harrisburg.

"My son talked me into it," Wiggins admitted. David Wiggins, 20, graduated from Rend Lake College the past spring and

is now working in the mines. David heard about the Inland scholarship program while in school and suggested it to his father.

"It has been quite a change for me," understated Wiggins. "I don't really know how to describe it. I've always been a person who was pretty active, so it was a completely different way of life than what I've been accustomed to. Working in the mine actually will be new to most of us, too. I don't hardly know what to expect, but I understand there is a good future in the mines."

Bennett is more familiar with what he can expect. He already was working underground when he decided to return to school. The same was true of David Tate of Marion and T.R. Long Jr. of Mt. Vernon.

Bennett did not have the money to pursue his original goal of entering medical school, but as a result of that earlier education, coupled with the RLC program, he needs about 30 hours to complete his Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Technology.

"Sure, it was a pretty big decision to make," conceded the father of one. "But I believe the opportunity for advancement is there, with the additional education."

Wiggins and Bennett are not the exceptions in this unique class. The average age of the first such group to go through the program was 35, and the latest group just over 30 on the average, including the 50-year-old Jones, who farmed previously and built houses on a part-time basis.

Other members of the RLC/Inland Steel Class of '79 – Larry Ellis, Bonnie; Herman Rogers, McLeansboro; Kirk Sanders, McLeansboro; James Goss, Mt. Vernon; Roger Ballard, Mt. Vernon; Lloyd Thomas, Buckner; Alfred Rubenacker, McLeansboro; Randy Gutzler, Bluford; Marvin Roesch, Springerton; Doy Sweetin, Crossville; Chris Shepard, Mt. Vernon, and David Woods, Mt. Vernon.

Six of the previous Rend Lake College graduates already have worked up to supervisory positions with Inland Steel.

RLC Instructor William Dill serves as the liaison between the college and Inland Steel.

WAYNE CITY'S TRACI WOOD ♦ **Laid-off wife and mother of two finds 'dream job' in Informational Tech field**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 2003

Traci Wood's life certainly has changed for the better since she enrolled in Rend Lake College in Fall 2000.

When she found herself laid off from

her job after 10 years, she opted to make a career change and took advantage of RLC's Information Technology programs. Wood, a longtime Wayne City resident, now holds an Informational Technology position with St. Mary's / Good Samaritan Regional Health Center in Mt. Vernon.

Mark Clark, Director of Information Systems for St. Mary's / Good Samaritan, touted Wood's "positive, energetic personality and her knowledge of personal computers and networks" as factors that led to the hospital's hiring decision. The Information Systems Department is customer-service oriented and places a high value on the positive attitude Wood displays, according to Clark.

Wood saw the value in gaining new skills and training after being laid off from a manufacturing company in Fairfield.

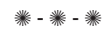
At Rend Lake College, she began developing skills for her new career by enrolling in the IT Systems Specialist program in August 2000. The program includes classes on computer hardware, Microsoft and Linux operating systems, Microsoft and Novell network administration, network infrastructure development and administration and computer programming with Visual Basic.

Like many adult learners, Wood juggled the duties of being a parent to Chelsea and Britton and a wife to Gib, all the while maintaining a 3.870 grade-point average at Rend Lake College. Wood received her degree and four occupational certificates during May 2002 graduation ceremonies and has earned a Novell Certified Network Administrator and a CompTIA A+ Technician Certification since then.

After a thorough job search throughout the area, Wood said she found her "dream job" as an Information Systems Specialist working in the Good Samaritan Hospital complex in Mt. Vernon. She uses many of the skills she developed at RLC in her current position and is expanding her knowledge into several new areas.

Currently, Wood assures the computer data from Good Samaritan, St. Mary's and their 18 outlying health care facilities has been backed up successfully each day. She has been involved in the implementation of the enhanced 911 system that will be initiated in both hospitals and has developed databases to facilitate equipment availability and commercial contract requirements.

Clark also assigned Wood to a telecommunications project that conducted research on the geographical limitations of cellular



Massages her own schedule: 'Best thing I've ever done'

NEWS RELEASE JUNE 18, 2015

It was her first massage from a Rend Lake College Therapeutic Massage graduate that turned Lydia Emery's dream of going back to school into a reality. In her own words, "the choice was made" after the appointment and she has not looked back since.

Emery was working a 2-to-10 shift at a local industry and, while thankful for the job, did not like being away from her children. "The fact I couldn't choose my own hours got me interested in going back to school," the Mt. Vernon native said. Then she "received my first massage and thought it was amazing."

"Now I can create my own schedule and still provide a living for my family. It's the best thing I've ever done."

"(Professor) Mike Adamson was a great resource for me because he's also an R.N., very educated in anatomy. That knowledge was something he incorporated into every class," said Emery. "He's local and available if I ever need something. I called him recently with a client issue and I knew he would get back to me with his suggestions."

Emery is owner of Stress Knot Massage, 2020 Broadway in Mt. Vernon. She employs two front desk staff and five therapists. "My goal was to create a place that is client-focused and therapist-friendly," she said. "We have five very nice treatment rooms. I want to extend the hours by hiring more therapists. We're open 9 to 6 every day except Sunday. It is also my goal to increase our workplace wellness program, by doing things such as taking chairs and tables to corporate events and health fairs."



Theatre's Graham content on stage, behind the scenes

NEWS RELEASE NOVEMBER 2014

With experience both on stage and behind the scenes, Rend Lake College Alumna Brittanie Graham has turned a love for theatre and performing into a promising career representing songwriters on Music Row in Nashville, TN.

The Mt. Vernon native entered RLC in Fall 2006 thanks to a tuition waiver from the Theatre program. Before her departure, she had appeared in nearly a dozen shows on the RLC stage since age 13.

The aspiring singer then took her experience as a performer to behind-the-scenes work for ASCA (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers), the largest performing rights organization protecting member musical copyrights.

"I work in licensing and help collect fees from businesses using music. The fees collected are then distributed back to our 510,000 songwriters," said Graham of her day-to-day career. She said the job is a great start to something she hopes to turn into a creative outlet. On the side, Graham also does promotional videos and voiceovers for radio ads.

"My dream job is to be a professional singer; however, I'm going back and forth with what I'd want to do outside of that. I think it would be great to work artistically within the theatre community that is growing in Nashville. Something I've recently dreamed of doing is becoming someone who signs talent to a label. I'd love to seek out talent," said Graham.

The 2008 graduate left RLC with an Associate in Arts Degree with a special emphasis in Theatre. No stranger to Theatre Professor/Director Tracey

(Continued at far right on next page)

phone/pager systems and the needs of hospital personnel. As part of Wood's new responsibilities, she "fills in" on the help desk run by the IS Department to support the computer users in the St. Mary's / Good Samaritan group and publishes data on the efficiency of the IS Department systems.

Wood attributes her success to "all the knowledge I gained while taking classes at Rend Lake College," and it is obvious to all who meet her that her positive attitude had an impact on beginning a new career in Information Systems.

AND HE LIKED IT . . . ▶ One-time Comedian got 'first taste of literature' from RLC Professor

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 22, 2015

Many students see Rend Lake College as a gateway to greater opportunities, while others take advantage of the locality and low cost of classes. For Alumnus Matt Rotman, it was both benefits that drew him before he put his English education to use by helping others break into the writing industry.

The Mt. Vernon native started on his Associate of Arts Degree at RLC in 2004, with a focus on English and improving his writing. Rotman says he attended Rend Lake College for the same reason as many, because it costs less than a four-year university.

"Plus, I needed two extra years to mature before going off into the real world," he said.

While attending RLC, Rotman recalls two instructors who were particularly beneficial to his post-secondary education: English Professor Rob Little and the late (English/Journalism Professor) Mike Mullen.

"I still reference Rob Little's literary '-ism' sheet when discussing literature; it's like a pocket SparkNotes for the literary inept. And I tutored with Mike when I was in eighth grade. He gave an ignorant Southern Illinois boy his first taste of literature, and it has all worked out pretty well since," said Rotman.

Rotman enjoys a little self-deprecating humor about his literary endeavors, but he is anything but unsuccessful professionally. Before his current job, he was a Public Affairs consultant and speechwriter for the Department of Defense in Mannheim, Germany, a job he took after a brief stint as a standup comedian.

Now Rotman works during the day as a Project Manager and Paralegal for a water and sewer pipeline supplier, Underground Solutions, Inc. in San Diego. On the side, he

continues to publish short stories and poetry in a number of journals and is working on a novel called, "Micropolitan," a satiric horror story about the oil industry in 1950's Mt. Vernon. He also is the co-founder and Editor-in-Chief of *Crooked/Shift*, an online literary journal.

In the past, one could find Rotman's work in *Diabolique Magazine*, *Aberration Labyrinth* and *Euphemism*, the literary journal at Illinois State University where Rotman graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor's Degree in 2008. More recently, he had a poem published in Twelve Winters Press' *[Ex]tinguished & [Ex]tinct: An Anthology of Things That No Longer [E]xist*, which was reprinted in RLC's literary journal, *Lake*.

Rotman also had a poem published in *Puff Puff Prose Poetry* and a *Play*, Volume III in May with all profits going to help women with disabilities. He had a short story appear in *Marathon Literary Review* in February.

"More than anything now, my writing focus is not on my own publications, but giving aspiring writers an outlet to get started," said Rotman. "That's why I started *Crooked/Shift*. It's certainly easier to get published now than when I started out about a decade ago, because of the Internet, but the initial challenge remains the same: Until you sell that first piece, you feel pretty worthless and that your stuff sucks, and it's a hurdle that all successful writers must overcome."

Rotman added his anthology also allows him to focus on and promote pulp and horror genres of writing, two subjects he feels are sometimes ignored in the industry. With the help of others such as Little, who is an occasional contributor, *Crooked/Shift* is published semi-quarterly, having seen its second installment last year. Information about the anthology can be found on the Facebook page.

As for the future, Rotman said he is working on a television pilot for a science fiction show called "Sleepwalker," a project he is hoping will help him broaden his writing technique. Without a doubt, he says his education at RLC put him in a great place to start on his writing career.

"Rend Lake College put me in a great position, academically, once I started going onto the university level," said Rotman. "I was amazed at how better prepared I was as a student compared to all the other students at a junior level who had not gone to a two-year school first.

"While my peers struggled with the very

basics, things such as academic writing and critical thinking, I was able to focus more intently on the subject matter, form my own opinions and become well-regarded in the English Department at ISU.”

MCLEANSBORO SALON ▶ What happens in Vegas . . . can make Southern Illinoisans ‘feel good,’ too

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 2015

For four years, Natalie Burke styled celebrities for the Las Vegas red carpet and her talents now give locals a one-of-a-kind experience at her salon, Natalie Joseph’s in McLeansboro. Rend Lake College put the scissors in her hand.

Burke attended RLC’s Art program from 2005-07, and then chose to continue her education at Studio RLC – at the time a Paul Mitchell Partner School – where she graduated in 2008. The McLeansboro native said she chose to return to Studio RLC because of its reputation.

“Rend Lake was close to home, but I chose Studio RLC because it was a Paul Mitchell School, and I always loved Paul Mitchell products,” said Burke. “I learned my professionalism at Studio RLC because it’s a high-end school where education is very important. I also learned about the culture, not just about hair, and I’ve carried those lessons with me my whole career.”

Burke added she keeps those same skills in mind while running the day-to-day operations of her own salon.

“I still carry the professionalism I learned at Studio RLC with me in my career,” said Burke. “Even the simple things, like a dress code and how to act around customers. I still recommend it to everyone. I’ve only hired people to work at Natalie Joseph’s who have come from that school because I do know how they act and what they know.”

Even while she attended Studio RLC, Burke said it was her dream to move west. In addition to the education, she said the instructors, specifically Studio RLC Director Daphne Mitchell, helped guide her in the right direction.

“I love Daphne. She always encouraged me with my dream of getting out of school and going to the west coast. She never told me I couldn’t do it,” said Burke. “Now that I’m back, I have been a guest speaker at Studio RLC and the staff there is wonderful.”

In Las Vegas, Burke owned the Natalie Burke Salon where she worked in her salon by herself during the week and as a freelance

cosmetologist on the weekends, focusing on events and celebrities. After four years, Burke decided to move home and brought the ideas and skills she learned in Nevada with her to Natalie Joseph’s.

“Right now we have 10 employees and our first day was May 3, 2014, so we’re just over a year old,” said Burke. “I moved back here and started using the knowledge from traveling to create an atmosphere that I love. I lived in Las Vegas for four years, and it’s completely different there.”

“We focus on customer service, starting with when the customer comes into the salon,” said Burke. “We start with wine or fruit-infused water in our robe room . . . It’s the only salon like it in Southern Illinois.”

“It’s not about hair at Natalie Joseph’s, it’s about the attention to detail, every single day; it’s everything, it’s customer service,” said Burke. “We want to make our customers feel good.”

* - * - *

Theatre’s Graham (cont.)

Webb, Graham said the plays and musicals helped teach her how to adapt in the real world.

“I learned how to adjust to different types of people by portraying different characters,” said Graham. “I learned very quickly the importance of hard work and determination to reach a deadline, which was often opening night. I also worked backstage for kids shows, which helped me learn the value of patience. I don’t feel I had that before.”

Graham said it was the close proximity to home that brought her to RLC, but it was the Theatre program as a whole that kept her coming back for more.

“In the theatre, I learned to work hard, think fast and persevere when stress is high. I have carried all of these with me to this job,” said Graham. “I chose RLC because it was familiar and comfortable; I chose Theatre because I started doing shows with Tracey when I was 13 years old. But I fell in love with the department. My Acting classes, Tracey and the entire Theatre program were highly beneficial to me and I learned so much from them.”

Graham remembers playing the lead role in “Cinderella,” the Spring 2008 musical, and Marty in the Spring 2007 musical of “Grease” as favorites.

Some of her favorite memories come from RLC halls and classrooms. “There are a lot of great ones,” she said. “My favorite would have to be the final for one Acting class. I played Ouiser Beadreoux in a scene from ‘Steel Magnolias’ along with some good friends. We laughed so much during rehearsals and had such a great time. I truly believe I would not be close to where I am today without my experiences in the RLC Theatre.”

REND LAKE COLLEGE STUDENT RECOGNITION

Honors, Achievements and Accomplishments / 1967 - 2016

1967-68

■ ROSE MARIE BLAND MYLES "Alumna of the Year" 2002

Manager of Network Services for AT&T (Class of 1968) recognized first at 2002 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association the following summer.
/ See story in next section.

1969-70

■ LESLIE PAGE

The President of the RLC Student Education Association has been elected Associate Vice President of the Student Illinois Education Association and Leader of the SIEA Southern Division. / Spring '70

1970-71

■ JOYCE BARR

RLC student will be one of 20 persons statewide recognized as "Outstanding" 4-H members during annual convention in Chicago. She is one of two Southern Illinois representatives to be so honored. Barr has held offices and been a Junior Leader in two clubs - "Town and Country" and "Elections" - during nine years of involvement. Her projects typically have dealt with Electricity. / November 18-20, '70

■ 1971 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION AWARD-WINNERS

• COURTNEY COX (Benton)

A Music Education major, this talented freshman is a member of the college's Stage Band and other performing groups.

• SHERRY WILSON (Bluford)

Sophomore President of RLC's Rho Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa will transfer in fall to Illinois State University and major in Elementary Ed.

■ STUDENT UNION MISSIONARIES

Two RLC students will serve as missionaries as part of the Baptist Student Union Missions project. Diana Watts is going to Detroit, while Don MacKenzie heads west for service in Oregon. / Summer '71

■ DAVID N. JUNKINS "Alumnus of the Year" 1982

Social Worker for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (Class of 1971) recognized as the first Rend Lake College "Alumnus of the Year" at the 1982 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner.
/ See story in next section.

■ Dr. MARY KAY WITGES BENGTON "Alumna of the Year" 1987

Health Services Staff and Athletic Physician at North Carolina State University

(Class of 1971) recognized at 1987 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association following summer. / See story in next section.

■ JONATHAN W. THOMAS "Alumnus of the Year" 1997

Executive Dean (CEO) for Ivy Tech State College campuses in Madison and Lawrenceburg, IN (Class of 1971) recognized first at 1997 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association the following summer. / See story in next section.

■ LAIRD D. WISELY "Alumnus of the Year" 1999

The late Owner of both Therapy Resource Associates and Physical Rehab Works (Class of 1971) was recognized posthumously at the 1999 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association the following summer. Wisely's widow, Cathy, accepted the honor on behalf of her husband, who died September 22, 1999.
/ See story in next section.

1971-72

■ GRADUATION / FEE SURVEYS

Results of two recent surveys . . .

• A report to the Board of Trustees by Dean Howard Rawlinson in February Re: a Graduate Survey indicated about half of the students responding were interested in attending graduation ceremonies, a slightly lower percentage of parents were interested in the ceremony and 62 percent of the student respondents said they would be present even if commencement exercises were optional.

• A March Board report revealed 216 students were polled about their feelings for maintaining a \$10 activity fee, which is used to support extracurricular activities. In favor - 161; opposed - 55. / March '72

■ JANICE WEBB

Elected as a Representative-at-Large on the Student Senate, Webb also was voted President of the Student Education Association. Something else noteworthy . . . she technically could be the youngest member ever to participate in both groups. Her birthday is February 29; the Leap Year baby has been able to celebrate on the actual date of her birth only five times in her lifetime. / February '72

■ "OUTSTANDING" PERFORMERS

Honors Day Awards 1972 included the "Outstanding Musicians" Award shared by Courtney Cox (Benton) and LeAnn Dycus (Mt. Vernon) and the "Outstanding

Performance" Award to Janet Raney (Mt. Vernon).

The winners would live up to their billing. Cox, a Lawyer and State's Attorney, became a professional Music Educator and is a talented player/band leader well-known throughout Southern Illinois. Raney acted professionally for a number of years, reportedly in the Los Angeles area. / Spring '72

■ FACULTY WIVES ESTABLISH AWARD

The Faculty Wives Club established a \$100 scholarship for the 1972-73 academic year and presented it to Gary Lee Mabry (Benton). It was given in memory of Jay DeWitt, the son of Instructor Judson DeWitt who was killed in an automobile accident. / May '72

■ KEVIN DAVIS "Alumnus of the Year" 1989

Comptroller / Treasurer for Rend Lake Conservancy District (Class of 1972) recognized first at 1989 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association the following summer. / See story in next section.

■ COURTNEY COX "Alumnus of the Year" 1995

Partner with the firm of Hart and Hart Attorneys-at-Law in Benton (Class of 1972) recognized first at the 1995 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association the following summer.
/ See story in next section.

■ DONALD H. DAME "Alumnus of the Year" 2003

Vice President of Human Resources and Government Relations for Springfield-based Freeman United Coal Mining Company (Class of 1972 / 1976) recognized first at 2003 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association the following summer.
/ See story in next section.

■ JIM MOUNIER "Alumnus of the Year" 2014

Senior Vice President for Merrill Lynch in Rockford (Class of 1972) recognized at 2014 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner, although he was unable to attend, and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association the following summer.
/ See story in next section.

1972-73

■ SUE WOLFE COUNTY FAIR RUNNER-UP

Sue Ellen Wolfe of Mt. Vernon was a runner-up in the Miss Illinois County Fair Beauty Contest. / January '73

■ HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS VISIT

A report to the Board at its March 20 meeting indicated between 700 and 800 students visited campus during Senior Visitation Day, which was spread over a three-day period. / March '73

■ 1973 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION AWARD-WINNERS

- GARY NELSON (McLeansboro)
A Dean's List student and member of Phi Theta Kappa, the veteran of 2 1/2 tours in Vietnam is active as a reserve policeman with the Hamilton County Civil Defense.
- KATHLEEN SCHUTTE (Mt. Vernon)
Active on-campus in SEA, yearbook and newspaper staffs, choral and play productions (see *Who's Who 1973*), she also has nine years in 4-H leadership roles. Future plans have Schutte majoring in Special Education for the Blind at Illinois State University.

■ WHO'S WHO 1973 EDITION

Rend Lake College had the honor of nominating sophomores for membership in **Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities**. The students were chosen on the basis of a 3.0 (minimum) GPA, outstanding leadership and service while at RLC, future leadership potential and community involvement.

- MARY LYNN BERTOCCHI (Christopher)
Phi Theta Kappa Secretary
Pressing Times Writer / Circulation Student Education Assn. Secretary
- JEAN BONDI (Zeigler)
Pressing Times Asst. Managing Editor
Higher Education Meeting Rep
Mature Students Club
- DONNA KIMMEL (Mt. Vernon)
RLC Student Senate Secretary / Convo Chair
Tarn '73 Editor
Christmas Queen candidate
"You're a Good Man Charlie Brown,"
"Our Town," "Boyfriend" casts
- KEITH RAY (Dahlgren)
Agriculture Club / Karate Club
"Our Town," "Boyfriend" casts
State Board of Vocational Education and Rehab Evaluation Committee
- KATHLEEN SCHUTTE (Mt. Vernon)
Student Achievement Recognition
Phi Theta Kappa / Teachers Scholar
SEA Treasurer / Historian
Tarn '73 Copy / Assistant Editor
"Amahl and the Night Visitors,"
"Our Town," "Boyfriend" casts
Collegiate Choir / Readers Theatre
- KURT STROTHMANN (Mt. Vernon)
RLC Student Senate President
Student Education Assn. 1st V-P

Faculty Council / Phi Theta Kappa
Couth Club / "Our Town" cast

- JONI TOIGO (Christopher)
RLC Student Senate Convo Chair
Student Education Assn. President
Phi Theta Kappa Treasurer
Tarn '73 Layout / Photo Editor
- FRED VALLOWE (Mt. Vernon)
Phi Theta Kappa
BASIC Treas. / Communication Chair
Readers Theatre / Couth Club
"You're a Good Man Charlie Brown,"
"Our Town," "Boyfriend" casts
Teacher Evaluation Committee
- SUZI WOOLLEY (Benton)
Pressing Times Editor
RLC Student Senate
Band / Cheerleader
"You're a Good Man Charlie Brown,"
"Our Town," "Boyfriend" casts
- SONNY WYATT (Steeleville)
All-SICC Basketball / Baseball Teams
Phi Theta Kappa

■ TRANSFERS TO S.I.U.C. RATE HIGH

Trustees were informed of a recent letter from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale officials indicating 37 transfer students from RLC recently had attained grade-point averages of 4.5 or higher on a 5.0-point scale. / May '73

■ STUDENT UNION MISSIONARIES

Sophomore Joe Bob Pierce (Wayne City) will be going to Germany June 6-August 20 as a student-worker sponsored by the Springfield-based Illinois Baptist Student Union Mission program.

Freshman Jan Hutson will be active with a St. Louis bus ministry as well as teaching during Vacation Bible Schools. Freshman Fred Vallowe (Mt. Vernon) will be going to Toronto, Canada, to share in park ministry and VBS.

Also representing Rend Lake College elsewhere will be Lanny Donoho (Bluford) in Florida. / Summer '73

1973-74

■ WHO'S WHO 1974 EDITION

Six selected for **Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges** . . .

- BILL COX (Mt. Vernon)
RLC Student Senate President
President's Council / Phi Theta Kappa
"Boyfriend," "Hairy Man,"
"Carnival," "Egad, What a Cad,"
- JILL GUYTON (Mt. Vernon)
RLC Student Senate Secretary
Phi Theta Kappa
BASIC Communications Chair
"Our Town," "Boyfriend,"
"Egad, What a Cad," "Carnival"
- JOHN KRETZ (Christopher)
Warrior Basketball / Baseball

Lettermen's Club President
Outstanding College Athletes
of America 1974

- KRISTIE MARTIN (Mt. Vernon)
RLC Student Senate Representative
Phi Theta Kappa
BASIC Executive Chair
North Central Self-Study Committee
Faculty Wives Scholarship
"Our Town," "Boyfriend,"
"Egad, What a Cad," "Carnival"
- KARLASUE OWENS (McLeansboro)
Student Education Assn. President
Phi Theta Kappa
BASIC Christian Outreach Chair
SEA Scholarship / Couth Club
- DAVID WHITNEY (Mt. Vernon)
Phi Theta Kappa Vice President
Tarn '73 Activities / '74 Asst. Editor
North Central Self-Study Committee
Bloodmobile Student Co-Chair
Trap and Skeet Club / "Carnival"

■ CHARLES "CHUCK" YADLOSKI

The RLC sophomore-to-be has been elected President of the Illinois Association of Community College Agriculturists for 1974-75. The Ag Club is comprised of students from about 30 community colleges in the state with Ag programs. / Spring '74

■ SENIOR CITIZEN COURTESY CARDS

At their June 18, 1974 meeting, Trustees approved the creation of Courtesy Cards which will entitle senior citizens (55 and over) to attend Rend Lake College athletic events, music and theater performances and "other privileges the President of the college deems appropriate." / June '74

■ Dr. LESLIE JOHNSON "Alumnus of the Year" 1984

Family Practitioner in Mt. Vernon (Class of 1974) recognized first at 1984 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association following summer. / See story in next section.

■ GLORIA J. SLOAN-REEL "Alumna of the Year" 1990

Product Brand Manager for Rhone-Poulenc Agriculture Company in Research Triangle Park, NC (Class of 1974) recognized first at 1990 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association following summer. / See story in next section.

■ CRAIG M. SINCLAIR "Alumnus of the Year" 1991

Vice President of Advertising for The Walgreen Company (Class of 1974) recognized first at 1991 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association following summer. / See story in next section.

■ **RON SMITH**

"Alumnus of the Year" 2011

Men's Basketball Associate Head Coach for Southern Illinois University Salukis and Owner / Operator of USA Sports Tours and Events (Class of 1974) first recognized at 2011 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association following summer. / See story in next section.

1974-75

■ **TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS**

A letter from John D. Barnes and Frank C. Adams informed RLC administrators 12 spring graduates from Rend Lake College are recipients of Community-Junior College Tuition Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to attend Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. / October '74

■ **TERRY MILT**

Among those recognized at the 1974-75 Basketball Banquet held April 2 was the student statistician.

Terry Milt would eventually return to his "roots" and become Mt. Vernon Township High School Superintendent between 2004 and 2009. He was named the 2008 "Administrator of the Year" by the School Guidance Counselors Association. / April '75

■ **CAROL DILLEY
BRAD BURZYNSKI**

Nice choices. When the RLC Music program handed out its year-ending honors in Spring 1975, the "Musician's Award" went to Carol Dilley (Mt. Vernon) and the "Performer's Award" was bestowed on Brad Burzynski (Benton).

Both would go on to receive RLC Foundation "Outstanding Alumnus/ Alumna of the Year" recognition - Dilley in 1988 and Burzynski in 1993. Dilley has made a living on the big stage, most notably on Broadway as a cast member in the record long-running "Cats." Burzynski performs daily on the political stage, first as a member of Illinois House of Representatives, 1990-93, and as an Illinois State Senator from the upstate 35th District. / Spring '75

■ **WHO'S WHO 1975 EDITION**

The 1975 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges* includes seven outstanding individuals from Rend Lake College.

- BRAD BURZYNSKI (Benton)
RLC Board of Trustees Student Rep
Phi Theta Kappa
Stage, Concert Bands / Civic Symphony / Community Chorus / Collegiate Choir
RLC Music Club Vice President
"Carnival" and "Brigadoon"
Teacher Evaluation Committee
- MARY JO COCKRUM (Benton)

The Pressing Times Co-Editor

Phi Theta Kappa

Illinois State Scholarship recipient

- CAROL DILLEY (Mt. Vernon)
Phi Theta Kappa President
RLC Illinois Student Music Educator's Association (Music Club) President
Collegiate Choir / Community Chorus
"Carnival," "Egad, What a Cad,"
"Thurber Carnival," "Brigadoon"
Teacher Evaluation Committee
Recipient of one of 16 Illinois State University Foundation Scholarships
- CATHY MATTINGLY (Mt. Vernon)
Phi Theta Kappa / BASIC
Concert Band / Civic Symphony / Collegiate Choir / Stage Band vocalist
Illinois Student Music Educator's Assn.
Tarn '74 Faculty Editor
Pom-Pon Squad
"Carnival," "Brigadoon,"
"A Thurber Carnival"
Teacher Evaluation Committee
Finalist, ISU Foundation Scholarship
- MARLON NETTLETON (Mt. Vernon)
RLC Student Senate President / V-P
Collegiate Choir / Community Chorus
Concert Band
Illinois State Music Educators Assn.
"Egad/Cad," "Carnival," "Brigadoon"
Teacher Evaluation Committee
Planning transfer to Illinois Wesleyan
- PHIL TALBERT (Sims)
RLC Student Senate Social Chair / Vice President (1973-74)
Phi Theta Kappa / BASIC
The Pressing Times Staff
Couth Club Vice President-Treasurer
"Egad, What a Cad," "Carnival,"
"A Thurber Carnival," "Brigadoon"
Teacher Evaluation Co-Chair
- CHUCK YADLOSKI (Christopher)
RLC Student Senate Agriculture Rep
RLC Ag Club Vice President
Illinois Association of Community College Agriculturalists President
IACCA Secretary, 1973-74

■ **GLORIA JO SLOAN**

The RLC Alumna from McLeansboro, a junior majoring in Agricultural Industries at Southern Illinois University, was recipient of the Runner-Up Recognition Certificate for the 1975 SIUC Jerry Cobble Memorial Award for Outstanding Juniors in the Ag program. / Spring '75

■ **CAROL DILLEY-JAUDES**
"Alumna of the Year" 1988

Stage Actress in St. Louis and New York (Broadway) (Class of 1975) recognized first at 1988 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association following summer. / See story in next section.

■ **SEN. J. BRADLEY BURZYNSKI**

"Alumnus of the Year" 1993

Illinois State Senator as a Sycamore resident representing the 35th District in Northern Illinois (Class of 1975) recognized first at 1993 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association following summer. / See story in next section.

1975-76

■ **JOYCE E. RICHARDS
DEBORAH WHITTINGTON**

A Rend Lake College student (Whittington) and a former student (Richards) earned national recognition by being named to the 1975 edition of *Who's Who in Poetry in American Colleges and Universities*. The publication includes work of 347 student poets from across the nation.

Whittington (Mt. Vernon) was on the staff of the college's literary magazine last year and was second in the 1975 RLC Poetry Contest. She is a former resident of Green Rock. The poem by Whittington printed in *Who's Who* is untitled.

Richards (Belle Rive) was Editor of *Ozone* in 1973 and '75 and a writer for the student paper. She claimed first-place in the college Poetry Contest last year. "Home" was Richards' poem published in *Who's Who*. / September '75

■ **B.A.S.I.C. TRIP TO SAN ANTONIO**

Five members of the Rend Lake College BASIC group joined approximately 80 other Illinoisans for a trip to "Freedom '76," a celebration of America's Bicentennial on the campus of Carson Newman College in San Antonio, TX, from December 27-January 1.

Representing the local Brothers and Sisters in Christ contingent at "Freedom '76" were Linda Lane (McLeansboro), Kathy Lewis (Valier), Becky Mattingly (Mt. Vernon), Terry Sampson (Mt. Vernon) and Glenda Troutt (Woodlawn).

Activities included seminars and small-group discussions on vocation in life, personal spiritual growth and studies of the Christian man and woman. Featured guests/performers included Masters of Ceremonies Grady and Eleanor Nutt, former Miss America Shirley Ann Cothran, Andre Couch and Myrtle Hall, a featured singer with the Billy Graham Crusade.

The highlight came New Year's Eve, when the 7,000 participants gathered to march along the San Antonio River in a candlelight procession. They stopped at Alamo Square, where a community service was held. / December '75

■ **PHYLLIS CARTER
ZENA VAN HORN**

The two Student Education Association

(SEA) members were chosen to serve as pages at the statewide Illinois Educators Association Convention in Chicago February 18-22. Pages are selected on the basis of past participation and dependability.

VanHorn (Sesser) is the Southern Region Vice-President for the organization. Carter is from Mulkeytown.

Their duties involved distributing materials to and conveying messages from delegates. They were chosen along with other SIEA members statewide by Woody Lee, Illinois Education Association President. / February '76

■ SPECIAL OLYMPICS DONATION

Students in a Rend Lake College Recreation and Program Planning class raised \$688 in donations to the Special Olympics in Carbondale. Their fund-raising Volleyball Marathon started on Friday evening and lasted until Sunday morning.

RLC participants were Nelson Adams, Gene Bennett, Kim Blades, Jill Brower, George Bryant, Jim Chamness, Susan Cochran, Darrel Cockrum, Herb Fenton, Liz Files, Jane Henschen, Jennifer Hoffman, Susan Johnson, Judy Mestel, Keith Simmons, Dennis Toth, Mark Trail, Chris Valentine, Doug Webb, Dick Young and Instructor Wayne Arnold. / May '76

■ 1975-76 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM WINNERS

Mary Bourque, an 18-year-old English major from Mt. Vernon, and Harvey Neal, 38, also of Mt. Vernon, were honored as SARP winners for 1975-76. They were selected from 11 nominees as the two who have made the most notable progress toward career goals and have shown outstanding leadership qualities through participation in both campus and community activities.

They will be recognized during the Honors Day Convocation in May and will be competing in one of six district competitions statewide to move on to state competition. Cash awards are for \$100 at the college level, \$250 at district and \$1,000 for both a male and female state winner.

MARY BOURQUE – When told of her win, Bourque said she was “really honored. It was a very pleasant surprise.”

A freshman, she has played active roles both in school functions as well as community service. She has done volunteer work for the Mt. Vernon Youth Center, Drug Rehabilitation Clinic and a nursing home. She also performs with the Rend Lake College Civic Symphony and the College State Band.

Bourque plans to attend Sangamon State University in Springfield after graduating from RLC to pursue a career in English Education.

HARVEY NEAL – The “nontraditional” student is employed in Mt. Vernon by the Water Department at the Water Treatment Plant. Neal was scheduled to graduate after completing summer school classes.

He indicated he had no idea he could ever win something like the SARP award. “This is one of the greatest things that has ever happened to me,” he commented.

Neal is a member of Modern Woodsmen Insurance Group and has been active with youth programs, including YMCA Indian Princesses with his daughter.

■ GLORIA JO SLOAN

The RLC Alumna from McLeansboro, an Agricultural Industries major, was recipient of the “Outstanding Senior in Agriculture” Award for 1975-76 at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

The annual award is sponsored by the Illinois Agriculture Association and was presented to Sloan by Red Bud’s Carl Guebert, Illinois Farm Bureau District Director. / May '76

■ WHO'S WHO 1976 EDITION

Ten Rend Lake College students received recognition in the 1976 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges*. Students were selected by a campus nominating committee for outstanding ability in the areas of scholarship, leadership and service. Honored:

- SCOTT ELLIS (Mt. Vernon)
Pressing Times Editor-in-Chief
“Blackouts” PT Newscast
Christmas Dance escort
- HYL A FARTHING (Mt. Vernon)
Christmas Dance Queen candidate
RLC Music Club Secretary-Treasurer
“Brigadoon” Chorus
“Bus Stop” role of Elma Duckworth
- GRETA GARBO (Benton)
Pressing Times Music / Dept. Editor
“Blackouts” Puppet Skit participant
“Brigadoon” Chorus
“Bus Stop” role of Grace Hoyland
Tarn '76 Yearbook Assistant
- LYNE MABRY (Valier)
Christmas Queen, 1976
Tarn '76 Yearbook Editor
- DAN MITCHELL (Enfield)
Student Senate President
- TOM MICK (Benton)
Student Senate Representative
Christmas Dance escort
Tarn '76 Yearbook Assistant
Warrior Cheerleading Gymnast
- LESA RHODES (Zeigler)
Pressing Times Art News
Student Education Association
Christmas Dance Queen candidate
- MARGARET SKINNER (McLeansboro)
Student Senate Representative

Pressing Times Student Senate News
“Blackouts” Downtown participant
Warriorettes Pom-Pon Squad
Christmas Dance Queen candidate

- GEORGE STARKS (Mt. Vernon)
Warrior Basketball Team
- BEVERLY WALKER (Benton)
Christmas Queen, 1975
“Brigadoon” role of Jane Ashton
“Bus Stop” role of Grace Hoyland

/ April '76

■ FLO DUDLEY

“Alumna of the Year” 1994

Retired Elementary School Teacher for Mt. Vernon City Schools District 80 (Class of 1976) recognized first at 1994 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association following summer. / See story in next section.

■ HOLLY McCANN

“Alumna of the Year” 2000

Acting National Director for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Office of Interest and Penalty Administration (Class of 1976) recognized at 2000 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association following summer. / See story in next section.

1976-77

■ DEB WHITTINGTON

A 1976 RLC graduate now attending Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, Whittington has been named the second-place winner in the Fifth Annual Mississippi Valley Poetry Contest.

Her winning poem, “Tonight Muscles Move in Whispers,” also was published recently in a book entitled, *Poet's Podium*.

The Mt. Vernon resident is majoring in Creative Writing at SIUC. /

■ VICKY ANN CLARK

A 1974 graduate of Rend Lake College, Clark is the author of an article which appears in this month's issue of *The Journal of Practical Nursing*.

The article was written while the McLeansboro native was serving as a student nurse and tells of an experience when her care possibly saved the life of a newborn infant. That experience showed Clark the importance of a nurse's responsibilities, she indicates in the article.

Clark is a nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital in Mt. Vernon. / February '77

■ 1977 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION AWARD-WINNERS

The annual award program sponsored by Continental Bank of Chicago in cooperation with the Illinois Association of Community and Junior Colleges honors one female and one male from 48 public, two-year institutions statewide. The pro-

gram highlights individual accomplishments. A local coordinator and panel of judges strives to select those students who have made the most noteworthy progress toward their career goals and have shown outstanding leadership qualities through participation in campus and community activities. Competition extends to regional (six districts) and state levels, with cash awards increasing from \$100 to \$250 to \$1,000 each for the eventual state winners. Recipients for 1977, selected from 12 nominees under consideration, are . . .

- KELLY MUMBOWER (Mt. Vernon) Albuquerque, NM, grad is a standout for the baseball Warriors, a Student Senate officer and YMCA volunteer (see *Who's Who* 1977). He received one of two "Blackouts" scholarships. Mumbower, 19, is a P.E. major.
- TERRIE SAMUELS (Sesser) Freshman Political Science major is an honor student and Warrior Cheerleader. Samuels, 18, volunteers in her community and has been a finalist in local pageants (see *Who's Who* 1978).

■ WHO'S WHO 1977 EDITION

This year six Rend Lake College students received recognition in the 1977 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges*. The students were selected by a campus nominating committee in recognition of their outstanding abilities in the areas of scholarship, leadership and service.

- GARY ARNOLD (Mt. Vernon) RLC Collegiate Choir / Concert Band Warrior Basketball Organist The Vocal Minority Pop Singers Second Baptist Church Pianist / Youth Director
- CHUCK ECKERT (Palestine / Hutsonville H.S.) RLC Board of Trustees Student Rep Phi Theta Kappa Young Democrats / Circle K Club
- BEVERLY LAWSON (Benton) Science/Engineering Technology Club "Ozone" Literary Supplement Editor Poems in "American Collegiate Poets" Faculty Wives Scholarship recipient "Overall Outstanding Achievement Award" in Miss Illinois Pageant Miss Southern Illinois Pageant 1976
- PERRY MORRIS (Mt. Vernon) "Blackouts" Scholarship Award Set Designer, "Diary of Anne Frank" Student Art Show Honorable Mention
- KELLY MUMBOWER (Mt. Vernon) Student Achiever, 1976-77 RLC Student Senate Treasurer Warrior Baseball Team / Circle K Club "Blackouts" Scholarship recipient

- Mt. Vernon YMCA volunteer
- LAURA STEWART (Mt. Vernon) Phi Theta Kappa RLC Student Senate President Tarn '76 Organizations Editor Circle K Club / Young Democrats

■ STUDENT MISSIONARIES

Brothers and Sisters in Christ (BASIC), a nondenominational Christian organization on-campus sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention, will send three student missionaries to the field Summer 1977. Gary Arnold (Mt. Vernon) and Beki Mattingly (Mt. Vernon) will remain in Illinois to fulfill their service; Kara Beth Neal (Mt. Vernon) will be working in Maryland. / Summer '77

■ CARL ROWLEY

"*Alumnus of the Year*" 2001
Team Leader of Building Management Systems for the Panduit Corporation (Class of 1977) recognized at 2001 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association following summer. / See story in next section.

■ JUDGE MIKE D. McHANEY

"*Alumnus of the Year*" 2010
Fourth Judicial Circuit Court Judge and former Attorney / Public Defender (Class of 1977) first recognized at 2010 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association following summer. / See story in next section.

1977-78

■ FRANCES RIGHTNOWAR

The non-voting Student Representative on the Board of Trustees, elected to the position in the spring, submitted her resignation in order to enroll Fall Semester at the University of Illinois. She was replaced by Freshman Mark Michalic, who was elected by the Student Senate. / September '77

■ S.I.U.C. CITES 14 R.L.C. TRANSFERS

Fourteen transfer students from Rend Lake College were honored recently by Southern Illinois University-Carbondale for grade-point averages of 3.5 and higher. / March '78

■ WHO'S WHO 1978 EDITION

Eight RLC students have been selected for listing in the 1978 national publication of *Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges*. Students were chosen by faculty, administration and student representatives considering criteria such as grade-point average community service, leadership in campus events and sophomore standing. They are:

- KAREN KAY "K.K." AUTEN (Benton) Women's Basketball / Volleyball Bowen Development Ctr. volunteer

Williamson County "Big Sister"
Logan Grade School Coach 4th-6th

- CHRIS BENETTI (Clinton, IN) Men's Basketball RLC Student Senate "Blackouts" Scholarship recipient
- JIM BYBEE (Universal, IN) Men's Basketball RLC Student Senate Vice President Member, Circle K / Lettermen's Club Coach, Hoosier Basketball Camps
- DAVE BOLDT (Woodlawn) RLC Baseball Team Circle K Club President "Blackouts" Scholarship recipient Member, White Swan Baptist Church Baptist Youth Foundation President
- TOM BROWN (Universal, IN / Jasper) RLC Baseball Team Member, Phi Theta Kappa Circle K Club Secretary-Treasurer Little League Coach / Umpire Khoury League / Heart Fund Drives
- JAN MALONEY (Dahlgren) President's List (4.0 GPA) Phi Theta Kappa Secretary-Treasurer Phi Beta Lambda Treasurer
- TERRIE SAMUELS (Sesser) RLC Cheerleading Squad Member, Phi Theta Kappa / Circle K RLC Collegiate Choir Sesser Women's Am. Legion Auxiliary Methodist Children's Home volunteer Runner-up, Miss Rend Lake, Miss So. Illinois and Miss Apple Festival
- SHARON HEIL (Dahlgren) Student Newspaper Feature Editor President's List (4.0 GPA) East Side Grade School Senior Citizens Building typist

/ March 78

■ SCOTT ELLIS BECKY HARVEY

A former Editor of *The Pressing Times*, Ellis has been named Editor-in-Chief of the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale student newspaper, *The Daily Egyptian*, for Summer Term 1978. He is a Journalism major who served Spring '78 as Assistant Editorial Director.

Harvey, former Circulation Manager of the P.T., has been elected to the Publications Board of the *Daily Egyptian*. / Spring 78

■ HAZEL LEE DARNELL

The soon-to-be summer graduate of the Rend Lake College Practical Nursing program has written an article that has been accepted for publication in the upcoming issue of produced in New York City.

Darnell's article, entitled "Will I Ever Become the Nurse I Want to Be?" is an essay describing her ideas, hopes and dreams from A to Z regarding her

struggles in becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse. / June '78

■ STUDENT UNION MISSIONARIES

Kara Beth Neal, a member of the local chapter of Brothers and Sisters in Christ (BASIC), will be returning to the mission field for the second summer in a row, this time along with another Rend Lake College student, Gayle Bruns. The local nondenominational group is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention.

/ Summer '78

■ RANDY RUBENACKER

"Alumnus of the Year" 2008

Co-Owner of Rubenacker Farms and 4R Equipment (Class of 1978) first recognized at 2008 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association the following summer.

/ See story in next section.

1978-79

■ GRADS COMMEND INSTRUCTION

Twelve graduates of Rend Lake College recently took time to give praise to the value of instruction they received while earning their Associate degrees.

The students took part in an Articulation Conference held at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale September 19.

In discussion with Betty Ann Ward, RLC Counselor, and Cecil Holland, RLC Veterans Affairs Coordinator, the students pointed out the importance and benefits of obtaining their two-year degrees before transferring to a four-year school.

According to Ward, graduates were enthusiastic about preparation they received while attending Rend Lake College.

Those students attending the Articulation Conference were Jean Bondi (Zeigler), Gloria Drennen (Ina), Kyle Ingram (Mt. Vernon), Melissa Outland (Bluford), Sara Partridge (Mt. Vernon), Jeannette Patrick (Centralia), Ronnie Peddicord (Wayne City), Anita Sinks (Mt. Vernon), Robin Stover (Mt. Vernon), David Whitney (Mt. Vernon), Kristie Martin Whitney (Mt. Vernon) and Terry Winters (Marion).

The purpose of the Articulation Conference was to disclose any possible problems confronted by students involved in transfer programs. / September '78

■ R.L.C. TRANSFERS NO. 2 IN STATE

Rend Lake College transfer students ranked No. 2 (in grade-point average) among 50 community colleges in the state.

/ October '78

■ STUDENT-INSTRUCTOR RATIO 17:1

The student-to-instructor ratio for Fall '77 was 16:1. For Fall '78, that figure is 17.6:1 – 18:1 for on-campus classes, 15.5:1 for those off-campus, according to the President's Report. / Fall '78

■ CHEERLEADERS, PLAYERS BOTH WIN

The Board of Trustees January 16 recognized the Cheerleading squad for being voted "Most Outstanding" at the recent Lincoln Land Holiday Classic, which was won by the Warriors on the hardwood in Springfield. / January '79

■ WHO'S WHO 1979 EDITION

The names of nine RLC sophomores named to **Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges** were announced at the recent Honor's Day Convocation on campus. Students were selected on the basis of their scholarship and leadership in campus and community activities. The following students were recognized:

- CINDA CHULLEN (Benton)
Student Senate Secretary
Phi Theta Kappa President
Engineering Club Vice President
Equal Opportunity Commission
Student Representative
- PAUL DAVIS (Pinckneyville)
Member of BASIC, Engineering Club
Bus Director, Oak Grove Baptist
Member, Pinckneyville Optimist Club
- SUSAN DERRY (Mt. Vernon)
Illinois Student Music Educators
Association President
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
"Blackouts" participant
Concert Choir and Concert Band
- TERESA KNOX (Woodlawn)
Student Senate Secretary
Circle K Vice President
Pressing Times Circulation Manager
Phi Beta Lambda Parliamentarian
- MARK MICHALIC (West Frankfort)
RLC Board of Trustees Student Rep
Member, Illinois C.C. Trustees Assn.
and Illinois Student Trustees
Student Senate Vice President
Circle K Lieutenant Governor
"Blackouts" Master of Ceremonies,
"Blackouts" Scholarship recipient
- DORIS MORGENTHALER (DuQuoin)
Interior Design Guild President
Recipient, Interior Design Scholarship
and D. Bernard Berg Design Award
Fall Carnival and Christmas Dance
Coordinator
- BRIAN SUMMERS (Benton)
"Blackouts" participant and
"Blackouts" Scholarship recipient
Illinois Student Music Educators
Association Vice President
Soloist with Community Chorus
and Collegiate Choir
Member, RLC Jazz Band that toured
Mexico in spring
Music Director, West City First Baptist
- KAREN WOODFIN (Benton)
Soloist for RLC Jazz Band

"Blackouts" participant
Illinois Student Music Educators Assn.
Collegiate Choir / Circle K

- JERRY WILSON (Ashley)
Warrior Basketball, two seasons
All-SICC / Region IV South All-Star
Warriors "Most Valuable Player"
YMCA Boys Basketball Coach

/ May '79

■ CINDA CHULLEN

"Alumna of the Year" 1992

Technical Manager for NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX (Class of 1979) first recognized at 1992 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association following summer. / See story in next section.

■ MARK MICHALIC

"Alumnus of the Year" 1998

Special Agent with U.S. Department of the Treasury / Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (Class of 1979) first recognized at 1998 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and as 1999 Co-"Alumnus of the Year" by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association the following summer. / See story in next section.

1979-80

■ TIM QUICK

The freshman from Mt. Vernon was appointed Lieutenant Governor for the South Division in the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District of Circle-K International, a student version of the Kiwanis Club.

Quick served previously as a Key Clubber and is an Immediate Past Key Club International Trustee. His appointment was made by I-I District Governor Tom Orgler.

Mike McClure serves as sponsor for the local Circle-K Chapter. / November '79

■ WHO'S WHO 1980 EDITION

Eight Rend Lake College sophomores were included in the 1979-80 edition of **Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges**. Honored on the basis of academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and future potential were:

- RONALD BROOKINS (Whittington / Benton Consolidated H.S.)
RLC Student Senate President
Warrior Basketball two-year starter
LLCC Holiday Best "Small" Player
- DOUG CREEL (Mt. Vernon)
Dean's List student
"Blackouts" Scholarship recipient
All-SICC Baseball Team
Warrior Basketball two-year starter
All-LLCC Holiday Classic (x2)
- DOUGLAS DUNBAR (Benton)
RLC Board of Trustees Student Rep

Warrior Basketball two-year starter
No. 1 golfer in SICC

- MIKE MAYER (Steeleville)
Starting pitcher for SICC Champions
Member, Lettermen's Club
- SHAWN McCAULEY (Mt. Vernon)
Dean's List student
"Blackouts" performer
"Blackouts" Scholarship recipient
Toured Mexico with RLC Jazz Band
- CRYSTAL MILLER (Enfield)
RLC Student Senate Representative
All-SICC Volleyball (x2)
Warrior Cheerleader
- KAYE SOUTH (Enfield)
RLC Student Senate Secretary
Dean's List student
Volleyball Team / Cheerleader
- SCOTT WAGNER (Mt. Vernon)
First-Team All-State Baseball '79
First in RLC history to hit .400 in fall
Member, Lettermen's Club

■ DAN SETTLE

The freshman in Mining Technology was awarded a scholarship from the Midwest Coal Section, the student chapter of the American Institute of Mining Engineers (AIME). Settle (Ina) won over competition from a three-state area. /

■ PHI BETA LAMBDA AWARDS

Three business students from Rend Lake College were award-winners at the recent Illinois State Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Conference in Springfield. Sophomore Alan Monroe (Dahlgren) will represent the local chapter and Illinois at the national conference in Washington, DC in July after finishing first in Business Law competition. Monroe was presented a plaque for his winning state performance. Scott Anderson (Christopher), who was runner-up in his bid to become Southern Area Vice President, received a third-place certificate in Salesmanship and was fourth in the running for Mr. Future Business Executive. Lei Anne Staley (Norris City) received a fourth-place certificate in Executive Typist, as did the local chapter's scrapbook. / May '80

■ BRAD GESELL

"Alumnus of the Year" 2007

Co-Owner of Gesell's Pump Sales and Service Inc. of Whittington (Class of 1980) first recognized at 2007 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association the following summer. / See story in next section.

1980-81

■ STUDENT SENATE DONATES SIGN

The RLC Student Senate helped with the purchase of a lighted, 5x8-foot display sign on the southeast corner of the Learn-

ing Resource Center lawn. The sign will be used to promote upcoming events of interest to RLC students. / October '80

■ GWENDOLYN NUSSBAUM

The nontraditional Secretarial Science student from Sesser has been selected to receive a Vocational Education Teacher Certification Scholarship from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. / January '81

■ WHO'S WHO 1981 EDITION

Ten students representing varied facets of campus life at Rend Lake College were honored by their inclusion in the 1981 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges*. Individuals are picked for the annual publication because they are considered among the country's most outstanding campus leaders based on their academic achievements, service to the community, leadership in extra-curricular activities and future potential. RLC students honored following their recommendations from the faculty:

- ANDREA BEATY (Ewing)
Phi Theta Kappa
Active in Music Department
Images Literary Supplement staff
- BARBARA DOHERTY (Mt. Vernon)
RLC Student Senate Representative
President's Commission / Equal Opp.
Images Literary Supplement staff
Phi Theta Kappa / RLC Times staff
"Effect of Gamma Rays" cast
- SHARON KAY EUBANKS (Pinckneyville)
Associate Degree Nursing program
Licensed Practical Nurse Class Rep
- ANNA MARIA FRANSCAVITCH (Mt. Vernon)
RLC Foundation Scholarship recipient
"Rendition" Yearbook Editor
Images Literary Supplement Editor
Phi Theta Kappa Vice President
Youth and Government Advisor
- SHEILA HILLIARD (Mt. Vernon)
Accounting major
- GUY INGRAM (West Frankfort)
American Industrial Miners and Engineers (AIME) Vice President
Thompsonville Ambulance volunteer
- JOYCE LOYD (Sesser)
Accounting major
Who's Who as Woodlawn H.S. Senior
- ELLEN McADOO (Opdyke)
Associate Degree Nursing program
Licensed Practical Nurse Class Rep
- BRAD RAINWATER (Wayne City)
RLC Student Senate President
RLC Board of Trustees Student Rep
Warrior Basketball Team
- DALE WEBER (Pinckneyville)
"Blackouts" Scholarship recipient
Collegiate Choir / Concert Band

Jazz Band / Jazz Combo
Member of a Jesus-Rock group

1981-82

■ ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

When Volume 1, Number 1 of *RLC Alumnews* was published for Alumni and Friends of Rend Lake College, names and brief bios were included for those first responders to our plea to join and keep in touch with their Juco alma mater and former classmates . . . / July '81

MT. VERNON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Class of 1958

- Larry D. Gentle
CPA - Overland Park, KS

Class of 1960

- Dr. Gary R. Sweeten
Christian Counselor/Educator - Cincinnati, OH

Class of 1965

- Wanda Lee (McLaughlin) Meyer
LPN Dept. Head, Restorative Service Rehab -
Coulterville
- Joyce Ann Pigge
Assistant Professor of Political Science,
Bethany College - Lindsborg, KS
- Mary E. Shields
Housewife - Mt. Vernon

Class of 1967

- Dr. James M. Houseworth
Dentist, Carbondale
- Cheryl S. (Martin) McClure
Day Care Director, Logan St. Baptist Church
- Mt. Vernon
- Jacqueline Ross
C.E. Brehm Children's Librarian - Mt. Vernon

REND LAKE COLLEGE

Class of 1968

- Frances (Craig) Ellis
Accountant - Maplewood, MO

Class of 1969

- James L. Aydt
Teacher - Kansas, IL
- Roger J. Drake
Farmer - Macedonia
- Brenda (Skibinski) Northcutt
Housewife/Substitute Teacher - St. Charles, MO
- Larry D. Stonecipher
Casey Jr. High Mathematics Instructor
Part-Time RLC Math Instructor - Texico

Class of 1970

- Nicholas C. Evanchik
Builder - Dana Point, CA

Class of 1971

- Martha DeAnn (Estes) Cash
Home Economist in Homemaking - Paris
- Evelyn Ann Dreas
Special Ed Elementary Teacher - Jacksonville
- Tonya Rae Ford
Teacher - Mt. Vernon
- Claudia N. (Spradlin) Michael
LPN, Cardiac Cath Technician - Ashland
- Sharon L. Sigwerth
Attorney - Carbondale

Class of 1973

- Roy Rieckenberg
Dairy Farmer - Steeleville
- Debra L. (Swisher) Stanley
Secretary - Herrin

Class of 1974

- Carol L. (Kellerman) Brand
Medical Records Transcription - Pinckneyville
- Mark Caldwell
Restaurant Owner - Texico
- Gerald Cox
Self-employed, Ag Production - Baldwin, IL
- Greg Hale
Teacher/Coach - Pinckneyville
- Agnes S. (Frerker) Hummert
LPN - Carlyle
- Mike Lee Jacobs
Factory Worker, General Tire - McLeansboro
- William Scott McMaster
Farmer - Sparta

Class of 1975

- Brenda (Mayberry) Douglass
Housewife - Broughton
- Katharine Louise (Oglesby) Jacobs
Housewife - McLeansboro
- Keith Mitsdarffer
V-P/Loan Officer - Tuscola

Class of 1976

- Hazel B. Andros
Grad Student/Instructor Clerical - Benton
- Barbara Helen (Buck) Hoppa
Junior Cost Accountant - Woodlawn
- David Lee Kassner
Teacher - Mt. Vernon
- Dan Mitchell
Farm Service Center Manager - Ellery, IL
- Thomas Mnich
Architect - Benton

Class of 1977

- Geraldine Osborne
Nurse - Mt. Vernon

Class of 1978

- Jim Bybee
Universal, IN
- Rosemary Y. Strieker
LPN - Trenton

Class of 1979

- Loretta J. Barnett
Student, SIUC - Carbondale
- Ramona Gayle Bruns
Student, Southwest Baptist - Pinckneyville
- Marc L. McCoy
Student, EIU - Charleston
- Paul K. Meeks
Real Estate Sales - Benton
- Mark Michalic
Student, SIUC - West Frankfort
- Rebecca Schmidt
LPN - New Athens

Class of 1980

- Daisy H. Browning
Registered Nurse - Mt. Vernon
- Doug Creel
Student, Jacksonville (AL) State - Mt. Vernon
- Judy K. Fry
Food Service Worker II - Carbondale
- Becky Harvey
Circulation Dept., Register-News - Mt. Vernon
- Teri L. Lankford
Student, Sangamon State U. - Springfield
- Gene A. Mitchell
Electricity Instructor, RLC - West Frankfort
- Russell Alan Monroe
Student, SIUC - Dahlgren
- Rhonda Reece

Secretary, Rend Lake College - Whittington

- Mark Schwitz
Student, Indiana Central U. - Evansville, IN

Friend of the Alumni Association

- Dr. J.D. Shields
Mt. Vernon Township H.S. Superintendent

In Memory

- Donald Alan Robb
RLC Class of 1971

■ JOHN J. DOHERTY

The RLC sophomore is the recipient of a Chemical Rubber Company Press Chemistry Achievement Award. The national program annually honors students for high achievement in chemistry, according to RLC Department Chair Larry Richmond. Doherty was chosen as the top chemistry student at RLC by faculty members, Richmond added.

The award-winner is a graduate of Mt. Vernon Township H.S., where he participated in athletics and student government, and is a straight-A student at RLC. He already has been admitted to the Engineering School at the University of Illinois for Fall Semester. / May '82

■ WHO'S WHO 1982 EDITION

Thirteen representatives from Rend Lake College were honored in the 1982 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges*. Among those recognized as outstanding campus leaders by the annual publication are Angela R. Deitz and Becky L. Heard, who were "President's Scholarship" recipients the first year such awards were presented by the RLC Foundation, and Randal Todd Herrin, student representative on the RLC Board of Trustees.

- ANGELA R. DEITZ (Mt. Vernon)
"President's Scholarship" recipient
Science Department Student-Worker
- BECKY L. HEARD (Benton)
"President's Scholarship" recipient
Former JETS Contest winner
Phi Theta Kappa
Science Club / Engineering Club
- DIANE M. HEATON (Benton)
Engineering Club Officer
Franklin County 4-H member
- RANDAL TODD HERRIN (Benton)
RLC Board of Trustees Student Rep
RLC Student Senate Vice President
- FRAN L. HOLLENKAMP (Carlyle)
Associate Degree Nursing program
- NANCY G. JOHNSON (Dahlgren)
Nontraditional student
Phi Theta Kappa
Psychology Club Officer
"The Good Doctor" cast
Active in church work
- GERALDINE E. LUKE (Pinckneyville)
Associate Degree Nursing program

- SANDRA McCONNAUGHAY (Mt. Vernon)
Associate Degree Nursing program
- CHRIS V. McGEE (Wayne City)
Engineering Club President
- KEITH McKAY (Scheller)
Engineering Club Officer
Member, Chamber of Commerce
- DAVID NICK MYERS (Mt. Vernon)
Geology major
Men's Tennis Team
Youth for Christ organization
- LINDA L. SANDERS (Mt. Vernon)
Transfer student from Murray State
Women's Basketball / Volleyball star
Volunteer - underprivileged children
- KAREN TAAKA (Mt. Vernon)
Nontraditional student
Active in church work; member
of church co-ed volleyball team

■ ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Three area high schools are represented by the five Rend Lake College Essay Contest winners - Bob Hudson (Sesser-Valier), Tammy Hunt (McLeansboro), Jeron Jenkins (Mt. Vernon), Krystal Mitchell (McLeansboro) and Julie Stewart (Mt. Vernon). / May '82

■ LINDA L. SANDERS

"Alumna of the Year" 2004

Warden of the Federal Correctional Complex in Forrest City, AR (Class of 1982) first recognized at 2004 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association following summer. / See story in next section.

1982-83**■ NURSING STUDENTS DONATIONS**

Since practice makes perfect, it should come as no surprise to find Nursing students at Rend Lake College spending free time working on various techniques learned in the classroom setting.

Five new picnic tables on-campus help provide the additional work space, as well as a perfect setting for other college students and faculty members to enjoy a break outdoors on nice days.

The tables were built by members of the Maintenance staff through donations made by both the Practical Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing students.

/ November '82

**■ CAROL DILLEY
JANET RANEY**

Two actresses from Mt. Vernon with Rend Lake College ties continue to find success in their chosen profession.

Dilley (RLC Class of '75) is currently appearing at the Water Tower Theatre in Chicago.

Raney (RLC Class of '72) recently made

an appearance on the "CHIPS" TV show, which will be aired in the near future. / November '82

■ STEPHANIE SKORCH

The Scheller resident became the first student to receive a scholarship from the Southern Illinois Employee Relations Association (SIERA), which hopes to honor a Business major annually. / Spring '83

■ WHO'S WHO 1983 EDITION

Five sophomores from Rend Lake College will be featured in the 1983 edition of **Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges**, the annual publication which honors outstanding campus leaders from more than 1,300 institutions throughout the United States and in several foreign countries.

- TIMOTHY J. AYDT (Dahlgren / McLeansboro High School) Mechanical Engineering major "President's Scholarship" recipient RLC Student Senate President President's List (4.0 GPA) student Engineering Club Officer Farms / Owns woodworking business
- DARLA K. BENARD (Benton) Accounting major RLC Admissions Student-Worker Phi Theta Kappa
- KATHRYN DEMPSAY (Pinckneyville) Executive Secretary major RLC Admissions Student-Worker Phi Theta Kappa **Who's Who** in high school
- KATHLEEN DOHERTY (Mt. Vernon) Dean's List student Lead roles in "The Children's Hour" and "Side by Side by Sondheim" Pyramid Players summer performer
- THERESA LYNN PIPER (Benton) Nontraditional 24-year-old student has attended RLC for seven years; now in Basic Nurse Assistant course Ward Secretary, UMWA Hospital Free-lance writer, *Southern Illinoisan* Former *Pressing Times* Editor Active in Friends of the Earth

■ WELDING CONTEST WINNERS

Mark Williams (Pinckneyville) captured individual honors in the first-ever Welding Contest conducted by Rend Lake College for graduating seniors. Williams received a new welder donated by a local company and a full tuition waiver for his first semester.

Other winners among the 33 participants from throughout the district were Brad Kelley (Mt. Vernon), second; Scott Kreger (Pinckneyville), third; Chris Sherman (Mt. Vernon), fourth, and David Keller (Tamaroa), fifth, all of whom were offered partial tuition waivers. / Spring '83

1983-84

■ FULL-TIME STUDENTS AIDED: 54%

Trustees were informed at their April 17 meeting 54 percent of all full-time Rend Lake College students are receiving some form of financial aid. / April '84

■ ROBERT L. BROWN

"Alumnus of the Year" 1983

Mt. Vernon Township High School Guidance Counselor and part-time Rend Lake College GED Instructor (Mt. Vernon Community College Class of 1966) recognized at 1983 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner. / See story in next section.

■ TIM WILLS

"Alumnus of the Year" 1996

Rend Lake College Associate Professor of Health Education, Athletic Director and Men's Basketball Coach (Class of 1984) first recognized at 1996 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association the following summer. / See story in next section.

1984-85

■ PETER JOHNSON

"Alumnus of the Year" 2012

Instrumentation System Engineer for NASA's Flight Avionics Division (Class of 1985) first recognized at 2012 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association following summer. / See story in next section.

1985-86

■ Dr. HARL E. RYDER JR.

"Alumnus of the Year" 1985

Professor of Economics and Director of Graduate Studies for Brown University, an American private Ivy League research institution in Providence, RI (Mt. Vernon Community College Class of 1958), recognized at 1985 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner. / See story in next section.

1986-87

■ Dr. GARY R. SWEETEN

"Alumnus of the Year" 1986

Minister of Christian Growth at College Hill Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati (Mt. Vernon Community College Class of 1960) recognized at 1986 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner. / See story in next section.

■ TRISH REED

"Alumna of the Year" 2013

President and General Manager of Up-Time Parts LLC / Navistar, Inc. Affiliate (Class of 1987) first recognized at 2013 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association the following summer. / See story in next section.

1987-88

■ IN-DISTRICT ATHLETES

A Rend Lake College Self-Study revealed Warrior and Lady Warrior teams boasted the highest percentage of in-district student-athletes than any school in the Great Rivers Athletic Conference. / March '88

1988-89

■ 49% IN DEVELOPMENTAL CLASSES

Recent high school graduates (Class of 1988) included 409 who enrolled Fall Semester at Rend Lake College - 98 were placed in Developmental Reading, 108 in Developmental Writing and 173 in Developmental Math, following testing; 51 percent of those entering RLC were not placed in any developmental classes.

According to a special report to the Board of Trustees, 28 percent of all in-district graduates are attending RLC this fall, compared in 22 percent in Fall 1983. / October '88

1989-90

■ I.A.E.E.E. STATE SKILLS CONTEST

Rend Lake College played host Saturday to the Illinois Association of Electricity and Electronics Educators and guests, including 160 secondary and post-secondary students competing in the 19th Annual IAEEE State Skills Contest.

Among those winning awards in the statewide competition were RLC students Mark Caldwell, Angela Calkin and Terry Hammock, according to RLC Instructor and Contest Director Bob Varis.

Caldwell, a first-year student from Dix, received the First Place trophy in the Basic Electricity Division for post-secondary entrants. McLeansboro Freshman Calkin was runner-up in the same division.

Hammock, a Mt. Vernon resident, placed fourth in the Solid State/Linear Electronics category.

A total of 18 RLC students originally entered regional competition, with five advancing to the state finals. All are students of RLC Instructors Charles Dickens and Varis, a member of the IAEEE Board of Directors who has coordinated the skills contest for the past four years. It was the second time in recent years the Ina campus has been the event site. / April '90

■ I.S.U. SCHOLARSHIPS

Illinois State University has awarded two of its top scholarship awards to Rend Lake College products Christine Harris (Mt. Vernon) and John Barnard Switzer (Mt. Vernon). / May '90

1990-91

■ GERALDINE PARINO

The RLC student from Royalton will represent Phi Theta Kappa scholastic

honor fraternity at the National Honors Institute in Minneapolis June 19-25.

Parino will be taking advantage of a scholarship awarded to the local Rho Xi Chapter to interact with nationally recognized speakers as well as faculty and other students from all over the U.S. The scholarship was awarded to RLC during the National PTK Convention in Chicago in March for being the best "reactivated" chapter in the Illinois region.

"Attendance at this Institute is an honor coveted by students and faculty alike, because of the prestige of the presenters and the interesting topics of discussion," RLC Sponsor Kathy Kirkpatrick commented. This year's theme: "The Paradox of Freedom: A Global Dilemma."

"Geraldine will be able to bring ideas about the topics back to RLC and help organize our local activities since she also will be the chapter President for 1991-92," added Kirkpatrick. / June '91

■ JIMMIE MALONE

JASON NEWELL

The Illinois Community College Board, through Executive Director Cary A. Israel, thanked one Rend Lake College representative for serving and welcomed another in regard to their involvement with the ICCB Student Advisory Board.

Jimmie Malone of Mt. Vernon was a member in 1990-91 – along with another RLC representative, Doris Troutt – and completed his tenure just as Jason Newell (Belle Rive) was arriving on the scene for 1991-92.

"Student Advisory Committee members are an important link in our system," Israel commented. "The student perspective is crucial in helping us deliver quality, community-based education. In addition, keeping students informed about educational issues and policies under consideration by the Board is vital to student success." / June '91

1991-92

■ CAROL DILLEY-JAUDES

The former RLC "Alumna of the Year," a St. Louis actress, appeared Friday night (October 25) in a dramatization on "America's Most Wanted" program. She played the part of a murderer's wife on the Fox Network production. The episode was filmed in St. Louis because the murderer is from that city.

It was the first appearance on national television for Dilley-Jaudes, who acts with a repertory theatre and appears in telecommercials in the St. Louis area.

Previously in her career, Dilley-Jaudes was a member of the cast of "Cats," the long-running stage hit on Broadway in New York City. / October '91

■ JASON CRABTREE

The Rend Lake College student was presented a plaque recently by Mt. Vernon Mayor Rolland Lewis for Crabtree's winning design of a sign on Interstate 64 near East St. Louis promoting local tourism.

/ December '91

■ TERRY WILKERSON

The RLC Ag Production student from McLeansboro has won a one-year scholarship to Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Thanks to a 4.0 GPA, Wilkerson claimed the \$2,500 award by having the highest GPA among incoming School of Agriculture transfer students at the February 15 College Guest Day. / April '92

1992-93

■ AG PRODUCTS AT S.I.U.C.

Rend Lake College grad Chad Kern of Whittington has been selected as one of 10 "1992-93 Agbassadors" for the College of Agriculture, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

In addition, recent RLC grads Terry Wilkerson (Dahlgren) and Jason Newell (Belle Rive) have been selected as Student Representatives on the SIUC College of Ag Advisory Council.

Kern, who graduated from RLC in 1990 with an AAS Degree in Ag Mechanics, also is a member of the Ag Council and has served as President of the Agricultural Mechanization Club, according to a brochure featuring the program's "Cream of the Crop."

A senior, Kern is a member of Alpha Zeta honorary Ag fraternity and has earned a spot on the Dean's List. He interned last summer with GROWMARK.

"Agbassadors" visit high schools and two-year colleges to speak about Ag opportunities (including Forestry and Food and Nutrition), in addition to giving tours and advising prospective students on campus visits.

Both Wilkerson and Newell graduated from RLC last spring in Ag Production and were named 1992 Co-"Outstanding Agriculture Student." / September '92

1993-94

■ JOHN KABAT

RLC Graduate John Kabat has been named the 1994 "Outstanding Agriculture Teacher of Illinois."

■ Dr. BRIAN S. KERN

"Alumnus of the Year" 2015

Distinguished Academic All-America standout for Warrior Baseball and Basketball teams (Class of 1994) is Orthopaedic Surgeon with Orthopaedic Institute of Western Kentucky in Paducah. Recognized at 2015 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner. / See story in next section.

1994-95

■ BRIAN GREER

Recently named Agriculture "Student of the Year" Brian Greer (Pinckneyville) captured the Illinois State Vocational Industrial Clubs of America Leadership Conference and Skills Olympics in Ag Mechanics. / Spring '95

■ DAYNA HARTLEY

The RLC product from Centralia was recipient of the Eastern Illinois University "Alumni Merit" Art Award. / Spring '95

1995-96

■ BIG MUDDY RIVER STUDENTS

Three students in the Electronics Technology program at Big Muddy River Correctional Center received honors in the Illinois Association of Electrical and Electronics Education "Skills Contest," including first-place in the Solid State/Linear Division.

The statewide skills contest is open to all secondary and postsecondary students enrolled in high school, area vocational centers, community colleges and four-year colleges.

In addition to the first in Solid State/Linear, BMRCC students also claimed a fifth-place in AC/DC competition and a sixth in Basic Electricity.

Debbie Greathouse is the instructor. Participants qualified with a written exam administered regionally in March, then advanced to the state level with both written and practical exams. / April '96

1996-97

■ ROBERT KIEFER

An Agriculture major who was recipient of the RLC Foundation Scholarship for an outstanding returning student, Kiefer has been awarded a \$2,500 Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Academic Scholarship for 1997-98. The Belle Rive resident currently is serving as Vice President of the RLC Student Senate. / April '97

■ 77% FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENTS

According to a report compiled by Financial Aid, slightly more than three out of every four 1997 Rend Lake College graduates – 77 percent – were recipients of some type of assistance while completing their studies. Percentages by degree – Associate in Arts, 74%; Associate in Science, 78%; Associate in Applied Science, 75%; Associate Degree in Nursing, 79%; Practical Nursing, 86%.

Approximately 64 percent of all students enrolled received financial aid.

Rend Lake College already has processed \$3.5 million in financial aid for the current academic year. / June '97

■ **JIM MUIR**

"Alumnus of the Year" 2009

Magazine Publisher, Radio Broadcaster and former Newspaper Editor/Columnist (Class of 1997) recognized at 2009 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association following summer. / See story in next section.

1997-98

■ **FIRST FALL FEST**

The first student-oriented Fall Fest was held on-campus September 24, 1997.

/ September '97

■ **MUSIC STUDENTS ENJOY SLATKIN**

Near the end of Spring Semester, a dozen RLC students in Instructor Linda Guetersloh's Music Appreciation class took advantage of a rare opportunity to experience a Grammy Award-winning Conductor and an orchestra of international acclaim when they attended a concert by the Saint Louis Symphony.

The performance at Powell Symphony Hall on North Grand Boulevard featured an operatic Overture to *Rienzi* by Wagner, a Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra by Joseph Schwantner and Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 43, by Sibelius.

Of special interest, however, was the return engagement of Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin. In demand worldwide as a guest conductor of both orchestral and operatic repertoire, he enjoyed a highly successful tenure with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra between 1979 and May 1996.

Maestro Slatkin is now the National Symphony Orchestra Music Director.

The student delegation was comprised of Dustin Cammack (Texico), Paula Clouse (Mt. Vernon), Nikki Cochrum (Benton), Olivia Dalmasso (Mt. Vernon), Dorothy Feira (Sesser), Kent Gwaltney (Benton), April Kowalski (Scheller), Jenelle Nipper (Enfield), Denise Phemister (Mt. Vernon), Vera Whiteside (Mt. Vernon), Amy Willett (McLeansboro) and Shannon Willett (McLeansboro).

The college provided assistance and transportation for those who chose to participate. / May '98

■ **LINDA KRUTSINGER**

RLC graduate Linda Krutsinger, who helped Therese Howard start the "Students for Students Art Fair" and served as Editor of the *RLC Times*, was presented with two major awards from the School of Journalism at SIU-Carbondale.

The Charles C. Clayton Scholarship is given annually to the individual who exhibits outstanding scholastic skills, career potential and a strong dedication to the community.

Krutsinger won that and the William

Harmon Award, given to a Journalism student who has worked for the *Daily Egyptian*, in recognition of an article concerning domestic violence. / May '98

■ **CHRIS JOHNSON**

"Alumnus of the Year" 2006

Distribution Center Manager for hometown Mt. Vernon facility (Class of 1998) first recognized at 2006 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner and by Illinois Community College Trustees Association the following summer. / See story in next section.

1998-99

■ **ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS**

Members of the RLC Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS), along with other Architectural Technology students and Sponsor Kevin Weston, will spend their extended Columbus Day holiday weekend helping build a house in Mt. Vernon through the "Habitat for Humanity" program.

Students will receive hands-on experience when they put prefab walls in place and then turn their attention to the trusses and roof on the home located at 17th and Cherry streets.

Weston got involved with "Habitat for Humanity" last spring. He is expecting 10-15 students to work alongside other volunteers. "It will be a good learning experience for our students." / October '98

■ **ART APPRECIATION STUDENTS**

Art Appreciation students of Associate Professor Therese Howard recently brought in \$780 through sales of their "wondrous Halloween creations" . . . decorated containers filled with candy, gum and other goodies. Prices ranged from \$5-\$15, depending on the size.

"The students are donating their proceeds to a Benton woman whose husband has just died from terminal cancer," Howard said. "Your continuing support of the projects my students do each semester has been great. I thank all of you."

Members of the Art League, with help from the RLC Foundation and many others, raised just over \$5,000 with the recent "Students for Students" Art Auction held at the Rend Lake Resort. / October '98

1999-2000

■ **POSTMASTER JIMMIE L. BONNER**

Recently sworn in as the new Postmaster for Mt. Vernon was Jimmie L. Bonner, who earned an Associate Degree in 1970 from Rend Lake College.

Bonner is returning to his hometown, where he began his postal career and spent nine years after his graduation from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale before leaving in 1982 to become Postmaster in Belle Rive. In 1987, he moved to a

similar position in Eldorado. He also has filled in between full-time Postmasters in Salem, Harrisburg, Herrin, Murphysboro and Flora. / June '99

2000-01

■ **DEBORAH FALING**

Former RLC student and part-time administrative assistant Deborah Faling was cited recently for individual achievement at the Governor's Workforce Development Awards Banquet in Springfield.

Faling was nominated by Jean Ondo, RLC Case Manager for the Illinois Employment Training Center-Satellite Office on the Ina campus.

The single mother of three worked at a minimum-wage job for several years and still qualified for food stamps when she first enrolled in the Office Systems Technology program at Rend Lake College through the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Client Service Center.

Although she still has not graduated yet, as a result of the training and experience working part-time with Peggy Slack in the Math, Science and Business Departments, the Christopher resident was hired as the Administrative System for the DuQuoin Beauty College.

Faling plans on completing her degree by taking evening classes. She was one of 23 Individual Achievement Award-winners. / November 2000

■ **JYL PEPPE**

The product of Bluford and Webber Township High School, who was a *USA Today* Academic All-America honoree while a student at Rend Lake College, was recognized as one of the 25 Most Distinguished Seniors at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale by the SIU Alumni Association and Student Alumni Council.

The award is given to outstanding students "who have enriched the University through involvement in campus activities" and/or the Carbondale community. / Spring '01

■ **RYAN NELSON STATE 'PACESETTER'**

In addition to recognition for "Outstanding Faculty" Award-winner Janet Miller and "Alumna of the Year" Holly McCann, RLC student Ryan Nelson will receive the "Pacesetter" Award at the June 15 Association of Community College Trustees and Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ACCT/ICCTA) Awards Banquet in Chicago. / June '01

2002-03

■ **HIGH-ACHIEVER AWARDS**

Trustees approved offering High-Achievers Scholastic Awards that cover the cost of tuition, fees and books for two years at Rend Lake College to in-district

high school students who attain a 27 or higher composite score on the ACT exam.

Administrative rationale: "The establishment of merit scholastic awards will enhance the recruitment of high-achieving high school students within the district. Our goal is to be competitive with incentives offered by four-year institutions."

At the same special meeting, the recommendation to waive the cost of tuition for in-district high school students enrolling in Rend Lake College courses likewise was approved. Due to enrollment limitations of dual-credit classes that can be offered at some schools, the administration wants to extend the opportunity for enrollment in college courses, according to rationale provided. / June '03

2003-04

■ CORRECTIONS HONORS ALUM FRANK

A Rend Lake College graduate now working at Pinckneyville Correctional Center is one of four in Illinois to be named Correctional Officer of the Year.

Mac-Shane Frank has worked for the Department of Corrections since 1998, according to *The Southern Illinoisan*. Frank covers several positions, including movement, tower, escort, infirmary, pod, gym, wing, inner and outer patrol and armory officer.

The newspaper reported Frank was praised by superiors for his display of strong personal commitment to achieve positive results in emergency situations.

Frank earned an Associate of Arts Degree from Rend Lake College in 1998 and later a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Administration of Justice from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Along the way, he received the 2002 Robert C. Radtke Leadership Award from SIUC's Psychology Department and was granted lifetime membership in the Psychology national honor society, Psi Chi.

Winners of the Correctional Officer of the Year Award receive a \$500 check and membership in the American Correctional Association. / May '04

■ LANA BATHON

Lana Bathon has experienced impressive success while studying Early Childhood Education in college. After winning several awards at SIUC-Carbondale, she is hoping to parlay that into an equally impressive career.

Bathon (Tamaroa) attended Rend Lake College from August 1999 through December 2001, studying Child Development. Since enrolling at SIUC in August 2002, Bathon has studied Early Childhood Education specializing in Child and Family Services. She plans to graduate this August.

While at Carbondale, Bathon has been showered with awards, including the program's highest honor, the Shirley M. Rogers Memorial Scholarship, the Bill G. and Marjorie Allen Student Award, the Glenn Abe Martin Student Award and the University Honors Award.

"She blew them all out of the water," said Tina Grounds, Early Childhood Education Associate Professor at Rend Lake College.

Even in light of all her success, Bathon said it was not her plan to continue beyond Rend Lake College and obtain a Bachelor's Degree. She indicated eventually she changed her mind, and after enrolling at SIUC found she was well prepared. Classes at the university covered much of the same material she had covered in RLC classes.

Although she has been a full-time student working three jobs, Bathon said she has studied diligently. She started at SIUC with a 4.0 grade-point average and has maintained it so far, she said.

Bathon singled out several individuals with RLC connections for praise, including Chris and Glenna Maxwell, Angie and Scott Kistner, Lori and Chuck Ragland, Sue and Jonathan Scatone, Marcus and Cassandra Rush, Angela and George Tomlinson and Robin and Debbie Yucus. "Without your support and faith, my dreams would never have come true," Bathon admitted. / May '04

■ STUDENT-ATHLETE GPA 3.1

"Most Valuable Player" and many other award-winners were recognized for their competitive accomplishments during the annual Rend Lake College Warrior/Lady Warrior All-Sports Athletic Banquet earlier this month in the Rend Lake Resort Great Room.

But they gladly shared the spotlight at evening's end with numerous academic-related announcements, including . . .

- The composite grade-point average for all 155-plus student-athletes at Rend Lake College Fall Semester was a button-busting 3.1 on a 4.0-point scale, thanks in large part to a learning enhancement support system and tutoring second to none in the college ranks, according to Athletic Director Tim Wills. The average GPA for all RLC students was 2.79.

- Thirteen members of men and women's athletic teams earned perfect 4.0 GPAs in the fall, Learning Enhancement Specialist Tara Sullivan said with pride.

- Women's Tennis Player Carissa Hallam (Mt. Vernon) and injured Basketball-Baseball workhorse Shane Garner (Sesser-Valier) were placed on pedestals as recipients of the prestigious 2004 Female and

Male Scholar/Athlete of the Year Awards. Hallam, unable to attend because her team was competing in the NJCAA National Championships, compiled a 3.94 GPA her first three semesters; Garner managed two sports, season-ending injuries each of the last two years and a 3.71 mark in the classroom.

An appreciative audience of approximately 260 participants, parents and college staff rose to the occasion once for a standing ovation in honor of Freshman Baseball standout Drew Millwood (Mt. Vernon). He is wheelchair-bound at the present time after suffering a major sledging injury this past winter.

Middle-infielder Millwood was one of those "MVP" honorees as well. A key player during the fall campaign, the sideline Millwood provided the heart, determination and inspiration for his teammates in the spring. His absence, along with that of first-ever "Perseverance Award" winner Garner on the mound, unfortunately was reflected in a less-than-stellar record for first-year Head Coach Bob Simpson & Friends. / May '04

■ BECKY TRAIL

A Pinckneyville woman will receive a helping hand in pursuing her Bachelor's Degree at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Becky Trail has been awarded the John R. and Eleanor R. Mitchell Scholarship for her outstanding academic record and demonstration of artistic promise from the School of Art and Design at SIUC. The award is worth \$1,000, according to Trail.

In order to be considered for this scholarship, Trail submitted a complete portfolio along with letters of recommendation.

Trail is a 2002 graduate of Pinckneyville Community High School and recently graduated from Rend Lake College with an Associate Degree in Graphic Design.

She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society and earned RLC Vice President's List status (3.5-4.0 GPA). Trail plans to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Design from SIUC.

She is currently employed at Craig Williams Creative in Pinckneyville. / June '04

2004-05

■ FREE TUITION IN PERRY COUNTY

Residents of the Perry County Housing Authority can now take up to six credit hours per semester tuition-free at Rend Lake College through a new Educational Assistance program.

According to the Perry County Housing Authority, the program began last year as a pilot program in DuQuoin, Willisville and Cutler through the John A. Logan district and was quite successful. The pro-

gram has been expanded to Pinckneyville- and Tamaroa-area residents through Rend Lake College District 521.

To be eligible, students must reside in the Perry County Housing Authority. Those eligible can register for classes either at the main RLC campus in Ina or at the RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus. No tuition will be charged for these classes. Students may take up to six credit hours per semester tuition-free.

Students receiving tuition assistance must complete all course work with a passing grade or they will become ineligible for a year. Students are responsible for books and other expenses.

"This is a great opportunity to receive college credit hours free. We hope (Perry County Housing Authority residents) take advantage it," said Guy Alongi, PCHA Executive Director. / August '04

■ ADULT EDUCATION HONOR SOCIETY

Rend Lake College saluted the best among its Adult Education students with induction into the National Adult Education Honor Society during a pinning ceremony held Thursday, May 19, at the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon.

Only the top 5 percent of all Adult Education students in the country are inducted, according to Jay Brooks, Director of Adult Education and Family Literacy for Rend Lake College. He said inductees were nominated for membership by instructors and were judged on attendance, cooperation and self-reliance.

Students inducted were Nancy Cole (Valier), Alma Curtis (Dahlgren), Tammy Fulford (Mulkeytown), David Gammage (Benton), Chelsea Holbrook (Royalton), Shanell McDaniels (Mt. Vernon), Don Pokorny (DuBois), Janet Raquet (Mt. Vernon), Nicholas Salatas (Ewing) and Charles Stewart (Mt. Vernon).

"This really is an honor," said Gammage. "These teachers will help you in any way they can. They just want to see that you have a goal."

After having earned his GED, Gammage will continue his education in RLC's Culinary Arts program. / May '05

2005-06

■ CAROL BRAND

Carol Brand, a Rend Lake College student from Pinckneyville, has received the Illinois Health Information Management Association Edna K. Huffman Award.

Each year, ILHIMA presents a monetary award to one outstanding Health Information Technology student from each accredited HIT program in the state. Selection is determined by student characteristics of leadership, academic and personal achievements and qualities.

HIT personnel play an important role in helping ensure health care facilities receive maximum reimbursement for treatments rendered.

The RLC program is offered through the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market. / September '05

■ BILL SHIELDS

"Alumnus of the Year" 2005

Assistant Professor and Workforce Education Coordinator at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale (Mt. Vernon Community College Class of 1958) recognized at 2005 RLC Foundation Annual Dinner. / See story in next section.

2006-07

■ KLEIBOEKER LANDS A.T.S. BLAUDOW

Max Kleiboeker, 19, of Carlyle is one of six community college students across the state to receive the Blaudow / Advanced Technical Studies (ATS) Leadership Program Scholarship worth \$14,000 to study in the Electrical Engineering program at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

"When I first started, I never thought I would become an engineer," he said. "But now I have such a good understanding of it because of my education at Rend Lake College." / May '07

■ BYERLEY, TATE LEND HELPING HANDS

Casie Byerley and Bret Tate, both of Mt. Vernon, recently returned from Alternative Spring Break, where they joined other students volunteering for public service instead of a vacation.

Byerley, 18, helped repair two homes damaged by hurricanes in Lake Charles, LA. Tate, 19, worked on a Cameron Parish home on the Gulf Coast. MTV, the nationwide music-television station, was on location capturing the entire experience for an upcoming documentary titled, "Amazing Break."

Both said the experience brought them a new-found love for labor that helps those in need.

Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps, the local United Way Chapter and the RLC Foundation pitched in to provide air fare for the two student volunteers. / May '07

2007-08

■ ANTHONY ZURLIENE

A Rend Lake College Agriculture student recently learned he will be awarded a scholarship from the Grain and Feed Association of Illinois at the organization's annual convention February 18.

Zurliene, 19, of Fairfield will receive the \$750 educational scholarship when he attends the annual convention at the Peoria Civic Center.

Zurliene is one of only a dozen junior college students throughout the state to receive a scholarship from the GFIA, which

will award nearly \$40,000 in scholarships at its 2008 convention. He is among scholarship recipients from Parkland College, Joliet Junior College, Lake Land College, Kaskaskia College, Black Hawk College, Illinois State University, Western Illinois University and the University of Illinois. / February '08

■ A BITE OUT OF THE BIG APPLE

Take 14 Rend Lake College students, place them in the Big Apple with their History Instructor and the result is a week-long lesson in culture, art, American history and life in New York City. That, in a nutshell, was SOSC 2101 – Topics in Social Science during Spring Break 2008.

Students of "Topics" were Jordan Bennett (Ewing), John Carlson (Mt. Vernon), Candace Draper (Mt. Vernon), Kaitlin Farley (Mt. Vernon), Brittanie Graham (Woodlawn), Hannah Haile (Belle Rive), Jade Helm (Mt. Vernon), Jake Ivanovich (Benton), Megan Karcher (Dahlgren), Leslie Kelly (Steeleville), April McCormick (McLeansboro), ReAnne Palmer (Mt. Vernon), Brent Reed (McLeansboro) and Hannah Simmons (McLeansboro).

They were accompanied by Instructor Henry "Buster" Leeck, Student Services Dean Lisa Price and Mary Beth Sniderwin.

Participants stood by the Statue of Liberty, strolled Times Square, visited the United Nations, caught a couple of Broadway musicals, ate at some "remarkable" locations, listened to live jazz performers over dinner, viewed the Big Apple skyline from the Empire State Building, toured downtown New York City, visited Ground Zero, toured Ellis Island and its immigration museum, enjoyed a comedy show at the Laugh Factory and viewed magnificent art at the Met.

The RLC Foundation provided \$6,600 – nearly half of the actual cost – to help make the experience a reality. / March '08

2008-09

■ DEGREES POSTHUMOUSLY

As a result of action started at the July 8 Board Meeting (first reading), effective August 12, the college will grant posthumous degrees in the event of the death of a currently enrolled student who has completed a minimum of 75 percent of course work required for a degree with a minimum grade-point average of 2.0 (on a 4.0-point scale). / July '08

■ DANIELLE WEINHOFFER

The Rend Lake College representative from Pinckneyville finished 13th out of 257 students from across the country at the Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology 2009 National Conference recently in Las Vegas.

Weinhoffer answered radiology-related

questions in the Student Challenge portion of the conference. Kim Robert, RLC Director of the Radiologic Technology program, co-sponsored the student outing with Clinical Coordinator Joan Laughunn and Assistant Bria Robinson.

Eight students made the trip with the three leaders. / February '09

■ **SESSER OPERA HOUSE PERFORMERS**

Five RLC students, two alumni and a future student will join Instructor Sara Alstat in the June 4-6 production of "HMS Pinafore" at Historic Sesser Opera House.

Joining "Josephine," their instructor, on stage are Cory Garmane (Valier), playing Ralph; Levi Overturf (Mt. Vernon), Boatswain; Quinton Sledge (Mt. Vernon), Sir Joseph; Kathy Krutsinger (Bluford); Emily Dixon (Pinckneyville); Audrey Blake (Benton), Brooke Erwin (Benton) and Brittanie Graham (Woodlawn).

"This is a wonderful experience for Rend Lake College students," Alstat explained. "Operetta is something we usually don't teach at RLC. They are getting the opportunity to sing music by one of the best operetta teams in the history of music, Gilbert and Sullivan." / June '09

2009-10

■ **MICAH RAINWATER**

The RLC alumna gave a presentation at the 2010 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center in San Diego.

Rainwater is a graduate student at Ball State University, interning at the Delaware County correctional facility in Muncie, IN, and plans to complete her studies this May. Her presentation was entitled "An Assessment of Indiana's Parole System: Factors Related to Success." / February '10

2011-12

■ **HOMELESS SHELTER HELP**

A group of Rend Lake College students recently assisted construction efforts at the Lifeboat Alliance future homeless shelter in Mt. Vernon. The group helped as part of a project through AmeriCorps at RLC. AmeriCorps volunteers included Emilie Ganieany (Bluford), April Phoenix (Opdyke), Angie Phoenix (Opdyke), Stacey Chobanian (Bluford), Dorothy Coker (Benton) and Tiara Richardson (Mt. Vernon). / April '12

■ **VICTORIA'S NOT-SO-SECRET**

The slogan, "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas," will not apply to Victoria Brown. After winning one of 50 slots for a free trip to Sin City, thanks to an essay she submitted, the RLC sophomore hopes to share everything she learns.

Brown, 27, of Pinckneyville, has been

selected for an all-inclusive visit to the 2012 American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Educational Symposium in June at Bally's Las Vegas. The event is part of the ASRT House of Delegates annual meeting.

Her mission is to develop career skills and share what she learns with fellow students in Radiologic Technology. She is on track to graduate in May.

Program Director Kim Robert said calling Brown "motivated" would be an understatement. "She is an extremely driven, intelligent and successful student in our program," said Robert. / May '12

2013-14

■ **ART LEAGUE BENEFIT CONCERT**

Rend Lake College students and community members are invited to start Fall Semester with a night of good music in the form of a concert by Rob Whisenhunt. The concert is scheduled for 6-7 p.m. tonight (August 19) in the RLC Theatre.

Whisenhunt, a former Rend Lake College student, is performing the concert to benefit the RLC Art League, with band members Tim Johnson, Tank Junkins, Michael Keck, Todd Northcutt, Mike Ogle and Jon Willimzig. Admission is \$5.

In addition to Whisenhunt's band, special guests RWKT, Neverwell and Liberty Bell Co. also will perform. / August '13

2014-15

■ **STRIVE STUDENTS VISIT**

Several students from the STRIVE program through Mt. Vernon Township High School visited Rend Lake College's Ina campus and the Studio RLC Cosmetology program in Mt. Vernon for a job shadowing experience.

STRIVE, sponsored by the two Rotary Clubs in Mt. Vernon and the RLC Foundation, is designed to encourage seniors to improve grades and attendance during their last year. Two students who have the best improvement are awarded one-year scholarships through the Foundation, said RLCF CEO Shawna Bullard.

"The STRIVE students did the job shadowing with the help of the Rotary Clubs, the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce and the Foundation. It's the first time we've done this activity, and there will be 55 to 60 students all over the county participating," said Bullard.

Jefferson County students participating were from MVTHS, Waltonville, Webber Township and Woodlawn high schools. Crossroads Community Hospital sponsored lunch. / November '14

2015-16

■ **PYTLINSKI 'EXCELLENCE' NOMINEE**

Outgoing RLC Student Trustee Claire

Pytlinski of Waltonville is one of six outstanding campus leaders nominated for the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) Gigi Campbell Student Trustee Excellence Award.

Pytlinski, an Ag major, has made the President's List each semester with her 4.0-point GPA and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and Sigma Phi honor societies. She also is active in RLC's Collegiate Future Farmers of America Club and was the 2015 Homecoming Queen. / March '16

■ **GRAD² MARCELA MENDEZ**

Thanks to dual credit and dual enrollment classes – and a hyper focus on her future – Marcela Mendez had the once-in-a-lifetime chance to walk across two stages Saturday (May 14) to become a graduate of both Rend Lake College and Benton Consolidated High School.

Mendez is one of a handful of students who accomplish this goal by enrolling in college-level classes at RLC during the high school years. The dual credit and dual enrollment programs offer tuition-free courses with a reduced rate for textbook rental for in-district students.

"I hit it hard my junior year with some general classes. I talked to Nicki Bowlin (former RLC Academic Advisor) and she told me how I could get college credit with some classes," said Mendez. "I knew someone who graduated from RLC her senior year, and I asked her how she did it. She told me about dual enrollment, and I thought, 'I can do that too,' and I just jumped into it."

"It was stressful because I play basketball and volleyball, plus I work for my parents and have a part-time job on the side. I've taken a lot of online classes to get them done and I went to campus quite a lot to talk to advisors about the next step. Thankfully, Rend Lake had good advisors who helped me along the way," said Mendez. "My parents raised me to be very mature at a young age."

Mendez plans to attend either Millikin University or SIU-Carbondale to study Bilingual Education. Her dream is to work in translating or teaching English as a Second Language.

Her parents are in the process of becoming legalized citizens. "I want my sister and me to be the first generation college graduates in our family. My mom always wanted us to go to school because she didn't have that opportunity in Mexico. She wants us to keep going to get an education, learn more in life and be something more. I couldn't ask for better parents. They've always been there for us and given us guidance."

/ May '16

Alumni proudly carry the RLC banner ...

You be the judge ... Hon. McHaney credits 'good fit' for sending him to bench

The Honorable Mike D. McHaney has come a long way from making \$1.90 an hour as a line boy at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. He credits Rend Lake College as the place where he realized his potential.

McHaney, the 2010 Rend Lake College "Alumnus of the Year," is a 1977 graduate who spent 24 years arguing civil and criminal cases in front of judges in state and federal courts. Now, he is the one on the bench and he is loving every minute of it.

"Sitting on the bench is the greatest job I've ever had," he said. "I look forward every single day to going to work . . . In every office I've had, like all of us, I hang my diplomas on the wall. I have always included my diploma from Rend Lake College. I consider the ("Alumnus of the Year") award to be a tremendous honor."

Judge McHaney, 53, was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court in July to fill a seat made vacant by the retirement of the Hon. Kathleen Moran. On November 2, voters elected McHaney to one of three At-Large Circuit Judge positions.

"I preside over cases ranging from a speeding ticket to a first-degree murder trial . . . from a small claims case for money to a contested custody battle and everything in between. The hardest thing, I think, is deciding custody cases and issues dealing with children and minors."

McHaney's last assignment was Clinton County's civil docket. Every Wednesday, he presides over the juvenile docket in Marion County. To give an idea of what his workload looks like: Data from the Illinois Supreme Court shows 66,056 cases were filed in the 4th Judicial Circuit in 2008, an average of 3,302 cases per judge. Yet to put everything in perspective, he is at the dinner table more as a judge than he ever was as lead public defender. "It is a little easier to balance as a judge," he said.

Mike and Laura McHaney live in Salem. They have four children: college students Timothy and Colin, who is serving in the National Guard; Meghan, a grad student at U. of Illinois, and recent Indiana University grad Daniel.

McHaney was first sworn in as a judge June 16, 2006. Before that, he served nine years as Marion County Lead Public Defender while continuing to run the private practice he had started as a graduate from Southern Illinois University's School of Law in 1982. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from SIUC in 1979. McHaney has provided lectures for RLC, Kaskaskia and the People's Law School. Other affiliations include Summersville Grade School Board, Illinois Judges Association, Illinois State Bar Association, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, American Bar Association and Illinois Lawyers for Criminal Justice. He was President of Jefferson and Marion County Bar Associations in 1985 and 2003, respectively. In 1985, he published "How to Sue and Defend a Small Claims Case Without a Lawyer."

After he graduated from Mt. Vernon Township High School in 1975, he enrolled at Rend Lake College. He said RLC was a good fit for him because he was not ready for a large university. Had he gone straight to a university out of high school, he is sure he would have been a "lousy" student and not have been accepted into law school.

"Rend Lake made me ready to compete when

I arrived at Southern. Because of what I learned at Rend Lake, and the education I got there, I graduated in the top 10 percent of my Political Science class [at SIUC] with a 3.86 GPA. Without that high GPA . . . no law school. Without RLC . . . no high GPA."

He also liked RLC because it allowed him to go to school and work full-time as a line boy at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. It was a job that came with a lot of responsibility for a young man right out of high school.

"It was a great experience," he said. "We would fuel all the airplanes and taxi them out of the hangars. I'll never forget, my salary was \$1.90 an hour."

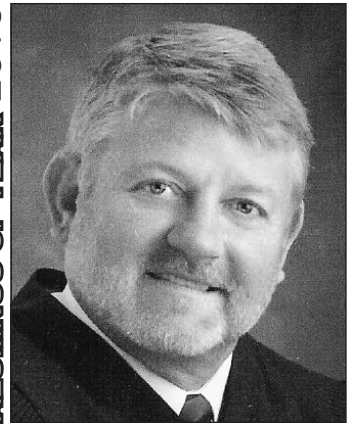
Added McHaney, "You have to work as hard as you play. You have to have that balance. And work ethic is critical to success, no matter what you do. With a good work ethic, it's yours for the taking. Without it, well, you just aren't going to achieve your potential."

He credited a number of RLC professors for helping him reach his potential, citing Richard Doherty, Eleanor Hall, Vince Cain and Evelyn Claxton. "I'll never forget the teachers I had at Rend Lake," he said. "(Claxton) had a way of motivating you to reach your potential. She was instrumental . . . her love of reading, language and writing."

McHaney said his parents, Lon and Shirley McHaney, were the cornerstone to every milestone of his career. His dad retired as principal of Dr. Andy Hall School in Mt. Vernon. His mom retired as Chair of the RLC Allied Health Department. His sister is a high school teacher.

From enormous case loads as public defender to hearing cases from the bench, McHaney is concerned about the "cycle of poverty" in the region. "That leads to a drain on social services. Abuse and neglect cases, crime, drug abuse and addiction . . . the breakup of families. It's all inter-related. To break that cycle – if there is a silver bullet – it's got to be education. That's got to be the start."

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 2010



Hon. MIKE D. McHANEY

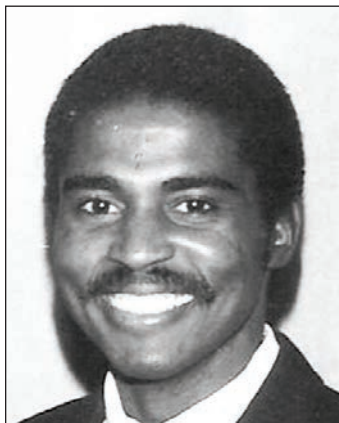
Mt. Vernon/Salem (RLC Class of '77)

Fourth Judicial Circuit Court Judge

Attorney – Former Public Defender

Nice-guy Brown encourages prep students, adult learners with patience

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 1983



ROBERT L. BROWN

Mt. Vernon (MVCC Class of '66)
Guidance Counselor, Mt. Vernon Twp. H.S.
/ Part-time Rend Lake College GED Instructor

Robert L. Brown, a graduate of Mt. Vernon Community College, is recipient of the second annual "Outstanding Alumnus" award presented by the RLC Foundation. A Guidance Counselor at Mt. Vernon Township High school since 1972, Brown also has taught GED classes part-time for the college for eight years.

"Bob is an outstanding individual, as his contributions to his work and his community show," noted Pam Sharp, coordinator of the Skills Center. "He does an excellent job working with the adult student who returns to school for the equivalency certificate. His students always rate him high. One of his GED students put it this way: 'Bob was encouraging and patient. He made my

math class relaxing, which made it easier for me to learn.'"

After graduating from RLC's forerunner, Brown earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Studies from SIUC and a Master's in Guidance and Educational Psychology in 1973. He taught two years at Edison Grade School and two at MVTHS before becoming a counselor.

He is a member of the National Education Association as well as both state and local chapters, the Illinois Guidance and Personnel Association and Illinois Adult and Continuing Education Association. He is a member of Rotary Club, Lutheran Family Council Board, Fair Housing Board, Jefferson County Credit Union Board and Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church.

Dilley: Only good things come to mind

"I do consider this a very great honor," said 1988 RLC "Alumna of the Year" Carol Dilley, a St. Louis-based actress who has performed across the country as well as abroad. "When I think back to my days as a Rend Lake College student, only good things come to mind."

The recipient recalled the many "special opportunities" she was exposed to as a community college student, particularly in her field. She was a member of the cast in "Brigadoon," the first production in the new RLC Theatre on the Ina campus.

"I honestly don't know if I would be where I am today if I hadn't been involved in that," Dilley told a packed house at the Rend Lake Golf Course for the annual dinner meeting of the RLC Foundation.

Dilley, recently married to well-known St. Louis trumpet player Chris Jaudes, capped festivities by performing a medley of Christmas songs. Radio personality Charlie Menees, on hand to entertain, called Jaudes one of the "finest 'screech' trumpet players in the U.S."

Dilley noted a lot has transpired in her life the past year. "I have a new family . . . a wonderful husband, a new daughter (Jacy) and a new home. And I count this honor as one of those good things to happen."

She graduated from RLC with a 3.9 GPA.

ALUMNA OF YEAR 1988



CAROL DILLEY-JAUDES

Mt. Vernon (RLC Class of '75)
Stage Actress, St. Louis / New York

Rowley looks forward to S.I. setting

Carl Rowley was born in Harvey, graduated from Tinley Park H.S. and now lives in Park Forest. His current position frequently takes the Chicagoland product to Georgia and as far away as Singapore.

But truth be known, he would just as soon be in Southern Illinois. "I always look forward to returning to the beautiful rural setting," said the frequent visitor in his grandparents' home in Sesser.

Rowley, 49, returns as Team Leader / Building Management Systems for Panduit Corporation. The privately owned, global, world-class company is known for innovation in designing, manufacturing and marketing of high-volume, standard wiring and communication products and systems, with 3,500 employees and sales over \$400 million. The Panduit Network Connectivity Group is the world leader in network connectivity solutions.

"Where I am today is all because of the start I got at Rend Lake College," said Rowley, who was a 25-year-old auto assembly line worker when he was laid off, "realized I had no real job skills" and decided to enroll as a non-traditional student in the Mining Technology program.

Rowley praises the "personal touch" of a community college education that "allows you to improve yourself . . . pull yourself up by your own bootstraps."

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 2001



CARL ROWLEY

Sesser (RLC Class of '77)
Team Leader / Building Management
Systems, Panduit Corporation

Johnson finds home, competition

Mt. Vernon Physician Leslie Johnson remembers his days as a student at Rend Lake College with fondness.

"When I came here about 13 years ago," Dr. Johnson informed a recent audience, "this place was quite a bit smaller. But I was from a high school with 88 students, and to have gone away to a large school would have been a culture shock for me. I know a lot of other kids felt the same way. At Rend Lake College, we found a home."

It is a mutual admiration society, because Dr. Johnson was given the "Outstanding Alumnus Award" for 1984.

Dr. Johnson graduated from the SIU School of Medicine and shares the Mt. Vernon Family Practice today.

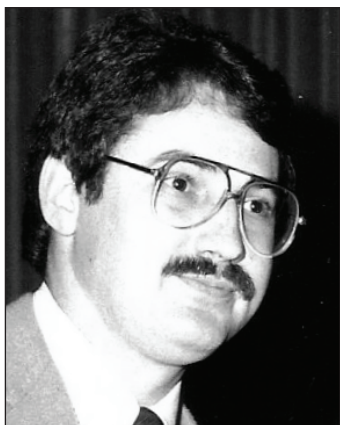
He is married to Dr. Kathleen Johnson, a radiologist.

RLC "found time for me," he said. "It also enabled me to get jobs on campus (janitor, switchboard operator, night watchman) so I could support myself."

Instructors impressed him the way "they prepared me."

"Part of the reason, too, was the competition I found here. Seven area valedictorians were here."

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 1984



Dr. LESLIE JOHNSON
Thompsonville (RLC Class of '74)
Family Practitioner, Mt. Vernon / Peoria

Dudley returned 'to fulfill a dream'

Previous winners include four doctors, a stage actress, a rocket scientist and a state senator. Yet could any of the nearly 10,000 RLC grads over 27 years deny the success story that accompanies 1994 "Alumna of the Year" Flo Dudley, the 65-year-old Bonnie resident who retired recently after 16 years as an elementary school teacher.

Dudley was an honor student destined to be valedictorian at Crab Orchard when she dropped out her junior year – with family's blessing – to accept a bookkeeping job at a local coal mine. Much later, she confided in husband Walt how much of a void that decision had left in her life. "He gave me 100% support to fulfill my dream."

Dudley remembers her finger shaking and voice trembling when she called RLC "to make an inquiry, that's all. I was scared to death."

She returned 29 years after dropping out with GED classes at RLC and earned highest honors at SIUC. "I was fulfilling a dream, but that was not to be a teacher. My desire was simply to have more education. That bothered me for 29 years; I didn't like the feeling."

ALUMNA OF YEAR 1994



FLO DUDLEY
Bonnie (RLC Class of '76)
Retired Teacher, Mt. Vernon City Schools

Future 'Wildcatter of Year' Gesell stayed home, got a quality education

A family-owned oil corporation based in Whittington, Gesell's Pump Sales and Service Inc., has become an economic powerhouse for the area. The path to success started more than 27 years ago.

From humble beginnings in Dad Kenneth's garage in 1980, Brad Gesell and brother Mark now boast oil-drilling operations overseeing more than 150 wells in Jefferson, Franklin, Williamson and Hamilton counties.

The start coincided with Brad's graduation from RLC.

"Rend Lake College has made a great contribution in my life," Brad admits. "After graduating high school, I felt a need to stay in the area; an important motivator for me was a part-time job. By going to RLC, I was able to continue my education close to home, hold down my job and keep with the plan of starting our own business."

"Mark and I were both actively working after school in the oil fields. If I had gone away to college, it would have been detrimental to the business we were planning."

Both brothers and their father, who passed away in 1996, contributed \$5,000 toward the start-up. (Sister Brenda, a former Lady Warrior cager, is now a partner as well.)

They started out primarily operating as a service provider, but soon thereafter the Gesells were looking into the

production side of the oil industry. Gesell's Pump Sales and Service was incorporated in 1986, primarily drilling for oil but still a bona fide service company offering three service rigs, backhoes, trucks and service personnel.

In 2006, the corporation which averages four new wells per year achieved a remarkable milestone by being named the Illinois Oil and Gas Association "Wildcatter of the Year" for the most significant oil discovery in the state.

Brad serves as president of IOGA and its 600 members and Gesell's enjoyed its "15 minutes of fame" while featured on the London-based Discovery Channel's hour-long "Wildcatter" television special. The RLC Alumnus was shown riding one of his Harleys, his passion.

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 2007



BRAD GESELL
Benton (RLC Class of '80)
Oil Entrepreneur, Gesell's Pump Sales

Teamwork always the key for rising Navistar / UpTime Parts star Reed

If you had told Trish Reed during her years in Southern Illinois she would one day live in the big city as the President of a company, she might not have believed you. Now, after more than two decades with Navistar, Inc. in Northern Illinois, Reed has driven up the ranks and is the President and General Manager of UpTime Parts, LLC.

Reed has been named the 2013 RLC Foundation "Alumna of the Year."

The Scheller native grew up with four brothers and sisters in Waltonville before coming to Rend Lake College in Fall 1985. She earned an Associate of Science Degree in 1987 before earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance and minor in Economics from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

She has spent 24 years working for Navistar, Inc., a leading manufacturer of commercial trucks, buses, defense vehicles and engines. For the first 20 years, she worked with Navistar Financial Corp., a Navistar affiliate that provides financing to help dealers and customers. She then became President of UpTime Parts, an aftermarket parts supplier for light-duty trucks.

In her four years in this role, she has reinvigorated a culture of teamwork and performance that has resulted in improved customer satisfaction, nearly double-digit growth in sales and a 90 percent increase in profitability.

Before moving on to these successes, Reed played basketball for the Lady Warriors, a legacy carried on since her grade school years.

"When I think about my time at Rend Lake, I look back and see what a key influence it was for me," said Reed. "I was initially accepted at Bradley, but then Coach Jim Waugh reached out to me and that helped me pay for my first two years in college. Between school and basketball, I learned a very important life lesson: a good team is one that works well together."

Reed said she received a lot of playing time for the Spartans, but that changed when she took the floor for the Lady Warriors. "There were a lot of adjustments I had to make, but regardless of my role, it was important that we were all one team," said Reed. "I've taken that lesson to every job I've had. I didn't appreciate it as much at the time, and I don't know if I would have learned it at all if not for Coach Waugh and Rend Lake College."

"There were other instructors who put me on a great path. My Speech teacher was one. I dreaded speaking and I was not looking forward to his class. By the time our class was over I thought, 'I really love speaking.' Now I make presentations in front of 500 people and I feel comfortable. My math instructors were great, too. They were some major influences on my career in finance."

After graduating from SIU, Reed said her goal was to

ALUMNA OF YEAR 2013



TRISH REED

Scheller (RLC Class of '87)
President and General Manager
UpTime Parts, LLC / Navistar, Inc. Affiliate

move to Central Illinois and pursue a career at a bank or financial company. She said the idea came from seeing her sister working at a bank in Sesser; however, something bigger was on the horizon.

"I started interviewing in the Springfield area, one of which was Navistar. I really had no idea what Navistar was," she said. "I interviewed for a trainee position, and they wanted me to go to Chicago for the interview. I was reluctant, but I did, and Navistar Financial offered me the job the same day I interviewed. My gut thought, 'This is the place to be,' and it has been a great 24-year career."

While at Navistar Financial, Reed did everything from collections and credit underwriting to sales, and worked her way up through 11 different positions.

Four years ago, she made the jump to the parts division and hasn't looked back since. "Basically, I run a small division that Navistar owns called UpTime Parts," said Reed. "I oversee all operations: sales, customer service, procurement of parts. We work with aftermarket and specialty vehicles, like UPS, our largest customer. Four years is the longest I've been in one position, but that's the great thing about Navistar. They keep us challenged and they continue to throw opportunities at us."

She has been a mentor to many Navistar employees, and has helped coach and develop numerous colleagues.

"I would say, for me and my background in sports, I've been very involved in team aspects my whole life. Being a part of that and knowing how well teams work together in achieving results is important to my position," she said. "I've taken on management and leadership positions and it's the same every time: How well is the team working together? You've got to have a common goal, strong morale and great spirit. You've got to celebrate wins and successes; people are more open to feedback in the spirit of being better tomorrow. You need a variety of people of different backgrounds and experiences who all value working together with a common vision and goals."

She has served as a sponsor for Vital Lives, a Navistar wellness initiative. She also is involved in the National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society. "I work a lot of hours, but health and fitness are very important to me. I'm usually at the gym or doing things outside like yard work or roller blading," said Reed. "I'm also passionately involved in the MS Society." As the Captain of D's Dream Team, she has helped raise more than \$29,000 for MS. She has also raised more than \$7,500 for Chicago-area AIDS charities with two 500-mile bike rides.

In the workplace, she has served as an advisor to the Navistar Financial Diversity Council and as a certified Valuing Differences facilitator. She is also an active Junior Achievement volunteer in DuPage County.

1999 ILLINOIS TRUSTEES CO-ALUMNUS OF YEAR

Special Agent Michalic a national hero and Special Graduate

The federal agent most responsible for tracking down the Oklahoma City bombing suspect was the featured speaker for the Foundation Annual Dinner as well as the 17th recipient of the Rend Lake College "Alumnus of the Year" Award. Former Student Trustee Mark E. Michalic, a West Frankfort native, has served with distinction as a Special Agent for the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms the past 14 years.

Michalic is credited with making the computer match that first tied Timothy McVeigh, who had been stopped for driving a vehicle without a license plate, to the explosion which ripped through the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building killing 168 people in Spring 1995.

"We got him!" Michalic shouted to a roomful of cheering agents soon after typing information into the National Crime Information Center computer at the Oklahoma City command post. "Sheriff," he had said earlier to the head of the department where McVeigh was being detained, "this is what I want you to do: Go tell that deputy to spin that ol' boy around and put him back in your hotel."

For his efforts, Michalic was cited in the March 24, 1997, issue of *Newsweek* magazine and has been presented both the ATF Distinguished Service Medal and the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award, presented by Attorney General Janet Reno.

From his colleagues with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the ATF Special Agent received the FBI Jefferson Cup with the following inscription: "To Mark E. Michalic with deep appreciation for your dedication, commitment and tireless efforts to protect the American people from crime and terrorism, and your extraordinary contributions to the cause of justice in the investigation and prosecution of the OKBOMB case. From your friends at the FBI."

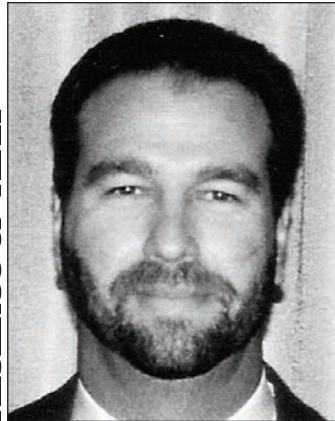
McVeigh was headed to court for a bond hearing which almost certainly would have set him free when the I.D. was made and the call placed to the sheriff's department. "We got lucky," Michalic said.

The humble guest told the RLCF Annual Dinner audience of 300-plus at the Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn, "I don't accept this (award) because of what I've done. I accept it for what you have done for me."

"In life," he added, "you never do anything alone. You do it as a team. Many of you out there . . . I am going to accept this award for all of us." With all sincerity – and he was quite convincing – Michalic commented, "All the other awards pale in comparison to this ("Alumnus of the Year"), because it comes from the people who know me, and they still decided to award it to me anyway."

The fact Michalic would emerge as a leader and national hero should come as no surprise to those who knew him as a Rend Lake College student majoring in Architectural Technology (urged to attend college by his neighbor, RLC Architectural Technology Instructor Fred Bruno). In addition to serving two years as Student Representative on the Board of Trustees (1977-79), Michalic was Vice President

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 1998



MARK MICHALIC

West Frankfort (RLC Class of '79)
Special Agent, U.S. Dept. of the Treasury

of the Student Senate as a sophomore, Illinois State Lieutenant Governor of the South District for Kiwanis-affiliated Circle K, included in **Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges**, RLC Christmas "King" and tennis team member.

He never gave his parents, George and Agnes Michalic, much reason to worry, either, until the morning of the bombing. His office was in the Murrah Building.

Michalic was safe, but he lost a number of close friends in the blast which touched a nation.

The younger Michalic has given his medals and awards for heroic acts to his father, who was stationed at Pearl Harbor the morning of the attack by the Japanese December 7, 1941.

Michalic is a Federal Firearms Instructor responsible for training agents in the use and function of all issued weapon systems. He also is a member of the Region IV Special Response Team, a SWAT Team comprised of specially trained ATF Agents whose purpose is to serve high-risk search-and-arrest warrants (for example, the attempted warrant service at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, TX, in February 1993).

Since April 1995, he has been a Case Agent assigned to OKBOMB (Oklahoma Bombing Task Force). That includes one year in Oklahoma City and two years in Denver, CO, on the prosecution team.

The RLC alumnus likewise has served on numerous Secret Service protection details for Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush, former Vice President Dan Quayle, Admiral James Stockdale and others.

★★★ ★★★★★ ★★★★★

In August 1999, Michalic was presented the "Distinguished Alumnus Award" by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association at its 29th annual banquet. The first RLC grad to be so honored at the state level shared the award with Comedian Jim Belushi, a former College of DuPage Student Trustee who was unable to attend.

Michalic admitted, "With the sobering thought of retirement to look forward to (in 10-17 years), my dream would be to be able to teach at a community college. I believe giving back to the community that has given so much to you is a duty and an obligation. I would love to be able to return to Rend Lake College and teach a law or law enforcement course to those from my home area. If future aspirations are dreams, I truly hope this one will come true."

WorkForce 2000! / Southern Illinois Edition

'If students would simply apply themselves... they would be amazed at job opportunities'

BY SHANNON WOODWORTH, PUBLISHER
WORKFORCE! 2000 / MAY 2000

WEST FRANKFORT – Unless you were already familiar with his accomplishments, you would think Mark Michalic was just a regular person.

He fishes and hunts rabbits – although not nearly as well as his dad, George – and he likes to sit down to a home-cooked meal prepared by his mother, Agnes.

He loves animals and has a black Labrador Retriever as a pet.

Michalic grew up in Southern Illinois, graduating from Frankfort Community High School before attending Rend Lake College, where he graduated in 1979.

Today, Michalic, a Special Agent for the U.S. Treasury Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), is considered a national hero.

Michalic received national recognition from U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and the FBI, as well as *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines, for his role in the arrest and conviction of terrorist Timo-

thy McVeigh, who was found guilty of bombing the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

Since that time, Michalic has received numerous other awards and recognition, including the 1999 RLC "Alumnus of the Year" Award and the "Distinguished Alumnus" Award presented by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association.

He has been honored by students and faculty at both the elementary school he attended in West Frankfort and the high school. He is highly regarded in his hometown.

"I am extremely proud to be able to say Mark Michalic is from West Frankfort," says (retired) Congressman Ken Gray (D-West Frankfort), who served 24 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. "He exemplifies what is good about this country."

In an interview with WorkForce 2000!, Michalic talked about how important a good education is and the job opportunities that exist in the ATF.

"It seems with today's booming economy and the advances in technologies and associated fields, a student has a vast array of professions to choose from," Michalic said. "If students would simply apply themselves during their high school and college education, they would be amazed at the job possibilities that can open for them."

Said Michalic, "When I look back at what was available to me when I was going to school compared to what is available to students now, I feel a little envious of all the choices."

Michalic explained, "At ATF, we require a college degree. We have many applicants with advanced degrees and prior law enforcement experience. We currently hire about 200 agents a year and have a qualified applicant pool that far exceeds that amount. With all the competition, it pays to have stayed in school, applied yourself and kept in good physical shape."

Michalic also speaks highly of Rend Lake College.

Dear Trustees: (In support of Michalic's statewide 'Alumnus' recognition)

I have known and worked with ATF Special Agent Mark Michalic for the past four years. Mr. Michalic was assigned to the OKBomb Task Force and worked in that capacity from April 19, 1995 through March 1998.

Mark performed many important investigative tasks for the OKBomb Task Force. As I am sure you are aware, he was instrumental in the initial investigation that led to Tim McVeigh's arrest in the Perry County Jail. Over the course of the past four years I have often observed Mark in his capacity as a supervisor for the OKBomb Task Force. Mark supervised the protection detail for all of the U.S. Attorneys during the trials of McVeigh and Terry Nichols. Mark also supervised a major lead project involving 12 other agents.

Mark exemplifies all of the traits that are necessary to be an excellent agent and supervisor. He is a man of courage, judgment, dedication and integrity. In addition he has a wonderful

sense of humor and was extremely well liked by those on the task force.

Patrick M. Ryan / U.S. Attorney
Western District of Oklahoma

★★★ ★★★

... Michalic has been featured in *Newsweek* and *Time* as responsible for apprehending one of the most heinous criminals of our time. Television crews are filming him for a documentary on the Discovery Channel...

... It was Michalic's tenacity and skills which helped keep McVeigh behind bars and eventually bring McVeigh and Terry Nichols to trial. I ask that the committee take into consideration the fact that every United States citizen felt the loss and horror of this ghastly tragedy. Mark Michalic's actions touched all of us and the resulting convictions were national victories for everyone.

David Edmison, Chairman
RLC Board of Trustees

★★★ ★★★

I have known Mr. Michalic since his time in the Architectural program. He was one of only two people to serve two years as Student Representative on the Board of Trustees and was Vice President of the Student Senate.

Since graduating from SIU in Criminal Justice, he has held many government positions of the greatest importance to national security. He has served on numerous Secret Service protection details for Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush, former Vice President Dan Quayle, Admiral James Stockdale, among others. He was a SWAT Agent at the Branch Dividian Compound in Waco, TX.

During his recent visit, he explained to students how the Architecture classes taken at Rend Lake College help him today with investigating bombing cases. He has not forgotten Southern Illinois and his community college.

Mark Kern, RLC President

Older student Peter Johnson launches career as NASA Instrumentation Engineer

Peter Johnson's degree from Rend Lake College was the launchpad to a stellar career. Literally.

The RLC Class of '85 graduate and 2012 Alumnus of the Year used his education at RLC and beyond to transform himself from Janitor to NASA Engineer. It took hard work and a determined focus on education.

"I worked as a janitor at Bethel Elementary in Mt. Vernon," he said. "A

social worker in Mt. Vernon, Ms. Watkins, arranged for me to be involved in the CETA program. That allowed me to work on an Associate in Applied Science at Kaskaskia College. But once I realized that degree would not lead to an Engineering Degree, I entered Rend Lake College."

He graduated with his Associate in Science and did not waste any time pursuing education beyond RLC. Two years later, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. While at SIUC, he ran his business – a television and stereo repair outfit called Johnson Electronics – to help support his wife, Cindy, and their infant daughter.

"Juggling a family, a business and school was definitely a challenge. From that experience, I have great respect for all returning students! Sometimes I think I am successful today because I was an older, returning student. I was ready to do what it took to get a good education."

He credited strong examples set for him by his parents when he was growing up. His father was a Chemist.

"I made a conscious decision going to RLC to pursue a degree in Electrical Engineering and, on my father's advice, took a broad range of engineering courses rather than specializing in a particular field. My father suggested companies would prefer someone with breadth and would provide specific, job-related training after hiring."

His mother was an Analytic Chemist. She stopped working to stay at home and raise Peter and his brothers. When the boys entered elementary school, she went back to school to be able to teach mathematics.

"I would watch her study when we came home from school and then watch her work hard grading papers once she became a teacher. I learned from them both, by example, that succeeding requires effort and that it is OK to struggle. I also found collaboration was much better than competition. That was one gift I took from going to a community college. I see communities work together for everyone's benefit. That is not always the case for a large school, where the goal seems to be competitive and

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 2012



PETER JOHNSON
Mt. Vernon (RLC Class of '85)
Instrumentation System Engineer
NASA / Flight Avionics Division

to be better than your classmates."

Collaboration is an absolute must where he works now.

NASA was never a goal. It was not even a dot on the radar until one day when he was walking through the basement of the Engineering Building at SIUC.

"There was a handmade sign, made from a cardboard box, that said 'NASA interviews tomorrow.' That led to an interview and a job offer for the Shuttle Human Space Flight program at Kennedy Space Center in Florida."

Johnson was hired as an Instrumentation System Engineer. It was 1987 – a year after the Challenger accident on January 28, 1986, when the space shuttle broke apart shortly after lift-off, killing all seven crew members.

In the early '90s, Johnson was promoted to Technical Lead for the Space Shuttle Orbiter Instrumentation Section. It has been renamed the Flight Instrumentation Section, and is now within the Flight Avionics Division.

"As an Instrumentation Engineer, my job is to ensure the engineers responsible for the various subsystems on a spacecraft can monitor and assess the performance and operation on the ground and while in orbit."

His work in that area earned Johnson a Space Flight Awareness Silver Snoopy Award, the astronauts' personal award. Eligible candidates have made contributions enhancing the probability of mission success. Johnson was nominated by Astronaut Jim Newman. He also received the NASA Exceptional Achievement medal for work to resolve a problem with engine cut-off sensors that resulted in twice scrubbing the STS-122 mission (Atlantis).

Johnson has been involved with 110 successful missions, starting with the post-Challenger return to flight mission in 1988 and including Endeavour's Intelsat capture, repair and release; and the Hubble repair mission, where he was asked to assist on an independent peer review of the Hubble Space Telescope replacement control unit/science data formatter that was installed.

"Education is the key to a full and rich life," he said. "I've always considered myself to live in a zen-like manner. I eat when I'm hungry, sleep when I'm tired and take life as life presents itself. But, it is education that allows many more and better opportunities to present themselves. I certainly would not be where I am today if I had been content with my first set of experiences."

His advice to students: never stop learning; remember it all starts with the fundamentals. He still reaches for Math, Engineering and Physics textbooks he used at RLC.

Cindy Johnson is a music educator. Their three children are all musically inclined. "I love music," said Peter. "That is part of my pride in my family. Each is a gifted musician, where I am an outstanding audience member!"

He sits on the Brevard Symphony Youth Orchestra Board and is on a "quest to remind people quality of life involves feeding the emotions via the arts, as well as the body with food. I'm hoping to transform the focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) to STEAM by adding Art back into the discussion."

Sanders in Federal prison setting and we could not be prouder of her

Two-sport standout Linda Sanders was the first Lady Warrior athlete to receive a scholarship from a four-year NCAA Division I program. And we could not have been prouder back in 1982.

Five years later, Sanders found herself in a prison setting, her life changed forever. And we still could not have been any prouder.

So proud, in fact, the Mt. Vernon native who has received eight promotions (nine duty stations counting her first) in 17 1/2 years of service in her chosen field of study and presently is the Warden at the Federal Correctional Complex in Forrest City, AR, was named the 23rd "Outstanding Alumnus of the Year."

Sanders was the first female Federal Warden in Kentucky from December 2001 until this past February, when she was named to oversee a new facility near the eastern edge of Arkansas, not far from Memphis. [EDITORS'S NOTE: From 2007-12, she was Warden at Lompoc (CA), a medium-security federal correctional complex; in June 2012 she was chosen to head The U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield, MO.]

Her responsibilities do not stop there. She is the single mother of a 12-year-old son, Jalen, and 6-year-old daughter, Jordan, and recently became the guardian of her great niece, Nasha Collins, 12.

"Stressful? It can be," Sanders says of her job. "I oversee the entire operation. To be in charge of a complex like this one, you have got to be flexible. Throughout the day, I'm having to deal with directives from the courts. We are the caretakers of the wards of the Attorney General.

"I spend half of my day or more – some times as much as six of the eight hours – on the compound with the inmate population, walking and talking with them to get a feel for the climate of the institution. You have to do things like that, because you have got to know what is going on out there to be able to address inmates' questions and concerns."

Rend Lake College helped prepare her for the work world she has taken by storm. She learned a lot mixing volleyball and basketball with studies during her college days. "Athletics was a means to an end," Sanders recalls. "That was about the only way back then to get to college out of my neighborhood. There were 10 of us living on a coal miner's salary. That doesn't pay for college."

RLC "was a good start. A good college experience teaches you how to be flexible, and with that background I've been able to survive 17 1/2 years in corrections.

"At Rend Lake I remember encountering the kind of people who could make a difference in your life. It definitely was a

ALUMNA OF YEAR 2004



LINDA L. SANDERS

Mt. Vernon (RLC Class of '82)
Warden, Federal Correctional Complex

good jump-start to life for me."

"Nobody can yell at you like Jim Waugh could," she laughed. "That was good preparation for anything I might be confronted with today."

Sanders earned All-Southern Illinois Collegiate Conference accolades in both sports. It was a chance to play volleyball at the NCAA-D-I level that enticed her to SIU-Carbondale, which recognized her in 2003 as one of 14 accomplished College of Liberal Arts graduates.

When there is a Wills, there is a way: No letdown following great year

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 1996



TIM WILLS

Benton (RLC Class of '84)
Associate Professor of Health Ed / A.D.
Men's Basketball Coach, Rend Lake College

The 1996-97 academic year was destined to be somewhat of a letdown for Associate Professor of Health Education, Athletic Director and Men's Basketball Coach Tim Wills. It had to be, considering the previous year his wife, Kelly, gave birth to their first child, Jordan, and his team was rated as high as No. 5 in the nation and won 20 games behind First-Team All-America pick Bryant Lowe.

As a first-year A.D., he also was responsible for a No. 1 ranked Men's Golf team that finished third in the NJCAA D-II Finals; a Softball squad that won its first Region XXIV crown and advanced to the National Finals; a Baseball team that was 35-14 and ranked in the Top 30, and a Women's Basketball squad that netted GRAC "Coach of Year" honors for former assistant Ronnie Ressel.

All that changed December 12. There can be no letdown now: The 33-year-old was recognized as the 15th "Outstanding Alumnus." Prior to graduating in 1984, the Benton native was an honor student and two-year starter for Warrior quintets that won 47 games, earning All-GRAC, All-Region and "Most Dedicated" laurels.

"I can't describe the feeling," said Wills, who came to RLC on a Presidential Scholarship. "You don't expect to get anything like that . . . definitely flattering. It is most gratifying, considering it is only given once a year, there are many deserving individuals who could be considered and it is coming from a college for which I have the utmost respect."

Before joining the RLC faculty in '92, Wills was an assistant coach at SIUE and SIUC under two previous mentors.

Success follows Coach Ron Smith, who continues to give, enhance lives

From days working in Southern Illinois fields, to nights under the lights in the Missouri Valley, Ron Smith holds the playbook for prospering in the land of opportunity.

Smith, the Men's Basketball Associate Head Coach at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, is the 2011 RLC "Alumnus of the Year." He will be presented his award at the RLC Foundation Annual Dinner December 1.

The 57-year-old Benton native earned his Associate Degree from Rend Lake College in 1974. He transferred that degree to Illinois State University, where he finished in 1976 with his Bachelor's Degree. From there, he went on to SIUC where he earned his Master's Degree in Guidance and Educational Psychology in 1983. He said choosing to major in Education so he could teach helped set the stage for his dream of coaching.

"I enjoyed school and school life as a student, and I enjoyed sports," said Smith. "... Teaching was one of the avenues to the love of my life – sports."

Another love of his life, he said, is family. He and his wife, Regina, live in Carbondale. They have three children – Tim, Matt and Brooke – and six grandchildren.

Smith grew up on a farm down Lake Benton Road, just a few miles from the RLC campus in Ina. He and his three brothers are all Rend Lake College graduates.

"It was a launching pad for me," he said. He emphasized what a luxury it was to be able to attend RLC for the first two years of his Bachelor's Degree, which he completed in eight straight semesters. Earning his four-year degree without respite is one of the things he accomplished with considerable pride. A good work ethic and ambition are traits he credits to growing up on the family farm.

"I wasn't always a great student. I wasn't always at the top of my class. By going through Rend Lake and getting a degree that transferred, I didn't miss a beat."

The RLC launchpad set Smith out on a coaching career that is now 35 years and counting, rising from the high school ranks to NCAA Division I. It includes five years at Coulterville High School, four at Benton Consolidated High School, four at Alton Community Schools, nine seasons at SIUC from 1985-94, eight at Northern Iowa and four at Iowa State. During his time as an Assistant under Rich Herrin at SIUC, the team was resurrected from a program on probation to winning four Missouri Valley Conference titles, participating in the NCAA Tournament twice and qualifying for the NIT four years.

A story in the *Southern Illinoisian* quoted Herrin as saying about Smith, "There is not a challenge that is too big for him. He knows what tough times are. When we started together at Southern Illinois back in 1985, we had lost all five starters from the year before. We had no money and were very short on talent. Ron had a big hand in recruiting and was a major reason why we turned it around."

By helping Herrin transform the Salukis from underdogs to top dog in the MVC, assisting UNI to its first NCAA Tournament appearance in 14 years and coaching a floundering Alton team to its first state tournament berth

in 42 years, Smith has built a reputation as a renovator. He was named SIUC Associate Head Coach March 15.

About a decade ago, Smith had an idea to combine a passion for sports and travel, and share them with others.

By then he had been recruiting internationally and taking teams abroad for more than 20 years. "I wanted to share those experiences with other people."

The idea developed over time and, last year, USA Sports Tours and Events was born. As owner/operator, Smith has already taken seven teams to Brazil and the Bahamas in a little more than a year.

"The trips and tours are much more than sports. The educational, social and cultural enrichment . . . are the things these athletes really take from the tours." Enhancing the lives of others is something he values and recommends for those seeking personal fulfillment, he said.

"There are a lot of ways people can find satisfaction with what they do. It starts right at home. Take your talent, give and help someone else in some way. You might think it's a very small thing, but whatever you have someone else needs and you have to go into it with that attitude . . . The older you get, the more value and satisfaction you get from giving. We seem to live in a take-take world. But if you want to feel good about yourself, give of yourself."

He said there have been many inspirational figures over the course of his career. He mentioned Creighton Head Coach Greg McDermott, whom Smith coached with at Iowa State, and Ben Jacobson at Northern Iowa. He also brought up RLC Hall of Fame Head Coach Jim Waugh. Smith played for Waugh from 1972-74 and helped the Warriors win the Southern Illinois College Conference championship in the 1972-73 season.

"Jim Waugh was such a big part of my life while I was at Rend Lake College. How you do things is shaped by your mentors and he was a tremendous example for me. He was the one who showed me it's fun to come to work everyday – win, lose or draw."

Another influential coach in his life was Herrin. "When I was 6, Rich Herrin came to my hometown. So growing up, and into adulthood, he was the only coach I knew. (Waugh) was totally different from Herrin. His personality is much more like my personality than mine is like Herrin's."

While at SIUC, Smith helped coach current Missouri State University Head Coach Paul Lusk and Salukis Head Coach Chris Lowery. While at Benton High, Smith coached RLC Athletic Director and former Warrior Coach Tim Wills.

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 2011



RON SMITH

Benton (RLC Class of '74)
Men's Basketball Associate Head Coach
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

'Thanks' to IRS Acting National Director McCann

It is not often Holly McCann gets complimented for a job well done. She is not used to hearing "Thank you" or receiving a pat-on-the-back for her efforts on behalf of her "paying" customers.

Yet it should be quite obvious the Benton native is good at what she does.

On December 7, 2000, McCann finally received the applause and adulation she has deserved all along when the Rend Lake College Foundation honored the Acting National Director for the Internal Revenue Service's Office of Interest and Penalty Administration as its 19th Annual "Alumna of the Year."

McCann, a 1973 Benton Consolidated High School grad, was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and was a Warrior cheerleader while earning an Associate in Applied Science Degree at Rend Lake College.

After three years as a medical secretary / transcriptionist for Good Samaritan Hospital in Mt. Vernon, she moved to Springfield and began working for the IRS in August 1979. She also earned a B.A. Degree in Accounting and a CPA from Sangamon State University.

A promotion in 1995 found her working for the National Director of Excise Taxes in Washington, D.C. In July she was named to her current post as Acting National Director.

McCann fondly recalls "individual attention from professors" at U. of I. (University of Ina) and encouragement to be a "free thinker."

ALUMNA OF YEAR 2000



HOLLY McCANN

Benton (RLC Class of '76)
National Director, Internal Revenue Service

Proud Ag Business graduate Sloan-Reel cites education roots

Gloria J. Sloan-Reel, with her Hamilton County farm background and "Outstanding Ag Student" awards from both RLC and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, insists her roots provided the stepping stones for her position in the corporate work force.

The Ag Business grad has worked the past 10 years for Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company of Research Triangle Park, NC. After serving as a sales representative and sales manager, she was promoted to Product Brand Manager three years ago.

"I take great pride in saying I'm from Southern Illinois. I also take pride in that I am an Ag person through and through" said the ninth RLCF Alumnus Award-winner, who is responsible for a sales-management staff of over 80 and marketing strategies for three international chemical companies.

In paying homage to one of his former agriculture students, Mark Kern commented, "If we could bottle her determination and confidence and give it to every Rend Lake College student, we would be giving them quite a gift."

Sloan-Reel is the daughter of Bernadine and the late Dwight Sloan. She is married to Dr. Charles E. Reel and lives in Mebane, NC.

ALUMNA OF YEAR 1990



GLORIA SLOAN-REEL

McLeansboro (RLC Class of '74)
Brand Manager, Rhone-Poulenc Ag Co.

Rehab leader Wisely honored posthumously

Rend Lake College honored one of its own posthumously for the first time with the naming of Laird D. Wisely as its 18th annual "Alumnus of the Year." The Benton product who worked and lived in Mt. Vernon for many years was a leader in rehabilitation for Southern Illinois. He was the founder of Therapy Resource Associates and Physical Rehab Works, with modern facilities in both of his "hometowns" and a Mobile Therapy Unit which services industry.

Wisely worked closely as a consultant with college officials during establishment of the on-campus Aquatics Center. The facility is considered the most

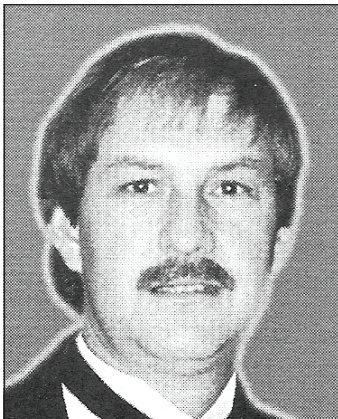
handicapped-accessible of its kind in Southern Illinois and includes both a therapy pool and whirlpool, in addition to a six-lane lap pool and convenient entry ramp. Special dressing room accommodations for individuals needing assistance are available as well.

His wife-business partner, Cathy, accepted the award on behalf of her late husband, who died September 22 at age 48 after a brief illness.

The honoree was a sophomore on the RLC basketball team in 1970-71 before graduating from LSU with a degree in Physical Therapy.

Wisely was a P.T. and a Department Head of Physical Medicine for Good Samaritan Hospital. The innovator and tireless worker started TRA and its outpatient division to work with nursing facilities and home care agencies in five counties, with 40 employees.

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 1999



LAIRD D. WISELY

Benton / Mt. Vernon (RLC Class of '71)
Late Owner, Therapy Resource Associates

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 1991



CRAIG M. SINCLAIR

Mt. Vernon (RLC Class of '74)
V-P of Advertising, The Walgreen Co.

V-P Sinclair proves he works for 'fine corporation'

The 10th RLC "Alumnus of the Year," Craig Sinclair, expressed his appreciation and then told those present, "I happen to work for a pretty fine corporation." But nobody had to take his word for it. The honoree proved it by donating \$2,500 from The Walgreen Company "to further its commitment to Southern Illinois and show appreciation to Rend Lake College."

Sinclair is Vice President of Advertising for the nation's largest retail drug store operation. He manages a 100-person unit responsible for advertising, promotion, merchandising and point-of-purchase

programs. The Deerfield-based company boasts 1,650 stores and \$7 billion in sales.

Prior to joining Walgreens in May, he was V-P of Marketing four years for J.C. Penney, Inc. Thrift Drug Division. Sinclair was the company's youngest officer and created an organization of 50 professional and technical employees charged with marketing a \$1.3 billion company.

The Mt. Vernon product also worked for Allied Paper Division of SCM Corporation and for the Cigna Corporation.

Sinclair challenged RLC to produce leaders by teaching creative thinking.

Myles oversees multimillion dollar budget for AT&T Network Services

As Manager of the multimillion dollar Network Services operation for Atlanta-based AT&T, Rose M. Myles remembers how her education at Rend Lake College prepared her for a successful career.

As the parent of a recent university graduate and a current junior, she realizes now more than ever what a bargain a community college education can be.

As an individual who returned to school after 27 years and as a part-time faculty member, she appreciates the diversity in the typical classroom today.

And as the 2002 RLC "Alumna of the Year," the former Rose Marie Bland welcomes the opportunity to return home to be honored. She was a straight-A member of the first RLC graduating class.

She will be accompanied by her

husband, Computer Programmer Ralph Myles, and joined by 89-year-old mother Bobbie Mae Bland and first-cousin Bob Brown, the 1983 "Alumnus of the Year."

Sister-in-law Dr. Lynette Myles cheered at RLC and now teaches at Arizona State.

Some will recall a *Pyramid Times* Feature Editor's column, "A Rose is a Rose ..." under a favorite mentor, Dr. Barbara Luchsinger. Others may know her as a student-worker for Registrar James Yates. She also served as SEA Secretary.

AT&T jobs for Myles since then: Customer Service Account Rep; Computer Programmer Analyst; Manager, Marketing Plans; Manager, H.R. Info Systems, and her current one providing strategic direction and leadership for deployment of domestic signalling technologies paths.

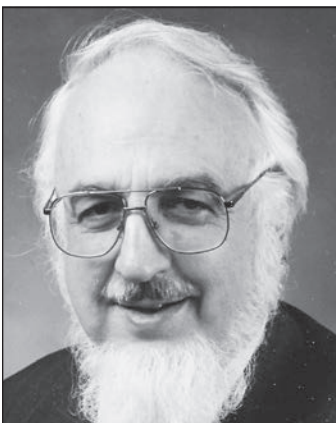
ALUMNA OF YEAR 2002



ROSE (BLAND) MYLES

Mt. Vernon (RLC Class of '68)
Manager / Network Services,
Atlanta-based AT&T

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 1985



Dr. HARL E. RYDER JR.

Mt. Vernon (MVCC Class of '58)
Economics Professor, Brown University
Later, Professor Emeritus / Dean of Faculty

Brown Prof. Ryder at apex of scholarly achievement

Dr. Harl E. Ryder Jr. is a Professor of Economics and Director of Graduate Studies at Brown University in Providence, RI. After graduating from MVCC, he earned his B.S. Degree in Accounting and M.S. in Quantitative Economics from U.I. and Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford.

He has served on faculties of several American universities as well as West Germany and Japan. His research projects and publications are extensive.

Dr. Barbara Luchsinger writes:

"There is a plane of achievement that reaches levels above what we call excellent. It is the *summa*, the performance that is enhanced, certainly, by the level

of natural ability that only a few possess. By definition, it must however reach beyond the blessing of God-given talent.

"Unstinting discipline of that primary mental ability; care of the body so the mind may be sustained; nurturing of the spirit so the ambition remains ever positive, ever steered toward achievements that lead to the whole betterment of man upon earth: such are components of the identifiable few who produce measurable achievement for the world of scholars and hosts whom true scholarship serves. Prof. Harl Ryder is at the apex of that achievement."

He was among five MVTHS Distinguished Alumni recognized in 2007.

Chullen oversees NASA project, 2,000 employees = \$1.059 billion

The road 1992 "Alumna of the Year" Cinda Chullen took to NASA's Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston and success in her chosen profession began, quite literally, at Rend Lake College. She recalls seeing a pamphlet outside a counselor's office describing NASA and its purpose.

"At that time, I didn't really think it was possible somebody from Rend Lake College could work for an agency like NASA," she said. But then again, an advisor looked at her schedule one semester and said she did not think Chullen could handle it. "I took that as a challenge and ended up making all A's that semester," added the '79 grad.

Consider the NASA challenge a success, also.

Today NASA Technical Manager Chullen is responsible for an Engineering Support Services Contract which involves 2,000 engineers and scientists and is valued at \$1.059 billion. (Translated, that is \$1,059,000,000.)

She has worked for the NASA Space Center since 1985. Chullen's husband, Joe Riccio, also works for NASA as a Propulsion Engineer.

The award recipient is the daughter of Coal Miner John and Ella Chullen. Her mother graduated along with her from Rend Lake College.

Cinda Chullen earned a B.S. Degree in Thermal and Environmental Engineering from SIUC and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Houston.

She then worked as an Engineering Assistant for Inland Steel Coal Co. in Sesser and for Commonwealth Edison utility company in Chicago as an Engineer at the Kincaid Generating Station. But in 1985, she was hired by NASA as an Engineer to help develop environmental control and life support systems for manned spacecraft.

Her engineering experience and business background have helped Chullen attain increasing levels of responsibilities since that time. Chullen was the Alternate Technical Manager from August 1988 until her promotion to her present position in November 1990.

She has received NASA Outstanding and Superior Performance Awards and was an "Outstanding Alum" of SIUC in '91.

In addition to still taking technical and management classes, Chullen teaches exercise and aerobic classes to NASA, contractors and families. She also volunteers weekly as an EMT with Clear Lake Emergency Medical Corps.

ALUMNA OF YEAR 1992



CINDA CHULLEN

Benton (RLC Class of '79)
Technical Manager, NASA Space Center

Former RLC Student Trustee ('75) becomes State Senator Burzynski

James Bradley Burzynski spent the 1974-75 academic year on the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees as the non-voting student representative, elected by his peers.

Today, his vote carries a great deal of weight.

Burzynski, a former Benton resident and Pinckneyville elementary teacher, presently represents the 35th District in the Illinois Senate after serving in the State House of Representatives from 1990-93.

A member of the Midwest Higher Education Commission and Vice Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Conservation Committee, Burzynski was saluted as the 12th recipient of the Rend Lake College Foundation "Alumnus of the Year" Award.

Student Trustee Burzynski was the second person to hold that title and play an official advisory role for other Board members following his election in Spring 1974.

State Sen. Burzynski is now a resident of Sycamore and represents the northern Illinois counties of DeKalb, Lee, Ogle and Winnebago.

He is a member of the Senate Education and Insurance Committee, the Pensions Committee and the Licensed Activities Committee. He also serves on the Illinois Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, DeKalb County Crime Stoppers, Sycamore Chamber of Commerce and Loves Park and Machesney Park Chambers of Commerce.

Burzynski received an Associate of Arts Degree from Rend Lake College and his Bachelor's Degree from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1977. His wife, Judy Sink Burzynski, a Ewing native, also attended RLC. They are the parents of two children, Beth and Ben, and actively involved with civic and church responsibilities.

The 1993 "Alumnus of the Year" is a former teacher at Pinckneyville Middle School. He was Farm Bureau Manager previously in Clark County and Clinton County and the Governmental Affairs Director for the DeKalb County Farm Bureau.

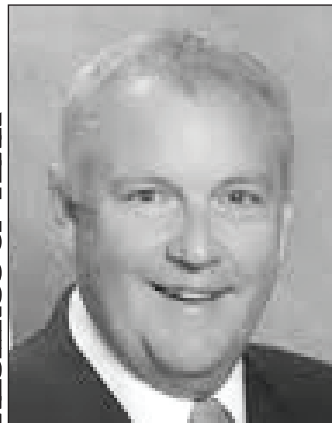
"It is always good to come home," admitted the elected politician, "and Southern Illinois is still my home."

RLC gave Burzynski "a jump-start" on my life's goals," he noted.

"You have an institution to be proud of. This college plays a very important role within the community."

The 35th District Sen. Burzynski serves includes six community colleges.

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 1993



J. BRADLEY BURZYNSKI

Benton (RLC Class of '75)
Illinois State Senator / 35th District

RLC answers ex-Miner Muir's call for help, offers life-changing encouragement

Nineteen years ago, a Mine Coordinator at Old Ben Coal Mine #21 in Sesser walked up to a bulletin board, put a thumb tack in a piece of paper and delivered the news to hundreds of coal miners that in two months time they would be looking for work.

One of those miners was a 6-foot-3, rough-around-the-edges, 37-year-old named James Lee Muir. He had worked there since five days after his 18th birthday. It was the only career he had ever known.

"I remember the day I saw the 60-day notice that the mine was going to shut down," he said. "There were a lot of guys . . . I could see fear on their faces. But I really wasn't afraid. It was almost exciting for me. I thought, now is the time to put up or shut up. I didn't look at it as something bad, but more like an opportunity to do something."

Now 56, the once laid-off Coal Miner (Muir worked a variety of jobs like shuttle car operator, belt maintenance worker, belt shoveler, utility tractor operator, prep plant worker, top laborer and plant repairman) has become an award-winning writer, broadcaster and owner of not one, but three magazines through his corporation, High Road Publications. On December 3, at the Rend Lake College Foundation Annual Dinner, the Class of '97 graduate will add RLC "Alumnus of the Year" to his list of honors.

"I called Rend Lake College the very next day (after the mine closed). Somebody might think I'm blowing smoke, but I really mean it when I say that the phone call I made to Rend Lake College changed my life. It set the stage for everything."

He could have waited to start school in the fall, but he has never been the kind to wait around. Instead, he signed up for summer courses.

"I always did feel like, not only was there something I could do, but there was something I would do. And I knew whatever I was going to be doing, I wanted to get started doing it."

He said he met some great people who gave him confidence at RLC and every good thing that has happened goes back to the initial phone call he made to the college.

He mentioned two instrumental faculty members from the college – retired English Professor Mike Mullen and Vice President of Academic Instruction Christina Kuberski, who was his Speech Instructor before becoming Chair of the Liberal Arts Division.

He will never forget her telling him to use his talent to pursue a career in speaking and writing. He said it was one of the nicest things anyone has ever said to him. Muir took it to heart. "She was right on the money," he said. "I always look at that as kind of a turning point for me."

Before Rend Lake College, Muir had not written anything for public consumption. That all changed after he contacted Mullen about a spot on the *RLC Times* campus newspaper. "He gave me a chance," Muir said. "I told him, 'If I can't do it, I'll tell you I can't do it.'"

Muir did just fine. Mullen gave him some assignments,

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 2009



JIM MUIR

Benton (RLC Class of '97)
Publisher - High Road Publications
Broadcaster - WQRL Sports / "Sound Off"

liked what he saw and asked him to come back to the paper his sophomore year.

Mullen eventually helped him get a scholarship and, as the Professor's student writer came closer to becoming an RLC graduate, turned him on to a part-time opening as a writer for the *Benton Evening News*. At the time, Muir was working three part-time jobs, including a serendipitous custodial position at the paper.

"So I met the Publisher one night while I was in there cleaning. He gave me a part-time job and I started stringing, covering grade school and high school board meetings . . . I kept my job as a janitor."

Not for long. Muir worked his way up to a full-time position as City Editor of the *Evening News*. He gave a lot of credit for this to Editor Danny Malkovich, who helped him get a job there. Eight years later, Muir was offered a position at *The Southern Illinoian*, where he worked as a News Reporter and Columnist for years before embarking on his new adventure running three magazines.

A chance meeting at Wal-Mart with Mike Mitchell resulted in Muir joining him on a high school sports radio show. A year later, when Mitchell left WQRL 106.3 FM, Dana Withers of Dana Communications offered Muir the opportunity to take over "Talking Sports" and re-brand it for a Saturday morning regional market. The year-round program is in its 15th year with Muir, who also broadcasts Benton Ranger football, basketball and baseball. "Dana has been good to me throughout the years," he said. "She gave me opportunities to expand programs that other FM stations don't."

As the voice of "Sound Off" Wednesday nights on WQRL, Muir introduces local listeners to hot-button issues in the area and across the state. The program he originated has twice been named Best Public Affairs Program by the Illinois Broadcasters Association. He is proud of that.

Muir won the Southern Illinois (Effingham south) Editorial Association's Charlie Feirich Original Column Award twice. It had not been awarded twice to the same writer before Muir, nor has it since.

In August 2007, Muir launched *Southern Illinois Sports Connection*, a magazine covering over 55 high schools. A year later he would purchase *Marion Living Magazine*, and in July of this year (2009) he signed a contract to publish *Saluki Illustrated*, the official magazine of Southern Illinois University Athletics. I.e., in less than two years, Muir was pumping out more than 15,000 magazines each month to readers in 12 counties through High Road Publications.



Dr. MARY K. BENGTSON
Scheller (RLC Class of '71)
Physician, North Carolina State University

Dr. Bengtson staff and team physician at N.C. State

Dr. Mary Kay Witges Bengtson will take time out from her duties on the Health Service staff at North Carolina State University and as physician for the Wolfpack women's basketball team to accept the Sixth Annual "Alumnus of the Year" Award from Rend Lake College.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Witges, the third of six children, all of whom are RLC graduates.

The Waltonville H.S. graduate was a member of the charter class of the SIU School of Medicine in Springfield.

Dr. Bengtson has been a staff physician on the N.C. State campus in Raleigh

since 1984. Medical care for the university's 24,500 students is through the Health Service. In addition, she is involved in sports medicine. Kay Yow, head coach for the 1988 U.S. Olympic team, heads the Wolfpack women.

Prior to that, she spent five years at the Purdue University Student Hospital.

Her husband, Dr. Neal Bengtson, is Assistant Professor of Computer Science at N.C. State. They have two children. She is an avid photographer and both are marathon competitors; she has five 26.2-mile races to her credit and placed first in her age in the Midwest Triathlon.

Davis stays close to home, in close contact with RLC

"I got the impression they were looking for a graduate who hasn't gotten very far," joked the eighth "Alumnus of the Year," Kevin Davis. "I'm still getting up each morning in Mt. Vernon and driving to Rend Lake."

To wit: the Mt. Vernon native has been Comptroller and Treasurer for the nearby Rend Lake Conservancy District since 1977; has taught part-time (Accounting and general Business) for the college the last 10 years; sits on the RLC Business Advisory Council; is a member of the Warrior Booster Club, and recently earned his MBA Degree on the Ina campus through the weekend program offered by Southern Illinois U.-Edwardsville.

His boss, RLC Foundation Vice President Larry Foster, presented the award to Davis, who then closed festivities by leading guests in the singing of Christmas carols. "He has had

my admiration for 13 years," said Foster.

"This is quite an honor for me," said Davis. "I thank you all." He shared the award with wife Jane, one of his classmates at RLC.



KEVIN DAVIS
Mt. Vernon (RLC Class of '72)
Comptroller / Treasurer, RLC

Humble Freeman V-P Dame: 'Why me?'

Donald H. Dame, Vice President of Human Resources and Government Relations for Springfield-based Freeman United Coal Mining Company, was "very appreciative." "The people of that institution gave me an opportunity I would not otherwise have had."

However, his first thought upon learning he would be honored as "Alumnus of the Year" . . . "Why me?" He said he knows many grads just as deserving but still considers it an honor. Dame chose RLC because it was close, affordable and provided a quality education.

Dame began his employment with Freeman in 1972, when he was hired as an underground, union-represented coal miner. In 1976, he joined the company's Education and Training Department, where he served in various positions of responsibility. In the early 1980s, personnel and employment were added to his list of duties, and later that decade, he became Director of Labor Relations for Freeman.

He was named Director of Human Resources in 1996. Two years later, he was promoted to Vice President of Human Resources and Government Relations. In this capacity, Dame is responsible for all benefits, personnel, labor relations, worker compensation, safety, training and education and government relations activities. He reports directly to the President and Chief Operating Officer.

Dame earned an A.A. Degree in 1972 as well as an AAS Degree in Mining Technology four years later from Rend Lake College. His father, Charles Dwight Dame Sr., served as Coordinator of the Practical Mining Technology Program in the 1980s. Dame also holds a Bachelor's in Occupational Education from SIUC.

He served on advisory boards for RLC and SIUC and has been Chair of Training Resources Applied to Mining, sponsored by Pennsylvania and West Virginia State universities. He serves on the Illinois Coal Association Board, which he previously chaired.



DONALD H. DAME
Sesser (RLC Class of '72 / '76)
V-P, Freeman United Coal Mining Co.

Former 'Ag Student of Year' Rubenacker promoted to 'Alumnus of Year'

Rend Lake College has named Randy Rubenacker its 27th "Alumnus of the Year." Rubenacker is the co-owner and manager of Rubenacker Farms Partnership in Dahlgren and 4R Equipment, a McLeansboro farm equipment dealership which dates back to 1987.

When RLC Foundation CEO Pat Kern called him with the news, "I said, 'I don't really know how I would qualify for that, but if you are asking me if I would accept it, the answer is yes.' It is an honor and a humbling experience. I really appreciate the consideration."

It is not the first award he has received. As a 20-year-old sophomore in 1978, Rubenacker was the second student in RLC history to receive the "Outstanding Agriculture Student of the Year" Award.

His training in the field began long before his education at RLC. Around 8, the son of Jody and the late Richard Rubenacker was working side-by-side with his father, who later became *Prairie Farmer Magazine's* 1983 "Master Farmer of the Year."

"I give a lot of credit to my father and mother," Randy Rubenacker said. "They were very proud of Rend Lake College and all that it does for the area, and they made sure we all used it. They had a lot of influence on what success my brothers and I have had."

Following the sudden death of Richard Rubenacker in 2005, Randy Rubenacker joined the RLCF Board of Directors as his father's successor. The Foundation Board has benefitted from his business expertise and community leadership ever since.

"The Rubenackers are an example of the full circle of giving," said Kern. "The circle began with the family business, 4R Equipment, offering scholarships and his father, Richard Rubenacker, serving on the RLCF Board. Randy attended and graduated from RLC and joined the Agriculture Advisory Board. He followed in his father's footsteps serving on the RLCF Board and continuing to give to the student scholarships and helping with Agriculture research at RLC."

Randy said one of the proudest things his parents ever did was to receive the RLCF Major Gift Award after presenting a grant to the Foundation.

"We all went to school there and he saw what I see, that many of our employees are graduates from there. Rend Lake College is a really great resource for the area."

Rubenacker Farms is a row crop farm operation of 11,000 production acres that has been operating since 1987. He serves as President of Prairie Tile Systems, Inc., a farm drainage installation corporation in existence since 2001, and Rubenacker Farms, Inc., an over-the-road and grain trucking corporation formed in 2000.

Rubenacker and his wife, Debbie, live in Dahlgren. She is a graduate of RLC, also. The youngest of their children, Robert, plans to study Ag Production at RLC after he graduates from high school in 2010. Daughter Rachel took some classes at RLC before moving on to the University of Southern Indiana, where she is a junior. The oldest, Rick,

took classes at RLC before enrolling at the University of Illinois, where he graduated with honors in Agricultural Engineering. He returned home and has made the transition into a management post for 4R Equipment.

Randy's mother- and father-in-law, Betty and Victor Rapp, were conferred Honorary Degrees by RLC after all eight of their children graduated.

Randy Rubenacker became President of 4R Equipment in 2005 and filled his father's vacant seat on the Board of Directors for Peoples National Bank. He is a former member of the RLC Agriculture Advisory Council; current member of the Hamilton County Board since 1997, serving as its Vice Chair from 2000-06, and has been the Haw Creek Drainage District Commissioner since 1996.

He was Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District Director for 14 years, from 1983-1997; Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commissioner from 1997-2006; served on the State Fair Advisory Board in 2003, and was Hamilton County Economic Development Commissioner from 1984-87.

As if all of the above were not enough, he also flies airplanes. Rubenacker has been a pilot for 12 years and became a Licensed Instrument Airplane Pilot in 2003.

He said he feels he is accepting the "Alumnus of the Year" Award on behalf of his business partners and brothers, Rodney and Terry. Randy is three years older than Rodney and seven years older than Terry, who followed in big brother's footsteps when he was named RLC "Outstanding Ag Student of the Year" in 1985.

For years, Rubenacker Farms has relied on RLC to provide the family business with qualified employees. Many of the approximately 40 employees there are graduates and some were "Ag Students of the Year." One of those past employees is Ag Professor Terry Wilkerson, Interim Chair of the RLC Applied Science and Technology Division. Wilkerson completed his internship at Rubenacker Farms and went on to become "Ag Student of the Year" in 1992.

"We are a fairly large employer and I think it's nice to have RLC graduates working here. A lot of the credit for any type of award needs to go back to the people who work for you. My family has been successful because of the people we have surrounded ourselves with.

"The college has always been a good resource for us whenever we have needed to hire new employees for the farm or the dealership," Rubenacker said.

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 2008



RANDY RUBENACKER

Dahlgren (RLC Class of '78)
Co-Owner/Manager, Rubenacker Farms
Partnership and 4R Equipment

**CHRIS JOHNSON**

Mt. Vernon / Valier (RLC Class of '98)
Distribution Center Manager / Walgreens
Distribution Center in Mt. Vernon

Walgreens rewards Johnson's strong work ethic

When Chris Johnson worked at the Walgreens Distribution Center in Mt. Vernon years ago, he told co-workers his goal was to one day manage the facility. Skip ahead 16 years, six promotions and three moves across the continental United States . . . he is living his dream as the manager of the largest Walgreens Distribution Center in the nation in terms of volume and team members.

So how did he do it? He knew where he wanted to go, he learned how to get there and he harnessed his education and a strong work ethic to make it happen.

"I started finding out what qualifica-

tions the company was looking for at each position I moved to," he said. "With each promotion, I increased my skill set . . . whether it be courses at RLC, attending seminars, training on software programs or improving my grammar and speaking skills. I worked very hard at each level . . . to get the results the company was looking for; moreover, to get even better."

"He is the perfect example of a local person coming back and helping improve the area's economic development through his aim at making one of our largest employers a 'good place to work,'" commented Foundation CEO Pat Kern.

Exec Dean Thomas stays true to course

The 16th recipient of the "Alumnus of the Year" Award is living proof of that age-old wisdom that says the acorn does not fall too far from the tree. Jonathan W. Thomas graduated from Rend Lake College with an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Automotive Technology and has been associated with Ivy Tech State College in various capacities and at five different sites in Indiana since earning Bachelor and Master's degrees in Technical and Industrial Education from Indiana State University.

Thomas, a member of Phi Theta Kappa scholastic honor fraternity during his student days at RLC, has been CEO (Executive Dean) for Ivy Tech in Madison/Lawrenceburg since 1995. Prior to that, he was Executive Director at Ivy Tech-Sellersburg from 1986-95 and has served as Director of Instruction for the institution (Sellersburg), Technology Division Chair (Evansville), Acting Director (Tell City), Department Chair and Faculty Member (Evansville) dating back to 1975.

Ivy Tech is the third-largest college in the state. The campuses in Southeastern Indiana where Thomas has worked since 1986 serve the Louisville and Cincinnati metropolitan areas. Ivy Tech is a state-supported, vocational-technical college providing services to business and industry as well as granting two-year degrees.

The individual responsible for the successful operation of the ITSC Foundation praised the RLC Foundation award as "a very high honor. To come back home and be honored by people at home probably is the best thing I could ever do. I will always cherish that. And because I am in education, this is an honor from my peers, which makes it even more special."

Thomas received the Indiana Commission on Vocational and Technical Education "Excellence in Education Award" in both 1988 and 1993 for his efforts involving workforce development.

**JONATHAN THOMAS**

Sesser (RLC Class of '71)
CEO-Executive Dean, Ivy Tech State College

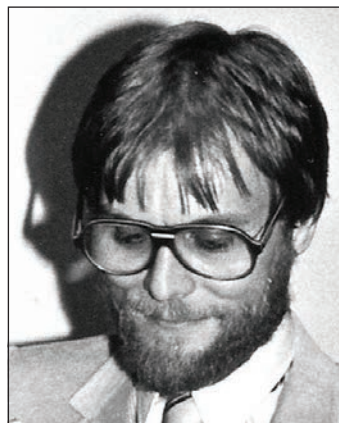
For Junkins, experiences at RLC had lasting effect

Social Worker David Junkins, 31, was recipient of the first "Outstanding Alumnus" Award presented by the RLC Foundation.

A member of the Class of 1971, Junkins graduated with an A.A. Degree before earning a Bachelor's Degree from Illinois State and his Master's Degree in Social Work from University of Illinois. He works for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services in the Salem office.

"In my opinion, David's experiences at RLC had a profound influence upon the direction of his life," wrote one person who nominated him. Citing such extra-curricular activities as work on the student paper and Phi Theta Kappa membership, the writer added, "No doubt his selection as a social work aide at Good Samaritan Hospital from students in a Sociology class influenced his ultimate decision to 'helping people' for a career."

"Dave is a committed, caring individual who deals with clients on an empathic level and is seen as a true professional."

**DAVID N. JUNKINS**

Mt. Vernon (RLC Class of '71)
Social Worker, Illinois DCFS

'Bill Shields Fan Club' members believe in SIUC promoter, programs

Rend Lake College offers a dozen or more extracurricular organizations for vocational majors, like Culinary Arts, Criminal Justice and Practical Nursing clubs. Others attract those with common interests, such as the Creative Writing Club, Film Club and Active College Christians.

Individuals may be invited to join Student Ambassadors, must qualify for Phi Theta Kappa or will be asked to demonstrate special gifts to be part of College Bowl, the student newspaper, performing arts groups or athletic teams.

Might we suggest a need for at least one more: the Bill Shields Fan Club. Count between 35-45 current and former RLC faculty and staff eager to jump on the bandwagon and sing praises of the club's namesake.

Shields is an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Workforce Education and Development, College of Education, for Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He has been Coordinator of Professional Experiences and Coordinator of the On-Campus Weekend Degree Program since 1962.

The 24th RLC Alumnus award-winner currently ranks No. 1 on the unofficial SIUC seniority list.

The humble Shields may take exception to his inclusion in the prestigious RLC Club Alumni. But show any interest in his program, and he will come after you like a bulldog.

A kinder, gentler, loving bulldog, that is.

Technically speaking, Shields is not a graduate of Rend Lake College. He was a two-year Student Council President of the first graduating class of forerunner Mt. Vernon Community College in 1958, following a stint as a U.S. Army Supply Sergeant.

SIUC's Workforce Ed gives up to a year of college credit for work experience and encourages those in the workforce to return to college to earn four-year degrees. Recruits praise Shields ... "He's quite the salesman." "His energy and enthusiasm are contagious. He convinced me I could do it." "He insisted I could do it and has been very supportive throughout." "He made me believe in myself."

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 2005



BILL SHIELDS
Mt. Vernon (MVCC Class of '58)
Asst. Professor / Workforce Ed, SIUC

Ina's Sweeten boasts work diversity

In the first 26 years of the award, Dr. Gary Sweeten was the first and only native of Ina to be named "Alumnus of the Year" by Rend Lake College. But the simple fact is, Sweeten was ahead of his time; he never attended the comprehensive community college based in Ina.

Dr. Sweeten, Minister of Christian Growth for College Hill Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, graduated from Mt. Vernon Community College. He added a B.S. in Education from SIU and a Doctorate in Counselor Education from the University of Cincinnati in 1970, while serving in numerous counseling and administrative positions.

He has been engaged in Christian Education activities with youth and adult groups at College Hill since 1973.

Dr. Sweeten has been a salesman, farmer, floral assistant, oil field worker, classroom teacher and coach. His diversity of work experiences has given him a rich background for writing, counseling and teaching, and he has served as a consultant and trainer for many business and educational organizations.

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 1986



Dr. GARY R. SWEETEN
Ina (MVCC Class of '60)
Minister, College Hill Presbyterian Church

RLC 'Friend' Cox returns as faculty

Rend Lake College has a special "Friend" of its own in Courtney Cox. RLC's "Friend," a male not to be mistaken for the female star of the TV sitcom hit, has come and gone twice, always reaching for loftier goals and leaving behind a favorable impression.

Cox was an active participant in all things musical while earning his A.A. Degree at RLC. He also served as Feature Editor for the student paper and contributed a regular column, "The Imperfect Fourth."

Stops for Music Degrees from Illinois Wesleyan and Southern Methodist University followed before Cox returned to the Ina campus as a member of the full-time Music faculty from 1976-79. When he left a second time, it was for his Juris Doctor Degree from SIUC.

He spent three years in Springfield after attaining that degree in 1982, then joined the firm of Hart and Hart in Benton in 1985. Cox is a past-President of the Franklin County Bar Association and a Trustee for Benton Township since 1989.

[He later served six years on the RLC Board.]

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 1995



COURTNEY COX
Benton (RLC Class of '72)
Partner, Hart and Hart Attorneys-at-Law

Do as he says: Everyone deserves a Financial Advisor like Mounier

It has been decades since he graduated from Rend Lake College, but that has not stopped Jim Mounier from giving back to education. The 1972 RLC graduate is now Senior Vice President at Merrill Lynch in Rockford and has been named the RLC Foundation 2014 "Alumnus of the Year."

The Linton, IN, native relocated as a high school senior and graduated from Mt. Vernon Township H.S. Due to considerable student unrest during the Vietnam era, he decided not to go to SIU as planned, "but I still wanted to get a good education. I had some friends from Mt. Vernon going to Rend Lake College, and I decided to go, too. I wanted to make sure I could get the classes I needed." He decided to focus on mathematics. With that degree, Mounier has worked his way up at Merrill Lynch to help well-off families with their finances.

Now living in Caledonia, a small village northeast of Rockford, Mounier and wife Carole regularly give back to a number of communities, including Rockford; Illinois State University, where Mounier graduated in 1974, and others. He said he was surprised to hear he had been named the "Alumnus of the Year" when RLC Foundation CEO Shawna Bullard contacted him.

"Basically, I said to her there has to be someone more deserving," said Mounier. "I went through my yearbook after Shawna called me, for the first time since I was at Rend Lake, and it was interesting to go through them."

While at RLC, Mounier said there were several instructors and classes that stood out, including Richard Perrachione, a Mathematics instructor; Jack Traver, nicknamed "Tiger" Jack by his students, in the English Department; Ed Kownacki, a Chemistry instructor, and Speech teacher Cheryl Foley. As a budding Mathematics major, Mounier said his education almost did not go according to plan.

"My Mathematics major almost didn't happen. My freshman year in high school, I received a "D" in Algebra, and my advisors told me to move to General Education instead of Math, but I decided to do Trigonometry instead and go for it," said Mounier. "Most of the things I've done have been my decision. I've had my struggles, and I know there are people who have overcome their own struggles and sacrificed to go back to school. I commend them for not allowing anything or anyone to spoil their dreams. They're an inspiration to others and I want them to know it will be worth every struggle they go through."

After graduating in 1972 with an Associate of Arts Degree and from ISU in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science,

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 2014



JIM MOUNIER

Mt. Vernon (RLC Class of '72)
Merrill Lynch Senior Vice President

Mounier moved to Rochelle to begin working at Westinghouse, where he was a trainee in construction. He was there 10 years, rising up to Division Administrator, before making the leap back into the world of finance.

"I had a friend who owned a bank in Rochelle who was looking for someone who worked with financing and computers," said Mounier. "I almost had an MBA from Northern Illinois at the time, so I thought I was qualified, and my friend offered it to me. After 10 years, I changed careers into something more interesting to me and stable."

Around that time, Mounier and his wife also started venturing into real estate by purchasing apartment buildings in Rochelle as Snoozy Properties LLC.

"We bought our first apartment building in 1988 in Rochelle, and the next one about a month later. We still own all 16 of those apartments today," said Mounier. "When we moved to Rockford, we built 22 townhouses up here that we also own and rent out. We manage them all ourselves. They've been a great investment and diversification of our income."

He then made an even larger jump into wealth management, where he has been ever since. As an advisor, Mounier works one-on-one with affluent families to manage their wealth through estate planning, investing, lending and other avenues. He is one member of a seven-person team who works with approximately 300 people.

"I bought my first stock at 16, so I'd definitely say I've always been interested in money management," said Mounier. "I interviewed with Merrill Lynch before, but I said 'no' to the job because my wife Carole and I lived in Rochelle and the job was in Chicago. I wasn't willing to take that risk at the time. I always wondered about what would've happened if I had started at a younger age."

More recently, Mounier published his first book, titled **The 50 Questions You Need to Ask – To Achieve the Financial Advisor Relationship You Deserve**. The idea came from a question his wife asked about managing their life in his absence. Mounier began putting together a list of who to contact and all the things she would need, and it turned into a book. He finished it in 2004 and was self-published in 2006.

If they have any time between their careers, donating and giving back, managing property and writing books, the Mouniers enjoy golfing and volunteering at a number of organizations and businesses in Northern Illinois, including OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center, Rockford Boys and Girls Club and Illinois Grow Enterprise. He is a member of the ISU Foundation, ISU Executive Committee and as Chair of Development Committee, also at ISU.

Mounier is a Certified Financial Planner, Certified Investment Management Advisor, Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor and Certified Portfolio Manager. Many honors and awards include the Merrill Lynch Win Smith Fellow Recipient, Merrill Lynch Circle of Excellence, ISU Loyalty Circle, ISU 1857 Society and the Illinois State University Heritage Society.

RLC Hurler/Point Guard turns into Dr. Kern: Orthopaedic Surgeon/Board Chair

Two decades after he pitched for Rend Lake College's baseball team and took the floor as a Warrior for the basketball team, Dr. Brian Kern is again making headlines at his alma mater. The 1994 graduate, an Orthopaedic Surgeon with the Orthopaedic Institute of Western Kentucky in Paducah, has been named the 2015 RLC Foundation "Alumnus of the Year."

Kern came to RLC in Fall 1992 as a member of Coach Tim Wills' first recruiting class for the Men's Basketball team. Wills, now Athletic Director, was one of the individuals who nominated Kern for the award – which Kern says makes the honor even more special.

"I was shocked and pleasantly surprised when Shawna (Bullard) contacted me. I assumed she was calling me as a patient; I was honored when I learned I had been selected," said Kern. "Coach Wills nominating me is also special. I played for him from 1992 through 1994 and for him to think of me over 20 years later as worthy of this honor means a lot to me."

A native of Southern Illinois, Kern grew up just minutes from the college in rural Franklin County. He attended Ewing Grade School and Benton Consolidated High School before becoming a Warrior. His father, retired RLC President Mark Kern, brought Brian and his four siblings to campus long before he attended his first class. "Every member of my family has utilized the college in some capacity. It has been a part of the fabric of our family."

"I have been to the Annual Dinner. To be the one receiving this award is special," he said. "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to speak about what Rend Lake College has done for me. The doors it opened and the opportunities it provided me have been numerous."

Specifically, Kern said his goal was to play baseball at the Division I level and end up in the Major Leagues, but when he did not receive any D-I offers out of high school, he decided to work on his game, while receiving a quality education, right in his own backyard.

"Attending RLC and playing two sports helped me improve myself academically and athletically," said Kern. "I had D-II and D-III opportunities but decided to go to RLC so I could continue to play two sports and work on my grades. I was able to gain size and strength and develop as a pitcher while saving on tuition. This resulted in an opportunity to be awarded a Division I scholarship in baseball – one of my ultimate goals."

Kern was an All-Conference Pitcher for Coach Rich Campbell's Baseball Warriors, the starting point guard in basketball and maintained a 4.0 grade-point average. He was named Distinguished Academic All-America by the National Junior College Athletic Association.

However, it was not until after he accepted the offer from St. Louis University Kern learned the institution did not accept transfer students into his planned major, Physical Therapy. "I had perfect grades and a scholarship to play baseball where I was told I could get into Physical Therapy, but they did not accept transfer students. Had I

ALUMNUS OF YEAR 2015



Dr. BRIAN S. KERN

Benton (RLC Class of '94)
Orthopaedic Surgeon, Orthopaedic Institute
of Western Kentucky - Paducah

known, I could've gone other places, but it did not work out that way."

The former University of Illinois roommate of his father, RLC Chemistry Prof John Fisher, suggested he consider a career as a physician. "John drove me around Southern Illinois meeting with physicians in various fields. With his help and that of Dr. Charles Neal, I decided I liked the profession and wanted to pursue a career as a physician.

I wanted to interact with people and have a chance to help those who needed help."

"Mike Mullen, former English Professor, was also an important person in my life at Rend Lake," said Kern. "My sophomore year after a basketball tournament, Mike drove me through the night to Florida to meet up with the baseball team. John and Mike, much like the rest of the instructors at RLC, cared greatly about students in and out of the classroom and went the extra mile to help aid in influencing their lives. Instructors were all very caring."

Instead of P.T., Kern earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Pre-Med Biology at SLU. Before med school became a reality, he was offered a once-in-a-lifetime chance to play professional baseball. He was drafted by the Oakland A's organization in 1997 and played in the Minor Leagues three years. While with the A's, Kern was named the Dave Stewart Community Service Player of the Year.

He returned to Southern Illinois to attend SIU's School of Medicine (1999-2003) and did his Orthopaedic Surgery residency at SIU-Springfield (2003-08), during which time he was a Captain in the Illinois Army National Guard.

Kern then accepted a sports medicine fellowship at the Southern California Orthopaedic Institute in Los Angeles, where he worked specifically in sports medicine, arthroscopy and reconstructive surgery on shoulders and knees. "I called Orthopaedic Institute of Southern Illinois CEO Greg Thompson," he said. "There was not an opening for a sports medicine physician, but he asked if I would be interested in starting a group in Western Kentucky as a division of his group," said Kern. "I joined up with two other doctors, Dr. Clint Hill and Dr. Brandon Strenge, and with the help of the Southern Illinois group, we founded the Orthopaedic Institute of Western Kentucky in 2009."

The Kentucky group has since grown to 10 physicians and over 100 employees. Kern now serves as Board Chair and Medical Director of the OI Surgery Center and sits on the Executive Committee of the OI of Southern Illinois and Western Kentucky.

'ALUMNUS/ALUMNA OF YEAR' AWARD REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

- ▲ 2015 - **Dr. Brian Kern**
Benton ('94) • Orthopaedic Surgeon
Orthopaedic Institute of Western
Kentucky in Paducah
- ▲ 2014 - **Jim Mounier**
Mt. Vernon ('72) • Senior Vice-
President / Merrill Lynch, Rockford
- ▲ 2013 - **Trish Reed**
Scheller ('87) • President / G.M.,
UpTime Parts, LLC [Navistar Inc.]
- ▲ 2012 - **Peter Johnson**
Mt. Vernon ('85) • Instrumentation
System Engineer, NASA / Avionics
- ▲ 2011 - **Ron Smith**
Benton ('74) • Men's Basketball
Associate Head Coach, SIUC
- ▲ 2010 - **Hon. Mike D. McHaney**
Mt. Vernon / Salem ('77) •
Fourth Judicial Circuit Court Judge
- ▲ 2009 - **Jim Muir**
Sesser ('97) • Magazine Publisher
/ Radio Broadcaster / Former Miner
- ▲ 2008 - **Randy Rubenacker**
Dahlgren ('78) • Co-Owner,
Rubenacker Farms / 4R Equipment
- ▲ 2007 - **Brad Gesell**
Benton ('80) • Co-Owner,
Gesell's Pump Sales & Service Inc.
- ▲ 2006 - **Christopher Johnson**
Valier ('98) • Distribution Center
Manager, Walgreens - Mt. Vernon
- ▲ 2005 - **Bill Shields**
Mt. Vernon (MVCC '58) • Workforce
Ed Coordinator / Asst. Prof., SIUC
- ▲ 2004 - **Linda L. Sanders**
Mt. Vernon ('82) • Warden, Federal
Correctional Ctr., Forrest City, AR
- ▲ 2003 - **Donald H. Dame**
Sesser ('72 / '76) • V-P / H.R. and
Govt. Relations, Freeman United Coal
- ▲ 2002 - **Rose M. Myles**
Mt. Vernon ('68) • Manager /
Network Services, AT&T
- ▲ 2001 - **Carl Rowley**
Sesser ('77) • Team Leader /
Building Management, Panduit Corp.
- ▲ 2000 - **Holly McCann**
Benton ('76) • National Director,
IRS Office Interest & Penalty Admin.
- ▲ 1999 - **Laird D. Wisely**
Benton / Mt. Vernon ('71) [Posthumous]
• Owner, Physical Rehab Works
and Therapy Resource Associates
- ▲ 1998 - **Mark Michalic**
1999 ICCTA Co-"Alumnus of Year"
West Frankfort ('78) • Special Agent,
U.S. Dept. of Treasury / ATF Bureau
- ▲ 1997 - **Jonathan W. Thomas**
Sesser ('71) • CEO / Executive Dean,
Ivy Tech State College - Madison, IN
- ▲ 1996 - **Tim Wills**
Benton ('84) • Health Assoc. Prof. /
A.D. / Men's Basketball Coach, RLC
- ▲ 1995 - **Courtney Cox**
Benton ('72) • Partner, Hart & Hart
Attorneys-At-Law - Benton
- ▲ 1994 - **Flo Dudley**
Bonnie ('76) • Retired Teacher,
Mt. Vernon City Schools District 80
- ▲ 1993 - **Sen. J. Bradley Burzynski**
Benton ('75) • Illinois State
Senator, 35th District - Sycamore
- ▲ 1992 - **Cinda Chullen**
Benton ('79) • Technical Manager,
NASA Johnson Space Ctr. - Houston
- ▲ 1991 - **Craig M. Sinclair**
Mt. Vernon ('74) • Vice President
of Advertising, The Walgreen Co.
- ▲ 1990 - **Gloria J. Sloan-Reel**
McLeansboro ('74) • Product Brand
Manager, Rhone-Poulenc Ag Co.
- ▲ 1989 - **Kevin Davis**
Mt. Vernon ('72) • Comptroller /
Treasurer, Rend Lake Conservancy
- ▲ 1988 - **Carol Dilley-Jaudes**
Mt. Vernon ('75) • Stage Actress,
St. Louis and New York
- ▲ 1987 - **Dr. Mary Kay Witges**
Bengtson
Scheller ('71) • Staff / Athletic
Physician, N. Carolina State U.
- ▲ 1986 - **Dr. Gary R. Sweeten**
Ina (MVCC '60) • Minister,
College Hill Presbyterian (OH)
- ▲ 1985 - **Dr. Harl E. Ryder Jr.**
Mt. Vernon (MVCC '58) • Economics
Prof. / Grad Studies Dir., Brown U.
- ▲ 1984 - **Dr. Leslie Johnson**
Thompsonville ('74) • Family
Practitioner - Mt. Vernon / Peoria
- ▲ 1983 - **Robert L. Brown**
Mt. Vernon (MVCC '66) • Guidance
Counselor, Mt. Vernon Twp. H.S.
- ▲ 1982 - **David N. Junkins**
Mt. Vernon ('71) • Social Worker,
IL Dept. of Children/Family Services

... according to *NEWSWEEK*

NEWSWEEK Judgment Day BY EVAN THOMAS MARCH 23, 1997

THE FIRST PIECE OF EVIDENCE FELL OUT OF the sky. At about 9 a.m. on April 19, 1995, Richard Nichols, a maintenance man in Oklahoma City, was huddled on the floor of his car, cowering from an enormous blast that seemed to sweep over him like a prairie twister, when he heard a strange whooshing noise. It sounded, he thought, like a giant boomerang spinning right at him. With a crash, a heavy rod of twisted metal smashed into the hood of his car, shattering the windshield. It was a truck axle. It had belonged to a Ryder truck filled with two tons of explosives that had, moments earlier, transformed the nearby Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building into a mass morgue . . .

The rest of the evidence turned up slowly but steadily in the days ahead . . . all pointing to one central character. For 22 months, the most massive federal investigation since the assassination of John F. Kennedy has been quietly collecting evidence – and the Feds believe the detail weaves around Tim McVeigh like a noose.

. . . The case against McVeigh, scheduled to go to trial March 31, appears to be strong. True, the case against McVeigh's confederate, Terry Nichols, is slightly weaker. But prosecutors believe they will have little trouble placing McVeigh, who faces the death penalty, at the center of the plot. (McVeigh and Nichols have pleaded not guilty.) According to a NEWSWEEK investigation, the story of how the government put the case together is a tale of diligence, uncharacteristic teamwork and not a little luck . . .

The trail began 250 miles north of Oklahoma City. A vehicle identification number on the Ryder axle had been traced by investigators to Elliott's Body Shop in Junction City, Kans. About the time Kennedy was standing awestruck before the Murrah building, FBI agents were rousting a mechanic named Tom Kessinger out of bed. Kessinger had been sitting in Elliott's lobby on his break when the Ryder truck was rented out on April 17. He told the agents he had seen two men pick up the truck. As an FBI artist sketched, Kessinger described the men. One he recalled clearly by his brown crew cut, beady eyes and blemishes. The other he was less sure of but said he was shorter and more heavyset,

with a quarter inch of tattoo visible under his left shirt sleeve. FBI agents fanned out with sketches of the suspects, then dubbed "Unsub [unidentified subject] 1" and "Unsub 2." By midafternoon, at the Dreamland Motel on the edge of town, they scored. Lea McGown, the motel's proprietor, recalled that one of her customers had driven a Ryder truck. She took one look at Unsub 1 and said, "That's Tim McVeigh."

Back in the Oklahoma City command post, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agent Mark Michalic, who was working the "leads section," typed "Timothy McVeigh" into the National Crime Information Center computer. He quickly got a match. The sheriff's office of Noble County, Okla., had run McVeigh's name through the computer on April 19. Michalic began working the phones. He found a trooper who had arrested McVeigh that morning for driving a car without a license plate. The trooper, Charlie Hanger, had put a gun to McVeigh's head when he saw that the driver was carrying a pistol.

Michalic's next call was to the Noble County Jail to ask if that suspect had been booked. "I don't know – let me check," said the slow-talking county sheriff, Jerry Cook. "Y-e-p," he reported back. "What's his name?" asked Michalic hurriedly. "T-i-m-o-t-h-y J-a-m-e-s M-c-V-e-i-g-h," Cook responded. "We got him!" yelled Michalic. The roomful of agents cheered. But they were on the verge of losing their suspect: McVeigh was heading to court with a deputy sheriff for a bond hearing – and his almost certain release. "Sheriff, this is what I want you to do," Michalic said into the phone. "Go tell that deputy to spin that old boy around and put him back in your hotel."

MCVEIGH'S ARREST produced a trove of evidence. His 1977 Mercury Marquis was full of anti-government scribbles. Traces of PETN, a chemical used in detonator cords, were later found on his pants, two shirts, his set of earplugs and a five-inch knife McVeigh kept strapped to his back.

As McVeigh was escorted from the county jail by federal agents (to cries of "Baby killer!") that Friday, another investigative mini-drama was unfolding in Herington, Kans., home of a very shaken Terry Nichols . . .

STUDENTS BY AGE (Unduplicated)

Age	▲ 1984-85	▲ 1998-99	▲ 1999-2000	▲ 2000-01	▲ 2001-02	▲ 2002-03
16 & Under	- 0.0%	55 0.6%	81 0.7%	114 1.2%	92 1.0%	94 1.0%
17-20	- 26.0%	1,380 15.2%	1,513 13.3%	1,709 17.4%	1,606 18.1%	1,874 18.1%
21-24	- 14.0%	953 10.5%	1,149 10.1%	1,108 11.3%	1,014 11.5%	1,160 11.5%
25-30	- 17.0%	1,110 12.2%	1,451 12.8%	1,280 13.0%	1,178 13.3%	1,240 13.3%
31-39	- 23.0%	1,663 18.3%	2,070 18.2%	1,603 16.3%	1,451 16.4%	1,854 16.4%
40-55	- 16.0%	2,963 32.6%	3,714 32.7%	2,933 29.9%	2,594 29.3%	3,170 29.3%
56 & Over	- 4.0%	945 10.4%	1,366 12.0%	1,056 10.8%	904 10.2%	1,041 10.2%
Unknown	- 0.0%	10 0.1%	0 0.0%	18 0.2%	13 0.1%	10 0.1%
TOTAL		9,079	11,344	9,821	8,852	10,443
AVG. AGE	28.6	36.8	37.5	34.6	33.9	34.8

Age	▲ 2003-04	▲ 2004-05	▲ 2005-06	▲ 2006-07	▲ 2007-08	▲ 2008-09	▲ 2009-10
16 & Under	239 2.2%	484 4.2%	524 4.2%	666 4.9%	914 6.9%	657 4.9%	682 4.9%
17-20	2,137 19.7%	2,570 22.4%	2,689 21.9%	2,853 21.1%	3,123 23.7%	3,123 23.3%	3,098 22.3%
21-24	1,283 11.8%	1,138 9.9%	1,132 9.2%	1,248 9.2%	1,207 9.2%	1,270 9.5%	1,377 9.9%
25-30	1,351 12.5%	1,280 11.2%	1,386 11.3%	1,504 11.1%	1,430 10.8%	1,472 11.0%	1,529 11.0%
31-39	1,811 16.7%	1,791 15.6%	1,832 14.9%	2,097 15.5%	1,933 14.7%	1,972 14.7%	2,151 15.5%
40-55	3,011 27.8%	3,087 26.9%	3,365 27.4%	3,636 26.8%	3,044 23.1%	3,265 24.3%	3,380 24.4%
56 & Over	975 9.0%	1,097 9.6%	1,337 10.9%	1,550 11.4%	1,531 11.6%	1,674 12.5%	1,647 11.9%
Unknown	21 0.2%	13 0.1%	1 0.0%	1 0.0%	5 0.0%	2 0.0%	18 0.1%
TOTAL	10,828	11,460	12,266	13,555	13,187	13,435	13,882
AVG. AGE	32.8	31.2	33.0	33.3	33.1	31.9	31.9

Age	▲ 2010-11	▲ 2011-12	▲ 2012-13	▲ 2013-14	▲ 2014-15
16 & Under	518 3.5%	437 3.0%			
17-20	3,196 21.7%	2,960 20.5%			
21-24	1,518 10.3%	1,457 10.1%			
25-30	1,752 11.9%	1,729 12.0%			
31-39	2,321 15.8%	2,274 15.7%			
40-54	3,585 24.4%	3,666 25.3%			
55 & Over	1,774 12.1%	1,804 12.5%			
Unknown	34 0.2%	143 0.1%			
TOTAL	14,698	14,470			
AVG. AGE	32.1	31.8			

STUDENTS BY GENDER

YEAR	UNDUPLICATED		
	▲ Males	▲ Females	▲ Total
1980-81	2,189 56%	1,710 44%	3,899
1984-85	58%	42%	7,195
1998-99	5,808 64%	3,271 35%	9,079
'99-2000	6,972 61%	4,372 39%	11,344
2000-01	6,334 64%	3,487 36%	9,821
2001-02	5,498 62%	3,354 38%	8,852
2002-03	6,473 62%	3,970 38%	10,443
2003-04	6,482 60%	4,346 40%	10,828
2004-05	6,548 57%	4,912 43%	11,460
2005-06	6,956 57%	5,310 43%	12,266
2006-07	7,714 57%	5,841 43%	13,555
2007-08	6,999 53%	6,188 47%	13,187
2008-09	6,596 49%	6,839 51%	13,435
2009-10	6,864 49%	7,018 51%	13,882
2010-11	6,770 46%	7,928 54%	14,698
2011-12	6,801 47%	7,669 53%	14,470
2012-13			
2013-14			
2014-15			
TOTAL			

STUDENTS BY FULL-/PART-TIME

YEAR	DUPLICATED		
	▲ Full-Time	▲ Part-Time	▲ Total
1980-81	904 23%	2,995 77%	3,899
1984-85	35%	65%	3,899
1998-99	2,668 23%	9,142 77%	11,810
'99-2000	3,634 25%	10,961 75%	14,595
2000-01	2,793 21%	10,347 79%	13,140
2001-02	2,578 21%	9,462 79%	12,040
2002-03	2,963 21%	11,055 79%	14,018
2003-04	3,420 25%	10,029 75%	13,449
2004-05	3,047 21%	11,254 79%	14,301
2005-06	2,252 14%	13,366 86%	15,618
2006-07	3,034 18%	14,219 82%	17,253
2007-08	3,455 20%	13,921 80%	17,376
2008-09	3,401 21%	13,707 79%	17,108
2009-10	3,513 20%	14,201 80%	17,714
2010-11	3,682 20%	15,002 80%	18,684
2011-12			
2012-13			
2013-14			
2014-15			
TOTAL			

ACADEMIC HONORS

President's List and Dean's List / Vice President's List by Semester

Semester Year	President's List	Dean's List	Total	Comm. Rep.	Semester Year	President's List	Dean's List	Total	Comm. Rep.	Semester Year	President's List	V-P's List	Total	Comm. Rep.
1967-68					1984-85					2001-02				
Fall '67	-	45	45	-	Fall '84	52	113	165	(31)	Fall '01	-	-	-	-
Spring '68	-	-	-	-	Spring '85	-	-	-	-	Spring '02	-	-	-	-
1968-69					1985-86					2002-03				
Fall '68	-	* 52	52	-	Fall '85	56	113	169	(32)	Fall '02	-	-	-	-
Spring '69	-	-	-	-	Spring '86	67	117	184	(36)	Spring '03	-	-	-	-
* Inc. 11 with perfect 4.0 GPAs					1986-87					2003-04				
1969-70					Fall '86	74	152	226	(33)	Fall '03	122	204	326	(57)
Fall '69	-	-	-	-	Spring '87	89	149	238	(35)	Spring '04	115	226	341	(63)
Spring '70	-	-	-	-	1987-88					2004-05				
1970-71					Fall '87	89	147	236	(43)	Fall '04	116	214	330	(66)
Fall '70	-	-	-	-	Spring '88	85	122	207	(37)	Spring '05	96	192	288	-
Spring '71	-	-	-	-	1988-89					2005-06				
1971-72					Fall '88	74	142	216	-	Fall '05	86	192	278	-
Fall '71	-	-	-	-	Spring '89	77	140	217	(42)	Spring '06	96	180	276	-
Spring '72	-	-	-	-	1989-90					2006-07				
1972-73					Fall '89	72	131	203	(35)	Fall '06	78	201	279	-
Fall '72	-	-	-	-	Spring '90	87	160	247	(41)	Spring '07	121	189	310	-
Spring '73	-	-	-	-	1990-91					2007-08				
1973-74					Fall '90	101	181	282	(45)	Fall '07	162	285	447	-
Fall '73	-	-	-	-	Spring '91	98	189	287	(46)	Spring '08	193	308	501	(68)
Spring '74	-	-	-	-	1991-92					2008-09				
1974-75					Fall '91	102	179	281	-	Fall '08	142	282	424	(79)
Fall '74	-	-	-	-	Spring '92	113	158	271	(41)	Spring '09	150	255	405	(75)
Spring '75	-	-	-	-	1992-93					2009-10				
1975-76					Fall '92	84	188	272	(45)	Fall '09	132	240	372	(71)
Fall '75	-	-	-	-	Spring '93	92	135	227	(45)	Spring '10	144	306	450	(77)
Spring '76	73	109	182	-	1993-94					2010-11				
1976-77					Fall '93	85	144	229	(47)	Fall '10	142	297	439	(82)
Fall '76	-	-	-	-	Spring '94	103	137	240	(47)	Spring '11	172	242	414	(69)
Spring '77	-	-	-	-	1994-95					2011-12				
1977-78					Fall '94	97	165	262	-	Fall '11	152	225	377	(64)
Fall '77	-	-	-	-	Spring '95	98	177	275	(55)	Spring '12	176	228	404	(62)
Spring '78	-	-	269	-	1995-96					2012-13				
1978-79					Fall '95	-	-	-	-	Fall '12	155	220	375	(73)
Fall '78	-	-	-	-	Spring '96	114	200	314	(50)	Spring '13	162	236	398	(64)
Spring '79	-	-	269	-	1996-97					2013-14				
1979-80					Fall '96	-	-	-	-	Fall '13	146	259	405	(66)
Fall '79	-	-	283	-	Spring '97	136	176	312	(56)	Spring '14	140	226	366	(77)
Spring '80	-	-	313	(64)	1997-98					2014-15				
1980-81					Fall '97	-	-	-	-	Fall '14	168	253	421	(74)
Fall '80	80	181	262	-	Spring '98	-	-	-	-	Spring '15	174	236	410	(74)
Spring '81	79	146	225	(49)	1998-99					2015-16				
1981-82					Fall '98	94	174	268	-	Fall '15	155	238	393	(73)
Fall '81	70	167	237	(45)	Spring '99	-	-	-	-	Spring '16	170	247	417	(72)
Spring '82	104	169	273	(48)	1999-2000					President's List – Perfect 4.0 Grade-Point Average				
1982-83					Fall '99	109	158	267	(49)	Dean's List (1967-2003) /				
Fall '82	67	159	226	(37)	Spring '00	121	158	279	(53)	Vice President's List (2004-2015) – 3.50-3.99 GPA				
Spring '83	64	122	186	-	2000-01					No. of Comm. – Number of Southern Illinois communities represented by honor students				
1983-84					Fall '00	125	189	314	(55)					
Fall '83	53	104	157	(34)	Spring '01	103	200	303	(54)					
Spring '84	65	122	187	(37)										

STUDENT LEADERS

ELECTED STUDENT TRUSTEES REND LAKE COLLEGE BOARD

- ▲ 2016-17
Eric Schumm (Wayne City)
- ▲ 2015-16
Claire Pytlinski (Waltonville)
- ▲ 2014-15
Elijah Liske (Sesser)
- ▲ 2013-14
Haden Smith (Wayne City)
- ▲ 2012-13
Kelsey Allen (Bonnie)
- ▲ 2011-12
Caleb Buntin (Thompsonville)
- ▲ 2010-11
Kody Schwarze (Valmeyer)
- ▲ 2009-10
Samantha York (McLeansboro)
- ▲ 2008-09
Luke Thomas (Springerton)
- ▲ 2007-08
Renee Ryterski (DuBois)
- ▲ 2006-07
Garrett Keck (Vandalia/ Benton)
- ▲ 2005-06
Rachel Sveda (Christopher)
- ▲ 2004-05
Adam Nagreski (Benton)
- ▲ 2003-04
Cody Logan Chullen (Benton)
- ▲ 2002-03
Candice N. Fitch (Thompsonville)
- ▲ 2001-02
Keith J. Shasteen (McLeansboro)
- ▲ 2000-01
Steven Manning (Belle Rive)
- ▲ 1999-2000
Kristin Rone (Benton)
- ▲ 1998-99
Greg Hollmann (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 1997-98
Russell Jay (Benton)
- ▲ 1996-97
John C. Thompson (McLeansboro)
- ▲ 1995-96
Joe Anderton (Christopher)
- ▲ 1994-95
Ryan Endsley (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 1993-94
Laura Drone (Tamaroa)
- ▲ 1992-93
Tracy Thompson (Christopher)
- ▲ 1991-92
Jason E. Newell (Belle Rive)
- ▲ 1990-91
Doris F. Troutt (Opdyke)
- ▲ 1989-90
Doris F. Troutt (Opdyke)
- ▲ 1988-89
Chris Stubblefield (Sesser)
- ▲ 1988
Amy Andrews (Benton)
- ▲ 1987-88
Kenneth Hill (Benton)
- ▲ 1986-87
Gary Piercy (Benton)
- ▲ 1985-86
Debbie Turner Kerley (Zeigler)
- ▲ 1984-85
Darin R. Lee (McLeansboro)
- ▲ 1983-84
LaDonna L. Wallace
(Johnsonville / Wayne City H.S.)
- ▲ 1982-83
Susan Woodward (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 1981-82
Randy Herrin (Benton)
- ▲ 1980-81
Brad Rainwater (Wayne City)
- ▲ 1979-80
Douglas Dunbar (Benton)
- ▲ 1978-79
Mark Michalic (West Frankfort)
- ▲ 1977-78
Mark Michalic (West Frankfort)
- ▲ 1977
Frances Rightnowar (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 1976-77
Charles S. "Chuck" Eckert
(Palestine / Hutsonville H.S.)
- ▲ 1975-76
Alecia Van Horn (Benton)
- ▲ 1974-75
J. Bradley Burzynski (Benton)
- ▲ 1973-74
Robert S. Munday (Benton)

PHI THETA KAPPA ACADEMIC ALL-ILLINOIS/USA NOMINEES

- ▲ **2015-16**
Katie Jones (Thompsonville)
Jacqueline Kellerman (Oakdale)
- ▲ **2014-15**
Vanessa Lawrence (Benton)
- ▲ **2013-14**
Michael Willis (Salem)
Caitie Wisniewski (Scheller)
- ▲ **2012-13**
Stacey Chobanian (Bluford)
Chelbie Pyszka
- ▲ **2011-12**
Krista Brouwer (Carterville)
Lexi Karcher (McLeansboro)
- ▲ **2010-11**
Stephanie Smith (McLeansboro)
Brooke Sutton (Pinckneyville)
- ▲ **2009-10**
Karissa Johnson (Mt. Vernon)
Emma Talbert (Wayne City)
- ▲ **2008-09**
Jamie Bathon (Pinckneyville)
ReAnne Palmer (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ **2006-07**
Kaylee Champ (Mt. Vernon)
Timothy Temple (Benton)
- ▲ **2005-06**
Rachel Sveda (Christopher)
- ▲ **2004-05**
Sarah Dixon (Benton)
Adam Nagreski (Benton)
- ▲ **2003-04**
Alicia Hutchings (Pinckneyville)
Hannah Shay (McLeansboro)
- ▲ **2002-03**
Andrew Blackwell (McLeansboro)
Robert Frassato (Marion)
- ▲ **2001-02**
Rebecca Mayberry
Keith Shasteen (McLeansboro)
- ▲ **2000-01**
Talisha Chambliss (Bluford)
Ricky Millenbine
- ▲ **1999-2000**
Kristen Clark (West Frankfort)
Jasolyn Smith (Bluford)
- ▲ **1997-98**
Jyl Pepple (Bluford)
Gina Todd (Thompsonville)
- ▲ **1995-96**
Kenneth Robinson (Coulterville)
- ▲ **1991-92**
Geraldine Parino (Royalton)
- ▲ **1990-91**
Andrea Bradley (Sesser)

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION (S.A.R.) PROGRAM

Sponsored by Continental Bank of Chicago in cooperation with Illinois Association of Community and Junior Colleges

Recognizing one male student and one female student each year who have made the most noteworthy progress toward their career goals and have shown outstanding leadership qualities through participation in campus and community activities.

- ▲ **1976-77**
Kelly Mumbower
(Albuquerque, NM / Mt. Vernon)
Terrie Samuels (Sesser)
- ▲ **1975-76**
Mary E. Bourque (Mt. Vernon)
Harvey Neal (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ **1974-75**
Flo Dudley (Bonnie)
Also won District SAR honors
David Fletcher (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ **1973-74**
Les Johnson (Thompsonville)
Gloria Sloan (McLeansboro)
- ▲ **1972-73**
Gary J. Nelson (McLeansboro)
Kathleen Schutte (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ **1971-72**
Stephen Morris (McLeansboro)
Also won Region SAR honors
Janet Raney (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ **1970-71**
Courtney Cox (Benton)
Sherry Ann Wilson (Bluford)
- ▲ **1969-70**
Linda Jo Atchison (Mt. Vernon)
William David Moore (Mt. Vernon)

DEPARTMENTAL 'STUDENT OF THE YEAR' AWARD-WINNERS

OUTSTANDING AGRICULTURE STUDENT OF THE YEAR

- ▲ 2015-16
Jay Baue (Sparta)
- ▲ 2014-15
Eli Liske (Okawville)
- ▲ 2013-14
Brett Anderson (Johnston City)
- ▲ 2012-13
Kelsey Allen (Bonnie)
- ▲ 2011-12
Stacy Bohn (Lebanon)
- ▲ 2010-11
Cailah Brock (Benton)
Brent Hanke (Carlyle)
- ▲ 2009-10
John McKinney (Enfield)
- ▲ 2008-09
Jeff Guest (Nashville)
- ▲ 2007-08
Jordan Norris (Waltonville)
- ▲ 2006-07
Kimberly Wilson (Wayne City)
- ▲ 2005-06
Amy Williams (Enfield)
- ▲ 2004-05
David Gramenz (Steeleville)
- ▲ 2003-04
Dan Clark
Sarah Newbury
- ▲ 2002-03
Eric Pieszchalsk
- ▲ 2001-02
Donna Fox
- ▲ 2000-01
Steven Manning (Belle Rive)
Christine Nehr Korn
- ▲ 1999-2000
Elizabeth Hiestand
Chris Johnson
- ▲ 1998-99
Amy Brandt
Kevin Guebert
- ▲ 1997-98
Kim Greer
- ▲ 1996-97
Joshua Lemke
- ▲ 1995-96
Melanie Downs
Robert Kiefer (Belle Rive)
Scott McDermott
- ▲ 1994-95
Brian Charles Greer (Pinckneyville)
- ▲ 1993-94
Keith Eschmann (Columbia)
- ▲ 1992-93
Jay Ramsey (Greenville)
- ▲ 1991-92
Jason Newell (Belle Rive)
Terry Wilkerson (Dahlgren)
- ▲ 1990-91
John Helmers (Steeleville)
Christopher York (Enfield)
- ▲ 1989-90
Mark Colbert (Norris City)
- ▲ 1988-89
Keith Reichmann
- ▲ 1987-88
Richard Wuebbels (Dahlgren)
- ▲ 1986-87
Tom Anselment
- ▲ 1985-86
Ed Kocian
- ▲ 1984-85
Terry Rubenacker (Dahlgren)
- ▲ 1983-84
Marc Lamczyk (Scheller)
- ▲ 1982-83
Janet Newbury (Sesser)
Roland "Short" Sledge (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 1981-82
John Kabat (Scheller)
- ▲ 1980-81
Mike Fullerton (Coulterville)
- ▲ 1979-80
Keith Johnson (Wayne City)
Kent Sickmeyer (Campbell Hill)
- ▲ 1978-79
Don Shannon
- ▲ 1977-78
Randy Rubenacker (Dahlgren)
- ▲ 1976-77
Vince Mitchell (Enfield)

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

- ▲ 2005-06
Sandra Tite (Pinckneyville)
- ▲ 2004-05
Brittany Payne (Ewing)
- ▲ 2003-04
Marilee Beck (McLeansboro)
Holly Smith (Whittington)
- ▲ 2002-03
Katie Gillespie (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 2001-02
Daryl Norton

SECRETARIAL SCIENCE

- ▲ 1983-84
Patty Caupert (Cutler)
Jeanne Hawkins (Cobden)
- ▲ 1982-83
Paula Camden (McLeansboro)
Susan Miller (Bonnie)
- ▲ 1981-82
Kayla Michelle Evrard
(McLeansboro)
- ▲ 1980-81
Malinda Bernard (Belle Rive)
Sharon Culpepper (McLeansboro)
- ▲ 1979-80
Barbara Summers (Benton)
Linda Wiggins (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 1978-79
Jeananne Dan (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 1977-78
Cindy Webb (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 1976-77
Cheryl Stafford (Woodlawn))
- ▲ 1975-76
Kathy O'Neill (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 1974-75
Beth Upcraft (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 1973-74
Cynthia Garner
Janette Gifford

STUDENT TRANSFER AND [S.T.A.R.S.] RETENTION SUPPORT

- ▲ 2015-16
Chris Richard (Mulkeytown)
- ▲ 2014-15
Flor Eldridge (Mulkeytown)
Cicely Lefler (Mulkeytown)
- ▲ 2013-14
Kenneth Miles-Akins
(Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 2012-13
Juanita Jones (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 2011-12
Andrea Craddock (Mt. Vernon)
Jayanna Weaver (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 2010-11
Rachal Doolin (Benton)
Jason Mills (Benton)
- ▲ 2009-10
Donna Adcock (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 2008-09
Faith Matzker (Benton)
- ▲ 2007-08
Lillian Rodriguez (Ina)
- ▲ 2006-07
Jim Hall (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 2005-06
Maranda Pedigo (McLeansboro)
- ▲ 2004-05
Kellyn Tennyson
- ▲ 2003-04
Amber Hill (Galatia)
- ▲ 2002-03
April Barnett (Whittington)
- ▲ 2001-02
Nathan Hammond (Sesser)
- ▲ 2000-01
Stacy Moran (Mt. Vernon)
- ▲ 1999-2000
Robin George
- ▲ 1998-99
Shawnika Lucks (Mt. Vernon)

STUDENT AMBASSADORS (Appointed)

▲ 2008-09

Tara Biggerstaff (McLeansboro), Jordan Boner (Benton), Dylan Bowling (McLeansboro), Mallory Brookins (Whittington), John Carlson (Mt. Vernon), Candace Draper (Mt. Vernon), Anthony Graham (Mt. Vernon), Andrew Hart (Benton), Megan Karcher (Dahlgren), Rachel Keim (Carterville), Ryan Keller (Nashville), Erin Morris (McLeansboro), Brittany Newman (Nashville), Reanne Palmer (Mt. Vernon), Michelle Rose (Marion), Hillary Scott (Waltonville) and John Shukites (Christopher). Jena Jensik, Advisor.

▲ 2007-08

Amber Blythe (Benton), Alex Crain (McLeansboro), Kelsie Knapp (Pinckneyville), Dean Mandrell (Benton), April McCormick (McLeansboro), Emily Overton (Benton), Heather Phillips (McLeansboro), Renee Rytterski (DuBois), Hannah Simmons (McLeansboro), Lauren Thomason (Benton) and Kelsey Woodrow (Springerton). Jena Jensik, Advisor.

▲ 2006-07

Ashley Carney (Pinckneyville), Kaylee Champ (Mt. Vernon), Darin Hicks (Pinckneyville), Jaron Hubbard (Christopher), Kassie Humphries (Frankton, IN), Kasey Kellerman (Pinckneyville), Ashley Kirkendoll (Christopher), Dean Mandrell (Benton), Lacy McGuire (Christopher), Mallory Miller (Sesser), Rachel Nielsen (Herrin), Katie Prior (DuQuoin), Alyssa Reed (Christopher), Jessica Rolla (Christopher), Heather Webb (McLeansboro) and Erin Weber (Wayne City). Jena Jensik, Advisor.

▲ 2005-06

Brandy Bowman (McLeansboro / HCSHS), Matt Carpenter (Sesser / Sesser-Valier H.S.), Angie Carroll (Mt. Vernon), Elizabeth Clements (Benton), Meghan Fourze (Mulkeytown / Christopher H.S.), Tiffany Gibbs (Macedonia), Travis Grannan (Iuka / Salem Community H.S.), Amanda Gunther (McLeansboro / HCSHS), Deanna Holder (Christopher), Matt Jackson (Pinckneyville), Matt Johnson (DuQuoin), Loran Karcher (Dahlgren), Lesley McMurray (Valier / Sesser-Valier H.S.), Megan Mitchell (McLeansboro / HCSHS), Adam Nagreski (Benton), Maranda Pedigo (McLeansboro / HCSHS), Rachel Sveda (Christopher), Aaron Walton (Benton), Megan Whaley (Benton), Amy Williams (Enfield / HCSHS) and Kimberly Wilson (Wayne City). Jena Jensik, Advisor.

▲ 2004-05

Beth Hoffman, Advisor.

STUDENT SENATE (Elected)

▲ 2002-03

Heather Beggs (Mulkeytown), Sara Blythe (Benton), Tammy Boles (Mt. Vernon), B.J. Boyd (Sesser), Keith Brown (Valier), Kevin Brown (Valier), Alana Christian (Waltonville), Alicia Christian (Waltonville), Abbey Gerlach (Mt. Vernon), Jina Han (Mt. Vernon), Lindsey Hillyard (Mt. Vernon), Seneca Horton (Woodlawn), Cole Hunter (McLeansboro), Jadi Johnson (Woodlawn), Angie Kelley (Sesser), Kyle Kirkpatrick (Johnston City), Whitney Lapington (McLeansboro), Bob Melvin (Mt. Vernon), Bethany Mitchell (McLeansboro), Carmen Muehlenbein (Valier), Josh Petro (Valier), Kate Schwartzkopf (Sesser), Mary Beth Sniderwin (Benton), Skyler Taylor (Sims), Sarah Trieglaff (Sesser) and Kelsey Ward (Mulkeytown). Monica Clark, Advisor.

▲ 2000-01

Julie Blanks (Bonnie / MVTHS), Keith Brown, Talisha Chambliss (Bluford / Webber Township H.S.), Bob Melvin, Sammy Peradotta (Pinckneyville), Esterina Pericolosi (Pinckneyville), Mike Sluder (Mt. Vernon), Tammy Sluder, Sarah Smith, Kyle Stortzum (Louisville, IL). Monica Belford, Advisor.

▲ 1999-2000

Michael Blakemore (Mt. Vernon), Kristin Clark (West Frankfort), Lindsey Maurer (Bluford), Missy Ragain (Benton), Kristin Rone (Benton), Jasolyn Smith (Bluford). Lynn Nimitz, Advisor.

▲ 1998-99

Charity Bevis (Mt. Vernon), Dustin Connack, Joshua Haile (Belle Rive), Phil Hamil (Nashville), Greg Hollmann (Mt. Vernon), Lindsey Maurer, Darrin Ray (Mt. Vernon), Kristin Rone (Benton), Samantha Stanford (Woodlawn / MVTHS), Ashley Stewart (Benton), Anissa Suggs (Mt. Vernon), Alisha Treece (Benton). Lynn Nimitz, Advisor.

▲ 1997-98

Monica Braddy (Mt. Vernon), Jeniffer Clark (Mt. Vernon), Mendy Conner (Mt. Vernon), Joshua Haile (Belle Rive), Nicole Hargett (Benton), Greg Hollmann (Mt. Vernon), Russell Jay (Benton), Nikki LaBuw (Benton), Kevin Loucks (Tamaroa), Glenda Mills (McLeansboro), Ashley Stewart (Benton), Alisha Treece (Benton). Lynn Nimitz, Advisor.

▲ 1996-97

Wendy Cockrum (Sesser), Robert Kiefer (Belle Rive), Samantha Lewis (Mt. Vernon), Ryan Stanford (Woodlawn), John Thompson (McLeansboro). Lynn Nimitz, Advisor.

▲ 1995-96

Amy Adams (Bonnie), Nicole Carpenter (Buckner), Gaye Kalayci (Christopher / Turkey), Samantha Lewis (Mt. Vernon), Shawn Rea (Benton), John Thompson (McLeansboro) and Jeff Warren (Mt. Vernon). Lynn Nimitz, Advisor.

▲ 1994-95

Jason Bronke, Ben Carson (Benton), Jessica Catron (Bluford / Webber Township

H.S.), Debbie Cisco. Lynn Nimitz, Advisor.

▲ 1993-94

Ben Carson (Benton), Lori Gant, Amber Goss (Macedonia), Larry Hager (Benton), Adam Kinsey (Sesser), Kim Strantz, Shane Taitt (Mt. Vernon) and Rhonda Wilson. Lynn Nimitz, Advisor.

▲ 1992-93

Kimberly Allen (Bonnie), Christina Gajewski (Scheller), Amber Goss (Macedonia), Larry Hager (Benton), Bruce Johnson (Wayne City), Leann Karcher (Mt. Vernon), Matt Marvel (Mt. Vernon), Julie Moore (Mt. Vernon), Stacy Story (Belle Rive), Staci Waller (Mt. Vernon) and Monya Wheatley (Benton). Lynn Nimitz, Advisor.

▲ 1991-92

Melissa Goehler (Mt. Vernon), Andy Hawkins (Cobden), Jason Hawkins (Mt. Vernon), Carrie Miller (Sesser), Lisa Rubenacker (McLeansboro), Matthew Sink (Ewing), Nicci Skorch (Mt. Vernon) and Stacy Story (Belle Rive). Lynn Nimitz, Advisor.

▲ 1990-91

Jodi Ballard (Mt. Vernon), Stacy Barnfield (Benton), Stephanie Gaines (Opdyke), Laura Garner (Valier), Tay Hynes (Mt. Vernon), Gretchen Lamke (Scheller), Jimmie Malone (Mt. Vernon), Jon Peek (Mt. Vernon), Lisa Rubenacker (McLeansboro), Joe Shaw (Mt. Vernon), Jason Trotter (Wayne City), Jennifer Tygett (Sesser). Lynn Nimitz, Advisor.

▲ 1989-90

Jodi Ballard (Mt. Vernon), Raynee Browning (Benton), Tamara Clark (West Frankfort), Amy Fitzpatrick, Cynthia Harris (Mt. Vernon), David Hicks, Jimmie Malone (Mt. Vernon), Cinnamon Mygatt (Sesser), Kevin Parker (Mt. Vernon) and Gina Reed. Lynn Nimitz, Advisor.

▲ 1988-89

Amy Andrews (Benton), Tamara Clark (West Frankfort), Cinnamon Mygatt (Sesser), Courtney Mygatt (Sesser), Gina Reed (McLeansboro), Ralph Roether (Sesser), Brad Sloan (McLeansboro), Chris Stubblefield (Sesser), Kerry Wagner (Benton). Sara Davenport, Advisor.

▲ 1987-88

Kim Braddy (Mt. Vernon), Leslie Cole (Thompsonville), Jeff deLatour (Benton), Joel deLatour (Benton), Steve Garipey (Benton), Dea Goss (Macedonia), Courtney Mygatt (Sesser), Bob Samolinski (Tamaroa), Wendi Schram (Buckner), Tom Upchurch (Mt. Vernon) and Kim Webb (Mulkeytown). Sara Davenport, Advisor.

▲ 1986-87

Kim Braddy (Mt. Vernon), Dea Goss (Macedonia), Rebecca Biggs (Sesser-Valier H.S.). Sara Davenport, Advisor.

▲ 1985-86

John Duff (West Frankfort).

▲ 1984-85

Robin Breeze (Bluford), Angie Crawford (Benton), Lisa Czerwinski (Scheller), Diana Galloway (Sesser), Kathy Kabat (Waltonville), Mary Kabat (Scheller), Darin Lee (McLeansboro), Beth Lucas (Mt. Vernon), Martin Mellott (Woodlawn), Chris Mincheff (Benton), Matt Moore (Benton) and Becky Teems (Woodlawn). Pam Luttmers, Advisor.

▲ 1983-84

Thomas Brand (Pinckneyville), David Coats (Woodlawn), Noelle Goss (Macedonia), Brian Heater (Opdyke), Val Johnson (McLeansboro), Donna Jones (Benton), Lois Kabat (Scheller), Lisa Kreher (Benton), Teresa McFarland (Thompsonville), Matt Moore (Benton) and LaDonna Wallace (Johnsonville). Pam Luttmers, Advisor.

▲ 1982-83

Tim Ayd (Dahlgren / McLeansboro H.S.), David Coats (Woodlawn), Scott Claxton (Mt. Vernon), David Dollins (Benton), Elaine Leanne Glass (McLeansboro), Randy Herrin (Benton), Val Johnson (McLeansboro), Lawanna Richardson (Mt. Vernon), Pete Serrano (Brentwood, MO), Shawn Taylor (Mt. Vernon) and Tammy Thomas (Springerton / McLeansboro H.S.). Robert Englander, Advisor.

▲ 1981-82

Tim Ayd (McLeansboro), Jerry Corn (Macedonia), Margie Cravens (Woodlawn / Mt. Vernon Twp. H.S.), Randy Herrin (Benton), Jim LaBuw (Benton), Robin Miller (Enfield), Kim Nalley (McLeansboro), Mike Piper (Mt. Vernon), Becky Savko (Benton), Steve Shurtz (Benton) and Cathy Vaughn (Pinckneyville). Robert Englander, Advisor.

▲ 1980-81

Jerry Corn (Macedonia), Sabrina Eastham (Waltonville), Lori Hart (Valier), Debbie Lee (Mt. Vernon), Scott Mabry (West Frankfort), Glen "Junior" Mace (Scottsburg, IN), Crystal Miller (Enfield), Lisa Mitchell (West Frankfort), Brad Rainwater (Wayne City), Steve Shurtz (Benton) and Daphne Tate (Benton). Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1979-80

Ron Brookins (Whittington / Benton H.S.), Barbara Doherty (Mt. Vernon), David Fairchilds (Benton), Crystal Miller (Enfield), Barry Moore (Murphysboro), Mike Parkinson (Coulterville), Brad Rainwater (Wayne City), Amy Roffmann (Mt. Vernon), Daniel Settle (Ina), Kaye South (Enfield), Dawn Webb (Ewing) and Susie Wolf (McLeansboro). Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

STUDENT SENATE (CONT.)

▲ 1978-79

Rhonda Arme (Sesser), Penny Biggerstaff (McLeansboro), Cinda Chullen (Benton), Doug Dunbar (Benton), Teresa Knox (Woodlawn), Mark Michalic (West Frankfort), Tim Morhet (Christopher), Glenn Spiller (Mt. Vernon), Gary Tucker (Lawrenceville), J.R. Wilkerson (Dahlgren); Susie Wolf (McLeansboro). Bob Graham, Advisor.

▲ 1977-78

Chris Benetti (Clinton, IN), Jim Bybee (Universal, IN), Julie Hart (Mt. Vernon), Amy Hundman (Mt. Vernon), Carol Kabat (Waltonville), Becky Kimmel (Mt. Vernon), Jennie Lipps (Mt. Vernon), Mark Michalic (West Frankfort), Jeanette Patrick (Centralia), Jeff Rister (Broughton), Linda Stein (Tamaroa), J.R. Wilkerson (Dahlgren). Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1976-77

Wendy Andros, Karen Davenport, David Dent (Nason), Carol Kabat (Waltonville), Becky Kimmel (Mt. Vernon), Roy Kretz, Mike McHaney (Mt. Vernon), Kelly Mumbower (Albuquerque, NM), Mike Shreves, Roger Smith, Laura Stewart (Mt. Vernon). Robert Graham, Advisor.

▲ 1975-76

Scott Ellis (Mt. Vernon), Mitch Fulford (Mt. Vernon), Mary Halstead (Mt. Vernon), Larry Lewis (Wayne City), Mike McHaney (Mt. Vernon), Laura Mick (Valier), Tom Mick (Benton), Dan Mitchell (Enfield), Lesa Rhodes (Zeigler), Mike Shreves, Margaret Skinner (McLeansboro), Laura Stewart (Mt. Vernon) and Terry Winters (Marion). Robert Graham, Advisor.

▲ 1974-75

Mary Black (Sesser), Shlonda Eastham (Waltonville), Meda Hirons (Mt. Vernon), Jane Johnson, Wayne Morris, Randy Murray, Marlon Nettleton (Mt. Vernon), Art Rice, Scott Rice, Carol Shute (Pinckneyville). Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1973-74

Bill Cox (Mt. Vernon), Shlonda Eastham (Waltonville), Sherry Frassato, Tomye Furlow (Christopher), Jill Guyton (Mt. Vernon), Stephanie Higginson (Thompsonville), Les Johnson (Thompsonville), Kristie Martin (Mt. Vernon), June Moss (Mt. Vernon), Marilyn Neal (Benton), Marlon Nettleton (Mt. Vernon), Cheryl Phelps (Bonnie), Kent Renshaw (Mt. Vernon), Diane Shelledy (Mt. Vernon), Carol Shute (Pinckneyville) and Phil Talbert (Sims). Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1972-73

Bill Ames, Connie Copeland (Mulkeytown), Tom Denton (Pinckneyville), Diane Derrington (Sesser), Jim Fenoli (Mt. Vernon), Angel Fiorenzi (Christopher), Donna Kimmel (Mt. Vernon), Dennis Lynch (McLeansboro), Mary Alice Reid (Mt. Vernon), Darrell Sigwerth, Pam Stewart (Mt. Vernon), Kurt Strothmann (Mt. Vernon), Joni Toigo (Christopher) and Suzi Wooley (Benton). Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1971-72

Jesse L. Bee Jr. (Mt. Vernon), Diane Clark (Mt. Vernon), Duff Cooper (Mt. Vernon), Paula Dycus (Mt. Vernon), Donna Kimmel (Mt. Vernon), Cathy Kirkpatrick (Sesser), Steve Korris (Mt. Vernon), Duane Richardson (McLeansboro), Carl Skorcz (Scheller / Tamaroa), Kurt Strothmann (Mt. Vernon), Pam Stewart (Mt. Vernon), Janice Webb (Ewing) and Nancy Wilson (Whittington). Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1970-71

Jesse L. Bee Jr. (Mt. Vernon), Diane Clark (Mt. Vernon), Nancy Dilley (Mt. Vernon), Jeanne Beth Dodds (Mt. Vernon), Diane Edmison (Opdyke), Bob Frick (Waltonville), Brett Gibbs (Mt. Vernon), Kathleen Kenney (Mt. Vernon), Nathan McClintock (Mt. Vernon), Bill Moore (Mt. Vernon), Bill Settle, Donna Smith and Jerry Walker (Christopher). Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1969-70

Linda Atchison (Mt. Vernon), Joe Cooper (Mt. Vernon), Joyce Dillingham (Mt. Vernon), Nick Evanchik (Christopher), Tonya Ford (Mt. Vernon), Wilbur Franklin (Christopher), Steve Henderson (Mattoon), Mike Jones (Tamaroa), Kathleen Kenney (Mt. Vernon), Vicki LaLumondier (Mt. Vernon), Bill Moore (Mt. Vernon), Rick Nance (Mt. Vernon), Becky Orrick (Mt. Vernon), Debbie Pullis (Mt. Vernon), Vernon Sweetin (Ina / Mt. Vernon) and Jerry Walker (Christopher). Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1968-69

John Anderson, Connie Childress (Mt. Vernon), Sheila Dodson (Mt. Vernon), Nick Evanchik (Christopher), Rick Heaney (Mt. Vernon), Vicki LaLumondier (Mt. Vernon), Gaynel Scherer (Mt. Vernon), Eric Welles (Mt. Vernon) and Larry White (Argenta). Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1967-68

Steve Adkins (West Frankfort), Connie Bancroft (Mt. Vernon), Stuart Chase (Wayne City), Kay Fowler (Mt. Vernon), Rick Heaney (Mt. Vernon), Vicki Hill (West Frankfort), Linda Presley (Ina) and Sue Waite (Mt. Vernon). Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

MT. VERNON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

▲ 1966-67

Connie Bancroft (Mt. Vernon), James Houseworth, Cheryl Martin (Mt. Vernon), Mary

Jane Moss, Terry Pigg (Mt. Vernon), Linda Presley (Ina) and Jane Windhorst (Mt. Vernon). Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1965-66

Janice Abraham (Mt. Vernon), Robert Brown (Mt. Vernon), Terry McCullough, Mary Jane Moss, Teresa Puntney (Mt. Vernon), Ronnie Stormont and Alan Wiley. Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1964-65

Kathleen Abraham (Mt. Vernon), Jim Burton (Mt. Vernon), Dexter Edmison, Janet Harp (Mt. Vernon), Joe Murphy, Teresa Puntney (Mt. Vernon) and Roger Taylor (Mt. Vernon). Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1963-64

Loren Boyd, Rita Firebaugh (Mt. Vernon), Annette Funkhouser, Bob Hicks, Gene Purdy, Karen Richardson and Roger Taylor (Mt. Vernon). Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1962-63

June Collins, Pat Higgins, Larry Karch, Peggy Manion, Ronnie Martin, Jerry McAdoo and George Ralph. Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1961-62

Sherry Bohlen, Dorina Briscoe, Nancy Flanagan, Larry Karch, Bill Lawrence, Nancy Martin and Roland Webb. Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1960-61

Debbie Best, Janet Gowler, Laura Joes, Brenda Lappin, Don Reed, Roland Webb and Ronald Wilson. Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1959-60

Deanna Arnold, Al Farmer, Jean Hutchison, Mary Kiefer, Bill Randall, Don Reed and Gary Sweetin. Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1958-59

Jim Brown, Jerry Frazier, Jimmy Glover, Mary Kiefer, Kent Piper, Sally Skinner and Mary Tinsley. Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1957-58

Jim Burnes, Jerry Frazier, Larry Martin, Jerry Nance, Jeanette Rutherford, Billie Joe Shields and Sally Skinner. Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

▲ 1956-57

William Shields, Gary Purdy, Benny Jackson, Jerry Nance, Carole Russell, Mary Lou Parker and Judy Talbert. Betty Ann Ward, Advisor.

STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENTS

▲ 2000-01

Esterina Pericolosi (Pinckneyville)

Brad Rainwater (Wayne City)

Scott Mabry (West Frankfort)

▲ 1998-99

Ashley Stewart (Benton)

▲ 1979-80

Ron Brookins (Benton)

▲ 1997-98

Greg Hollmann (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1978-79

Mark Michalic (W. Frankfort)

J.R. Wilkerson (Dahlgren)

▲ 1996-97

Samantha Lewis (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1977-78

Beckie Kimmel (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1993-94

Amber Goss (Macedonia)

▲ 1976-77

Laura Stewart (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1991-92

Jason Hawkins (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1975-76

Dan Mitchell (Enfield)

▲ 1990-91

Jodi Ballard (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1974-75

Marlon Nettleton (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1989-90

Cinnamon Mygatt (Sesser)

▲ 1973-74

William Lee Cox (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1988-89

Courtney Mygatt (Sesser)

▲ 1972-73

Kurt Strothmann (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1985-86

John Duff (West Frankfort)

▲ 1971-72

Diane Clark (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1984-85

Lisa Czerwinski (Scheller)

▲ 1970-71

William D. Moore (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1983-84

LaDonna Wallace (Johnsonville)

▲ 1969-70

Nick Evanchik (Christopher)

▲ 1982-83

Tim Aydt (Dahlgren)

▲ 1968-69

Larry White (Argenta)

▲ 1981-82

Jerry Corn (Benton)

Sheila Dodson (Mt. Vernon)

Randal T. Herrin (Benton)

▲ 1967-68

▲ 1980-81

Stu Chase (Wayne City)

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

And other prestigious honors for high academic achievement winners

▲ 2014-15

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Shelby Bayler (Broughton / Hamilton County Sr. H.S.), Casey Bowlin (Thompsonville), Logan Buckner (Whittington / Benton Consolidated H.S.), Autumn Casten (Sesser / Sesser-Valier H.S.), Jakob Felty (Bluford / Webber Township H.S.), Alyssa Henderson (Zeigler / Zeigler-Royalton H.S.), Julia Herzing (Scheller / Waltonville H.S.), Bailey Hosick (Norris City / NC-Omaha-Enfield), Colby Kell (Xenia / Wayne City H.S.), Alexis McKay (Mt. Vernon), Logan Queen (Pinckneyville), Anthony Valette (Mulkeytown / Christopher H.S.).

HIGH ACHIEVER SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Kali Baum (Mt. Vernon), Kolyn Borah (Wayne City), Madison Brashear (Sesser / Sesser-Valier H.S.), Kayla Cox (Mt. Vernon), Jessica Cramer (Opdyke / WTHS), Jonathan Dauby (Springerton / NCOE), Shannon Docherty (Opdyke / Mt. Vernon Township H.S.), Warren Eldridge (Mulkeytown / ZRHS), Miranda Eplin (Mt. Vernon), Zoie Flatt (Christopher), Ayla Gehner (Mt. Vernon), Brendan Haile (Keenes / WCHS), Kayla Jeffers (Dix / MVTHS), Clayton Johnson (Mt. Vernon), Jenna Johnston (Whittington / BCHS), Bailee Jones (Valier / SVHS), Kendall Kaskie (Mt. Vernon), Austin Kerley (Thompsonville), Storey Mayer (Mulkeytown / Christopher H.S.), Matthew Murdach (Bluford / WCHS), Brody Neal (Mt. Vernon), Alexis Newcomb (Benton), Kaitlyn Parcell (Mt. Vernon / WTHS), Taylor Phillips (Mt. Vernon), Curtis Prichard (Mt. Vernon), Claire Pytliński (Waltonville), Tabitha Rice (Wayne City), Brooke Robertson (Christopher), Tara Shreve (Wayne City), Brenden Slattery (Benton), Katlyn Smith (Wayne City), Ian Steury (Mt. Vernon), Gracie Tate (Mt. Vernon), Macyn Tonn (Benton), Sarah Travelstead (Norris City / NCOE), Kieran White (Sesser / SVHS), Nathan White (Valier / SVHS), Dallas Williams (Benton), Jordan Wills (Benton).

▲ 2013-14

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Marrisa Battaglia (Royalton / Zeigler-Royalton H.S.), Jenna Braden (McLeansboro / HCSHS), Rebecca Clark (Mt. Vernon / Webber Township H.S.), Paige Corbitt (Christopher), Kayla Erwin (Benton), Billy Fields (Mt. Vernon), Seth Hart (Centralia / Woodlawn H.S.), Brittany Hedden (Wayne City), Miranda Johnson (Norris City), Jessica Murphy (Thompsonville), Hunter Sample (Sesser / Sesser-Valier H.S.), Haley Simpson (Tamaroa / Pinckneyville Community H.S.), Taylor Snow (Bonnie / Waltonville H.S.), William Timpner (Pinckneyville), Bailey Wynn (Benton).

HIGH ACHIEVER SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Tim Barnett (Benton), William Box (Mt. Vernon), Abbie Braden (McLeansboro / Hamilton Co. Sr. H.S.), Brittany Britton (Benton), Alexandria Buck (Opdyke / Mt. Vernon Township H.S.), Sara Buffington (Mt. Vernon), Cole Chauncey (Mt. Vernon), Nickolas Dees (Mt. Vernon), Rebekah Ellis (Mt. Vernon), Sarah Ganieany (Bluford / WTHS), Tristan House (Benton), Devin Howton (McLeansboro / HCSHS), Summer Karch (Mt. Vernon), Kristen Keele (Wayne City), Rae Lappin (Sesser / SVHS), Angela Mehalek (Dahlgren / HCSHS), Jeffrey Pedigo (Royalton / ZRHS), Blaze Rightnowar (Bluford / WTHS), Aaron Shofner (Macedonia / HCSHS), Kacie Slater (Wayne City), Cassidy Sullivan (McLeansboro / HCSHS), Christopher Walter (Royalton / ZRHS), Meagan Whitener (Mt. Vernon), Sierra Willmore (Opdyke / MVTHS), Jacob Wilson (Mt. Vernon).

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Makala Carney, Brooke Docherty, Kristen Ginn, Tomi Heil, Christine Kraft, Amberly Page.

▲ 2012-13

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Bailey Battaglia (Zeigler / Zeigler-Royalton H.S.), Erica Benjamin (Mt. Vernon / Woodlawn H.S.), Tyler Dennison (Mulkeytown / Mt. Vernon Township H.S.), Lexi Donoho (Mt. Vernon), Raven LeVine (Thompsonville), Peyton Robbins (Benton / Sesser-Valier H.S.), Miranda Shafer (Bluford / Webber Township H.S.), Haden Smith (Wayne City), Hayley Webb (Macedonia / Benton Consolidated H.S.), Alyssa Winemiller (McLeansboro / Hamilton County Sr. H.S.), Lindsey Winter (Pinckneyville), Hannah Herzing (Scheller / Waltonville H.S.), Rebekah Kash (Scheller / WTHS).

HIGH ACHIEVER SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Emily Baburnich (Benton), Miki Belcher (Ewing / MVTHS), Jeffery Clark (Benton), John Davis (Mt. Vernon / Christopher H.S.), Brianna Gauch (Tamaroa / HCSHS), William Gibson (Mt. Vernon), Dillon Glowicki (Mt. Vernon), Rheanna Grizzell (Buckner / CHS), Brenae Hallam (Mt. Vernon), Daniel Halleran (Waltonville), Billy Hatfield (Dahlgren / WCHS), Tyson Hill (Mt. Vernon), Aarin Jeffers (Dix / MVTHS), Justin Johnson (Norris City / NC-Omaha-Enfield), Daniel Karcher (Dahlgren / HCSHS), Jesse Kays (Zeigler / ZRHS), Presley Kerans (McLeansboro / HCSHS), Mackenzie Korris (Mt. Vernon / NCOE), Mallory Ledbetter (Norris City / NCOE), Dustin May (Woodlawn), Jacob McCullough (McLeansboro / HCSHS), Dillon Medders (Mt. Vernon), Christopher Miles (Mt. Vernon), Mallory Owens (Mt. Vernon / WTHS), Justin Payne (Ina / MVTHS), Madison Peterman (Dix / MVTHS), Victor Rapp (Belle Rive / HCSHS), Casey Revelle (Mt. Vernon), Lauren Richardson (Mt. Vernon), Christine South (Enfield / NCOE), Justis Tinsley (Bluford / WTHS), Andrew Wehrheim (Woodlawn), Caitie Wisniewski (Scheller / WTHS).

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP – Brooke Kujawa (Mt. Vernon).

FORNEAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TO S.I.U.C. – Cheryl Delbene (Sesser / SVHS).

▲ 2011-12

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Cheleste Baney (Thompsonville), Sara Barnett (Benton), Alan Delbene (Sesser / Sesser-Valier H.S.), Taylor Hartman (Tamaroa / Pinckneyville Community H.S.), Rebecca Key (Sesser / Christopher H.S.), Krystal Knight (McLeansboro / Hamilton County Sr. H.S.), Hailey Martin (Bluford / Webber Township H.S.), Taylor McPhail (Zeigler / Zeigler-Royalton H.S.), Chelbie Pyszka (Waltonville), Kelly Williams (Mt. Vernon), Torri Withrow (Sims / Wayne City H.S.).

HIGH ACHIEVER SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Craig Bailey (Coello / CHS), Pierce Borah (Mt. Vernon), Paige Brocaille (Tamaroa / PCHS), Nathaniel Burgess (Xenia / WCHS), Elijah Burk (Belle Rive), Marli Choate (Mt. Vernon / WCHS), Jessica Colbert (Benton), Carlin Depew (McLeansboro / HCSHS), Mark Feather (Wayne City), Challis Flannigan (Dahlgren / HCSHS), Tyler Flota (Mt. Vernon), Joshua Gentry (Mt. Vernon), Brandon Godt (Coulterville / PCHS), Haley Haggood (Tamaroa / PCHS), James Hudson (Marion / Johnston City H.S.), Ben Hutchcraft (Ewing / BCHS), Megan Kash (Waltonville), Shelby Kemp (Sesser / SVHS), Dayna Keyes (Bluford / WCHS), Russell Klueg (Omaha / NCOE), Kelsi Knight (McLeansboro / HCSHS), Jesse Krutsinger (Bluford / WTHS), Whitney Lowery (Woodlawn), Weston Mason (Opdyke / MVTHS), Bria McKinzie (Mt. Vernon / Woodlawn H.S.), Joel Mick (Keenes / WCHS), Brecca Mullinax (Woodlawn), Roger Perkey (Tamaroa / PCHS), Mira Raney (Norris City / NCOE), Kathleen Sledge (Mt. Vernon), Amanda Tooke (Mt. Vernon / WTHS), Jenna Wellen (Dahlgren / HCSHS).

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP – Todd Osborn.

FORNEAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TO S.I.U.C.

Cheryl Delbene (Sesser / SVHS) and Michelle Witcher (Sesser / SVHS).

▲ 2010-11

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Lillian Allen (Thompsonville), Brittany Battaglia (Royalton / Zeigler-Royalton H.S.), Ashtynn Braden (McLeansboro / Hamilton County Sr. H.S.), Cody Compton (Mt. Vernon), John Davey (Mulkeytown), Kelsey Guy (Sims), Kaitlyn Hagene (Pinckneyville), Chelsea Hayden (Whittington), Katlin Hicks (Dix / Mt. Vernon Township H.S.), Andrew McKinney (Enfield / Norris City-Omaha-Enfield H.S.), Morgan McLaughlin (Bluford / Webber Township H.S.), Taylor Sprehe (Woodlawn), Ashley Slack (Sesser).

HIGH ACHIEVER SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Joshua Bagley (Tamaroa / Pinckneyville Comm. H.S.), Steven Beckham (Mt. Vernon), William Boyd (Sesser / S.-Valier H.S.), Christian Burge (Mt. Vernon), Elijah Burk (Belle Rive / MVTHS), Scott Bush (West City / Benton Con. H.S.), Lauren Duncan (Dix / MVTHS), Kaisi Dye (Bluford / WTHS), Colin Dyel (Benton), Bradley Greer (Coulterville), Rya Heady (Mt. Vernon), Brandon Karcher (Dahlgren), Erica Kirsch (Mt. Vernon), Peyton Knapp (Tamaroa / PCHS), Jason Litherland (Broughton), Joshua Lowe (Pinckneyville), Austin McBride (Pinckneyville), Kyle Mitchell (Waltonville), Katelyn Patterson (Dix / MVTHS), Benjamin Payne (Bonnie), Ian Peterson (Royalton / Zeigler-Royalton H.S.), Coral Ramsey (Pinckneyville), Amanda Rice (Coulterville), Cassandra Rowe (Mt. Vernon), Colleen Ryterski (Pinckneyville), Gage Spencer (Benton), David Sprehe (Coulterville), Robert Stanfield (Scheller), Roy Thompson (Royalton), Hannah Travis (DuQuoin), Bronson Verhines (Woodlawn), Taylor Vessel (Valier / Sesser-V.), Tyler Weston (Mt. Vernon).

FORNEAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TO S.I.U.C. – Michelle Witcher (Sesser / SVHS).

▲ 2009-10

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Lindsey Boston (Zeigler / Z.-Royalton H.S.), Raquel Bowlin (Christopher), Anthony Brown (Tamaroa / Pinckneyville Comm. H.S.), Brittany Chapman (Thompsonville), Dakota Hanson (Mt. Vernon), Daniel Kash (Waltonville), Kyle Lamichane (Bonnie / Mt. Vernon Twp. H.S.), Shauna Lauramore (Wayne City), John David Lemke (Bluford / Webber Twp. H.S.), Shelby McCormick (Thompsonville), Jerica Melton (Norris City / NCOE), Andrew Neal (Whittington / Benton Consolidated H.S.), Rebecca Newbury, Sesser / Sesser-Valier H.S.), Rebecca Peradotto (Pinckneyville), Kelsey Ropp (Iuka / Salem Community H.S.), Hallie Scott (Waltonville), Lashell Shaw (Opdyke / MVTHS), Stephanie Smith (McLeansboro), Bethany Toms (Benton), Kaitlin Webb (McLeansboro), AQuielle Wheatley (Benton), Keasha Williams (Benton), Breann Withrow (Sims).

HIGH ACHIEVER SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Kent Almaroad (Dix / MVTHS), John Beckman (Mt. Vernon), Perry Borah (Mt. Vernon), Brittany Chapman (Thompsonville), Elizabeth Clifton (Mt. Vernon), Caleb Cross (Belle Rive / MVTHS), Kaycee Dycus (Mt. Vernon), Kristen Flatt (Sesser), Gage Folz (Norris City / NCOE), Randy Jones (Bonnie / MVTHS), Danielle Kabat (Woodlawn), Tyler Knox (Mt. Vernon), Kyle Martin (Mt. Vernon), Jessie McAfoos (Thompsonville), Tara McIntyre (Pinckneyville), Micah Moore (Benton), Timothy Moore (Pinckneyville), Casey Pearce (Norris City / NCOE), Jessika Slater (Wayne City), Jacob Smart (Woodlawn), Brooke Sutton (Tamaroa / PCHS), Alex Tockstein (Benton), Bronson Verhines (Woodlawn), Leslie Wheeler (McLeansboro).

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP – Michael Garrett.

FORNEAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TO S.I.U.C. – Mallory Brookins (Whittington / BCHS).

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC (CONT.)

▲ 2008-09

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Aribi Auten, Alyssa Bacon, Audrey Blake, Jessica Booker, Michaela Burwell, Amber Clancy, Katrina Dekker, Chynna DelBene, Emily Dixon, Angie Jachim, Karissa Johnson, Lindsey Klein, Jodie Mabry, Michael Malanowski, Elizabeth Palmer, Derek Reeves, Christopher White, David Wilson.

HIGH ACHIEVER SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Phillip Baughman, Eric Biggs, Kory Blank, Nicholas Burke, Eric Conner, Travis Deitz, James Dreas, Christopher Dulany, Cameron Dunford, Zachary Fegan, Joseph Giacomo, Brian Harland, Callan Howton, Ranzie Kendrick, Karen Landreth, Allison Mayberry, Brandon Miller, Kayla Millikin, Dustin Nelson, Preston Nelson, Jarod Payne, Logan Payne, Miles Priebe, Joshua Rakers, Cody Richardson, Veronica Shelton, Austan Skidmore, Collin Smith, Amber South, Jon Stanhouse, Caitlin Stearns, Emma Talbert, David Tennyson, Everett Venable, Austin Vuichard.

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Savannah Harrell (Student Scholarship Endowment); Cody Kraft, Michaela Morland.

FORNEAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TO S.I.U.C.

Rachel Matyi (Sesser / SVHS) and Travis Zettler (Sesser).

▲ 2007-08

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Mariah Adams, Mallory Brookins, Rachel Burkhamer, Nina Dorchincez, Lindsay Downen, Charity Duran, Adam Epllin, Cathy Feather, Alex Gibbs, Jennifer Gibson, Kasey Glenn, Shonda Gulley, Casey Hagene, Ashley Halterman, Debbie Jayne, Megan Karcher, Austin Laur, Courtney Lee, Ashley Lenz, Jake Lipps, Amanda Morgan, Nicole Peterson, Hillary Scott, Michaela Stanley.

HIGH ACHIEVER SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Brady Allen, Denise Bailey, Cullen Bond, Jordan Boner, Phillip Borcherding, Cassie Boyd, Amber Cooper, Chelsea Donoho, Steven Gibson, Shonda Gulley, Hannah Haile, Elizabeth Halfacre, Nicholas Holloman, Derrick James, Aunya Knox, Justin Miller, Paul Nehrkorn, ReAnne Palmer, Cassandra Robinson, Michelle Rose, Joshua Scott, Andrew Smith, Tiffany Thompson, Kristi Walker, Joshua Wells.

FORNEAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TO S.I.U.C.

Travis Zettler (Sesser) and Marsha Lamczyk (Mulkeytown).

▲ 2006-07

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Molly Baine, Jennifer Batts, Lindsay Breiling, Casie Byerley, Katie Furlow, Samantha Hargis, Amanda LeVine, Kasey Marlow, April McCormick, Cassie Miller, Tiffanie Morlan, Kelsei Nowland, Jessa Poninski, Ashley Reynolds, Cherrish Wroblewski.

HIGH ACHIEVER SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Leah Campbell, Cory Dixon, Amanda Gilchrist, Derk Kennedy, Stefani Kruse, Rachel Martin, Shanda Martin, Krystle McElroy, Ashley Niblett, Jacob Schofield, Scott South, Jacob Talbert, Brittany Wagner, Ashley Wells, Chelsea Witzel, Anthony Zurliene.

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP – Whitney Stephens.

FORNEAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TO S.I.U.C.

Marsha Lamczyk (Mulkeytown) and Adam Nagreski (Benton).

▲ 2005-06

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Ashley Blackstone, Teresa Brown, Kaylee Champ, Emily Chaplain, Elizabeth Clements, Emily Drone (Waltonville), Macy Duniho (Pinckneyville), Meghan Fourze (Christopher), Scott Glover, Alexander Henson, Deanna Holder (Christopher), Ashley Houghland (Pinckneyville), Grant Keith, Mallory Miller, Travis Newman, Alisa Payne, Alyssa Reed, Amanda Reed, Gary Remer (Mt. Vernon), Ashley Riley, Jessica Rolla, Danielle Staley (NCOE), Brittany Storey, Kate Talbert, Dakotah Vanover, Miles Vaughn, Weston White, Kimberly Wilson (Wayne City).

HIGH ACHIEVER SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Jacquelyn Anselment, Dan Bleyer (Mt. Vernon), Brandy Bowman, Adam Busenbark (Mt. Vernon), John Campbell (Pinckneyville), Dustin Clinton (Woodlawn), Bill Davis, Donald Davolt, Justin Ellis, Ben Erwin, Drew Frailey, Kelsey Greenwalt (Wayne City), Robert Hagerman, Jenna Hart, Leslie Darin Hicks, Frank Justin Horton, Jeffrey Jackson, Whitney Johnson, Loran Karcher (McLeansboro), Ashley Kash (Mt. Vernon), Bria Korris, Dustin Martin, Travis Mitchell, Danielle Moore, Sean Riley, Keith Robinson (Benton), Nicholas Schlag, Eric Sheets, Hillary Sheridan, Joshua Sledge, Matthew Smith, Rachel Sveda (Christopher), Leslie Thierry, Aaron Walton (Benton), Heather Webb, Crystal White, Brittany Wise, Christopher Wright.

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Nicholas Allen, Timothy Cox, Jennifer Scott.

FORNEAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TO S.I.U.C.

Adam Nagreski (Benton) and Shane Garner (Sesser).

▲ 2004-05

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Ashley Blackstone (McLeansboro), Teresa Brown (Sesser-Valier), Elizabeth Clements (Benton), Emily Drone (Waltonville), Macy Duniho (Pinckneyville), Meghan Fourze

(Christopher), Deanna Holder (Christopher), Ashley Houghland (Pinckneyville), Christina Karnes (Thompsonville), Melissa McMahan (Bluford), Gary Remer (Mt. Vernon), Jasea Smith (NCOE), Danielle Staley (NCOE), Brittany Storey (Sesser-Valier), Kimberly Wilson (Wayne City).

HIGH ACHIEVER SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Dan Bleyer (Mt. Vernon), Brandy Bowman, Adam Busenbark (Mt. Vernon), John Campbell (Pinckneyville), Dustin Clinton (Woodlawn), James Darrohn (Benton), Drew Frailey, Kelsey Greenwalt (Wayne City), Robert Hagerman, Trent Harris (Benton), Jenna Hart (Benton), Linda Ilingworth, Whitney Johnson (McLeansboro), Loran Karcher (McLeansboro), Ashley Kash (Mt. Vernon), Brent Loyd, Jordan McCreery, Adam Minor (Wayne City), Earl Minson (Christopher), Aabha Oza, Kandace Roberts (Sesser-Valier), Hillary Sheridan, Joshua Sledge (Mt. Vernon), Matthew Smith, Rachel Sveda (Christopher), Aaron Walton (Benton), Brittany Wise (Benton), Christopher Wright (McLeansboro).

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Leah Brown, Tony Catafamo, Timothy Cox, Justin Forby (Herrin), Morgan Frailey, Shane Garner (Sesser), Mike Houseworth, Bethany Johnston (Benton), Jay Lentz, Ashley Mateer (Mt. Vernon), Eric McCollum (Benton), Jarred Metje (Mt. Vernon), Ashley Pooe, Hannah Shay (McLeansboro), Eric Shelton (Bluford), Nathan Wilburn, D.K. York (McLeansboro).

ILLINOIS MERIT RECOGNITION

Ashley Blackstone (McLeansboro), Teresa Brown (Sesser-Valier), James Darrohn, Deanna Holder (Christopher), Gary Remer (Mt. Vernon), Rachel Sveda (Christopher).

FORNEAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TO S.I.U.C. – Shane Garner (Sesser).

▲ 2003-04

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Wendy Banks (Mt. Vernon), Marilee Beck (McLeansboro), Amy Blasdel (Wayne City), Tara Bolinger, Sara Downes, Rachel Droll, Lyndsey Fuller, Lisa Funke, Amber Gulley, Michelle Hopkins, Rebecca Jones, Sheila Karch, Megan Kniffen (Mt. Vernon), Jennifer Lampley, Jennifer Lavoie-Gallant (McLeansboro), Staci Lingas, Jessica Linville (Waltonville), Denice Manley, Alisha McCann (Benton), Brandon McEwen, Emily Mestel (Mt. Vernon), Charity Odle (Benton), Courtney Page (Benton), Mary Puckett (Thompsonville), Casey Rhine (McLeansboro), Hannah Shay (McLeansboro), Charla Shurtz, Allison Staley, Sheri Sulser (Sesser-Valier), Andrea Taylor (Wayne City), Jennifer Taylor, Teri Urban (Zeigler-Royalton), Aaron Wheeler (Woodlawn), Kevin Williams, Amanda Wilson (Bluford), Amanda Young.

HIGH ACHIEVER SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Kurtis Blank (Wayne City), Bethany Everett (McLeansboro), David Gramenz (Christ Lutheran H.S.), Helen Holleman (Zeigler-Royalton), Zachary Kabat (Nashville), Jennifer Lavoie-Gallant (McLeansboro), Gary Little (West Frankfort), Emily Mestel (Mt. Vernon), Adam Nagreski (Benton), Charity Odle (Benton), Keith Robinson (Benton), James Scroggins (Zeigler-Royalton), Heather Storey, Matthew Waldman (Waltonville), Erian White (Nashville).

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Kathleen Boyles, Amie Buttrum, Mike Houseworth, Todd Irvin, Christopher Lowery, Amanda McClurken, Jay Munyon, D.K. York (McLeansboro).

ILLINOIS MERIT RECOGNITION

Wendy Banks, Rachel Billingsley, Kurtis Blank, April Gibson (Tilden), Megan Kniffen (Mt. Vernon), Heather Storey, Andrea Taylor (Wayne City).

FORNEAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TO S.I.U.C.

Mandi Page (Sesser) and Zack Zimbardo (Sesser).

▲ 2002-03

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Terri Belangee, Tara Bolinger, Sara Downes, Rachel Droll, Rick Fenton, Dustin Foster, Sarah Fuller, Lisa Funke, Kristen Furlow, Katie Gillespie, Amber Gulley, Hyunwook Han, Michelle Hopkins, Kaelin Jennings, Rebecca Jones, Sheila Karch, Daniel Keith, Jennifer Lampley, Amanda Learned, Staci Lingas, Denice Manley, Billie Jo May, Brandon McEwen, Kathryn Mescher, Rusty Millenbine, Jay Munyon, Daryl Norton, Alan Phelps, Tim Piotrowski, Gina Reinburg, Hanna Shay, Charla Shurtz, Allison Staley, Jennifer Taylor, Ryne Thomason, Crystal Underwood, Kevin Williams, Jennifer Wilson, Amanda Young.

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Ginger Conner, Scott Mitchell, Mary Reynolds, Shelly Severs, Lindsey Shurtz, Abby Swift, Lynndi Tennyson, Lisa Wright.

PRESIDENT'S STUDENT SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP – Mary Manning.

ILLINOIS MERIT RECOGNITION

Rachel Droll, Lisa Funke, Amber Gulley, David Ing, Staci Lingas, Denice Manley, Kathryn Mescher, Allison Staley, Jennifer Taylor, Ryne Thomason, Amanda Young.

FORNEAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TO S.I.U.C. – Jerry Travelstead (Sesser).

▲ 2001-02

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Elizabeth Adams, Toni Arnett, Sarah Beatty, Terri Belangee, Leighann Chinn, Alana Christian, Justin Curtis, Brent Epllin, Ricky Fenton, Dustin Foster, Nicole Fulford, Kristin Furlow, Katie Gillespie, Han Hyunwook, Kaelin Jennings, Nicole Jones, Rachel

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC (CONT.)

Jones, Emily LaBuw, Amanda Learned, Pamela Lipe, Ashley Lynn, Billy Jo May, Rusty Millenbine, Jay Munyon, Heather Murphy, Daryl Norton, Alan Phelps, Gina Reinburg, Keisha Richardson, Bobbi Saily, Skyler Taylor, Crystal Underwood, Beau Vaughn, Denton Weiss, Lakeatha Wilcox, Jennifer Wilson.

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Dustin Bowen, Jessica Brashear, Kelli Mann, Harriet Meadows, Mary Reynolds.

PRESIDENT'S STUDENT SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

Andrew Blackwell, Bethany Mitchell, Matt Ray, Jessica Sanders.

ILLINOIS MERIT RECOGNITION

Amanda Albers, Kecia Allen, Dustin Foster, Kristin Furlow, Paige Hutchison, Kaelin Jennings, Amanda Learned, Rusty Millenbine, Jay Munyon, Gina Reinburg, Catherine Strothmann, Crystal Underwood, Jennifer Wilson.

FORNEAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TO S.I.U.C.

Jerry Travelstead (Sesser) and Lacy Kirk (Sesser).

▲ 2000-01

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Elizabeth Adams, Toni Arnett, Joel Bell, Krystle Bullock, Talisha Chambliss, Leighann Chinn, Alana Christian, Andrea Clark, Chrystal Cox, Justin Curtis, Jared Elliston, Joni Eubanks, Nicole Fulford, Jayme Greene, Roger Hails, Blake Jones, Joshua Jones, Nicole Jones, Rachel Jones, Chris Kujawa, Emily LaBuw, Morgan Laird, Dustin Lampley, Chad Link, Shane McNeil, Christine Nehrkorn, Michelle Nichols, Kimberly Payne, Nicholas Pittman, Keisha Richardson, Jennifer Rolla, Bobbi Saily, Erin Simmons, Michelle Snyder, Skyler Taylor, Noah Tennyson, Beau Vaughn, Danae Vukadinovich, Sara Warner, Denton Weiss, Lakeatha Wilcox, Aaron Woodland.

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Jason Fulks, Shawnika Lucks, Lyndsay Muir, Kris Morris.

ILLINOIS MERIT RECOGNITION

Elizabeth Adams, Krystle Bullock, Leighann Chinn, Justin Curtis, Nicole Fulford, Rachel Jones, Keisha Richardson, Bobbi Saily, Hayley Simmons, Skyler Taylor, Beau Vaughn, Latasha Woodson.

FORNEAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TO S.I.U.C.

Lacy Kirk (Sesser) and Nichole Andrews (Benton).

▲ 1999-2000

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Rebecca Adams (Ina), Joel Bell, Sarah Bevis (Mt. Vernon), Talisha Chambliss (Bluford), Andrea Clark, Chrystal Cox (McLeansboro), Gretchen Cox, Misty DeSpain (Thompsonville), Jared Elliston, Roger Hails, Sara Hefner (Opdyke), Jennifer Herzog (Mt. Vernon), Blake Jones, Joshua Jones, Angela Kaufman (Belle Rive), Chris Kujawa (Waltonville), Anthony Lamczyk (Mulkeytown), Dustin Lampley (Thompsonville), Makenzie Launay, Chad Link (McLeansboro), Chris McCann (Benton), Christine Nehrkorn (Pinckneyville), Kimberly Payne (Mt. Vernon), Melissa Ragain (Benton), Jennifer Rolla, Erin Simmons (McLeansboro), Lynn Snyder (Zeigler), Michelle Snyder (Mt. Vernon), Ryan Steed (Wayne City), William Sveda, Danae Vukadinovich, Sara Warner (Mt. Vernon), Sarah Weaver (Sesser), Marci Zinzilietta (Benton).

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Jamie Lyn Mabry (Thompsonville).

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Joshua Conner (Sesser), Nathaniel Cox (Benton), Sarah Friederich (McLeansboro), Nathan Harsy (Tamaroa), Henry Leeck (Belle Rive), Shawnika Lucks (Mt. Vernon), Tammy Ramey (Herrin), Nathan Rich (Benton), Sara Swinney (Benton).

ILLINOIS MERIT RECOGNITION

Jason Bowman, Talisha Chambliss (Bluford), Andrea Clark, Carissa Irwin (Mt. Vernon), Blake Jones, Joshua Jones, Chad Link (McLeansboro), Aaron Neal, Jennifer Rolla, Lynn Snyder (Zeigler), Michelle Snyder (Mt. Vernon), Danae Vukadinovich, Sara Warner (Mt. Vernon), Aaron Woodland.

FORNEAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TO S.I.U.C. – Nicole Cockrum (Benton).

▲ 1998-99

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Rebecca Adams (Ina), Josh Anderton (Christopher), Matt Arnett (Woodlawn), Sarah Bevis (Mt. Vernon), Kim Buck (Waltonville), Jamie Carter (Mulkeytown), Gretchen Cox (Sesser), Jason Fulkerson (Bonnie), Curt Gibbs (Mt. Vernon), Brooke Hamilton (Woodlawn), Stephanie Hargis (Benton), Sara Hefner (Opdyke), Jennifer Herzog (Mt. Vernon), Alicia Kehrer (Woodlawn), Karen Kimble (Mt. Vernon), Anthony Lamczyk (Mulkeytown), David Lowery (Mt. Vernon), Jessica Marshall (Christopher), Chris McCann (Benton), Angela McClerren (Thompsonville), Shane McNeal (Waltonville), Lisa Miller (Thompsonville), Andrea Mills (Bluford), Karrie Moyer (Sims), Rhyann Payne (Mt. Vernon), Melissa Ragain (Benton), Sarah Rawls (Dahlgren), Kaycee Roberts (Sesser), Robert Robinson (Pinckneyville), Katie Rowland (McLeansboro), Benjamin Sawyer (Pinckneyville), Sarah Shurtz (Sesser), Ryan Skibo (Benton), Andrew Smith (Wayne City), Ryan Steed (Wayne City), Samara Stirneman (Benton), Cale Sullivan (Thompsonville), William Sveda (Christopher), Serena Sweetin (Ina), Terah Trusty (Zeigler), Sarah Weaver (Sesser), Amanda Worley (Scheller), Marci Zinzilietta (Benton), Sarah Zmudzinski (Scheller).

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Jill Dollins (Zeigler / Zeigler-Royalton H.S.).

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Amy Bacon (Mulkeytown), Brandon Bullard (Mt. Vernon), Tiffany Champ (Mt. Vernon), Jay Champley (Benton), Tyson Conner (Mt. Vernon), Benjamin Cox (Benton), Nathaniel Cox (Benton), Travis Donoho (Mt. Vernon), Stephanie Douglas (Thompsonville), Shawn Harris (Sesser), Robert Johnson (Mt. Vernon), April Kowalski (Scheller), David Leeck (Opdyke), Erin Niebrugge (Valmeyer), Renea Poe (McLeansboro), Tammy Ramey (Herrin), Michael Redding (Sesser), Sara Swinney (Benton), Scott White (Opdyke), Lindsay Winemiller (Whittington).

ILLINOIS MERIT RECOGNITION

Rebecca Adams (Ina), Sarah Bevis (Mt. Vernon), Sara Hefner (Opdyke), Jennifer Herzog (Mt. Vernon), Amanda Mitchell (Wayne City), Melissa Ragain (Benton), Sarah Shurtz (Sesser), Jasolyn Smith (Bluford), Andrew Smith (Wayne City), Serena Sweetin (Ina).

FORNEAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TO S.I.U.C. – Jody Williams (Sesser).

▲ 1997-98

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Josh Anderton (Christopher), Carolyn Book (Ina), John D. Bunk (Scheller), Kelly Chullen (Benton), Gretchen Cox (Sesser-Valier H.S.), Jamie Davison (Christopher), Amanda Dixon (Benton), Sarah Dunbar (Mulkeytown / Christopher H.S.), Jason Fulkerson (Bonnie / Mt. Vernon Twp. H.S.), Curt Gibbs (Mt. Vernon), Rachael Greenwood (Mulkeytown), Melissa Hale (Woodlawn), Stephanie Hargis (Benton), Nichelle Hutchison (Mt. Vernon), Chad Inabnit (Macedonia), Alicia Kehrer, Karen Kimble (Mt. Vernon), Rachel Klus (Benton), Jessica Marshall, Matthew Maynard (Tamaroa), Angela McClerren, Kathleen McCollum (Benton), Lisa Miller (Thompsonville), John Milliner (Mt. Vernon), Andrea Mills, Karrie Moyer (Sims / Wayne City H.S.), Heather Musgrave (Wayne City), Rhyann Payne (Mt. Vernon), Jyl Pepple (Bluford), Sarah Rawls (McLeansboro), Kaycee Roberts (Sesser / SVHS), Katie Rowland, Benjamin Sawyer (Pinckneyville), Veronica Seckman (Freeman Spur), Jodi Seidel (Belle Rive), Ryan Skibo (Ewing / Benton Cons. H.S.), Ryan Steed (Wayne City), Samara Stirneman (Benton), Stephanie Swartz (McLeansboro), Gina Todd (Thompsonville), Terah Trusty (Zeigler / Z-Royalton H.S.), Amanda Weisel (Tamaroa), Jackie Wingo (Valier), Amanda Worley (Scheller), Sarah Zmudzinski (Pinckneyville).

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Brandon Dwyer (Marion).

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Melissa Barker, Brandon Bullard (Mt. Vernon), Tiffany Champ (Mt. Vernon), Benjamin Cox (Benton), Angela Czapiewski (Opdyke), Agnes Faux, Bryan Furlow (Christopher), Shawn Harris (Sesser-Valier), Patricia Harriss (DuQuoin), Wesley Kendrick (Mt. Vernon), April Kowalski (Waltonville), Kevin Loyd (Scheller / Sesser-Valier H.S.), Latasha McClain (Mt. Vernon), Renea Poe (McLeansboro), Shana Scott, Delena Shadoan (Benton), Jeremy Sickler (Cutler), Alicia Treece (Benton), Doris Williams.

ILLINOIS MERIT RECOGNITION

Gretchen Cox (Sesser-Valier), Jessica Marshall, Angela McClerren, Lisa Miller (Thompsonville), Kaycee Roberts (Sesser / SVHS), Ryan Steed (Wayne City), Samara Stirneman (Benton), Sarah Zmudzinski (Pinckneyville).

▲ 1996-97

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Josh Adams (Belle Rive), Carolyn Book (Ina), Tracy Brand (Pinckneyville), John D. Bunk (Scheller), Jamie Canada (Benton), Lana Catlin (Mt. Vernon), Kelly Chullen (Benton), Togan Cottrell (Thompsonville), Lee Ann Danner (Mt. Vernon), Jamie Davison (Christopher), Amanda Dixon (Benton), Amanda Flint (Mulkeytown), Rachel Greenwood (Mulkeytown), Melissa Hale (Woodlawn), Nichelle Hutchison (Mt. Vernon), Chad Inabnit (Macedonia), Rachel Klus (Benton), Josh Lemke (Dahlgren), Kristopher Mariano (Coello), Cassandra Martin (Zeigler), Matthew Maynard (Tamaroa), Kathleen McCollum (Benton), Amy Merchel McCulley (Mt. Vernon), Dana Miller (Thompsonville), John Milliner (Mt. Vernon), Andrew Morris (Mt. Vernon), Heather Musgrave (Wayne City), Matthew Page (Mt. Vernon), Jyl Pepple (Bluford), Amanda Pirino (Bluford), Joseph Reynolds (Waltonville), Kevin Rich (Benton), Veronica Seckman (Freeman Spur), Jodi Seidel (Belle Rive), Anthony Smith (Wayne City), Dayna Smith (Wayne City), Stephanie Swartz (McLeansboro), Reed Thomason (Wayne City), Gina Todd (Thompsonville), Kathy Trader (Scheller), Amanda Weisel (Tamaroa), Julie Williams (Waltonville), Jackie Wingo (Valier).

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Robert Kiefer Jr. (Belle Rive / MVTHS).

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Anthony Baker (Hillsboro), John R. Blondi (Benton), John D. Bunk (Scheller), Brian Cantrell (Benton), Ben Cox (Benton), Amanda Flint (Mulkeytown), Tricia A. Harriss (DuQuoin), Amanda Heape (Tamaroa), Lana Mandrell (Benton), Megan Mitchell (Opdyke), Misty Morgan (Mt. Vernon), Matthew Newbury (Sesser), Robert Riskey (Christopher), Christopher Roberts (Benton), Tiffany Weaver (Wayne City), Jennifer Webb (Royalton).

ILLINOIS MERIT RECOGNITION

Carolyn Book (Ina), Amanda Dixon (Benton), Jill Dollins (Mulkeytown), Amanda Heape (Tamaroa), Nichelle Hutchison (Mt. Vernon), John Milliner (Mt. Vernon), Jyl Pepple (Bluford), Veronica Seckman (Freeman Spur), Dayna Smith (Wayne City), Gina Todd (Thompsonville).

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC (CONT.)

▲ 1995-96

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Amy Adams, Josh Adams (Belle Rive), William Bender (Pinckneyville), Kendra Braddock (Wayne City), Tracy Brand (Pinckneyville), Jason Bronke (Pinckneyville), Shannon Bullock, Jamie Canada (Benton), Togan Cottrell (Thompsonville), Lee Ann Danner (Mt. Vernon), Amanda Flint (Mulkeytown), Elizabeth Holman (Thompsonville), Elisha Jones (Pinckneyville), Rickey Kondoudis (Buckner / Christopher H.S.), Josh Lemke (Dahlgren), Kristopher Mariano (Coello), Cassandra Martin (Zeigler), Monica Maxey (Mt. Vernon), Angie Mays, Amber McFadden, Amy Merchel, Dana Miller (Thompsonville), Andrew Morris (Mt. Vernon), Matthew Page (Mt. Vernon), Valerie Pedigo, Randy Phillips (Mt. Vernon), Amanda Pirino (Bluford), Rodney Reininger (Bonnie / Waltonville H.S.), Lacey Rice (Benton), Kevin Rich (Benton), Kari Roberts, Jasen Shehorn (Mt. Vernon), Tonya Shelton (Dahlgren / Hamilton County Sr. H.S.), Letha Sieveking, Anthony Smith (Wayne City), Susan Smith, Stacie Terpening, Reed Thomason (Wayne City), Kathy Trader (Scheller), Julie Williams (Waltonville), Rachel Witbracht (Percy / PCHS), Lindsey Yunkus (Benton).

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Dee Anne Higgins (Mt. Vernon).

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Aaron Cantrell (Benton), Lucinda Cox (McLeansboro), Debra Curry (Sesser), Gloria Jean Ellis (Mt. Vernon), Dorothy Feira (Sesser), Brett Gilliam (Benton), Dennis Guley (Christopher), Jeff Hankla (Sesser), Jacob Johnson (Wayne City), Gary Lewis (Bluford / Webber Twp. H.S.), Myron Neislar, Derek Steed (Benton), Lee M. Summers (Sesser-Valier).

ILLINOIS MERIT RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIPS

Tracy Brand (Pinckneyville), Aubrey DeJournett, Amy Merchel, Matthew Page (Mt. Vernon), Amanda Pirino (Bluford), Kevin Rich (Benton), Michelle Shelton (Dahlgren), Anthony Smith (Wayne City), Reed Thomason (Wayne City).

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORP. – Rachel Witbracht (Percy / PCHS).

▲ 1994-95

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Amy Adams, William Bender, Kendra Braddock, Jason Bronke, Shannon Bullock, Jonathon Faulker, Elizabeth Holman, Ricky Kondoudis, Amber McFadden, Angie Majewski, Angie Mays, Monica Maxey, Randy Phillips, Rodney Reininger, Lacey Rice, Kari Roberts, Samuel Romano, Jason Shehorn, Tonya Shelton, Letha Sieveking, Susan Smith, Lindsey Yunkus.

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Christine Ellen Mitchell (Mt. Vernon).

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Jeffrey S. Docherty, Christina Gajewski, Ryan McCollum.

ILLINOIS MERIT RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIPS

Kendra Braddock (Wayne City), Martyn Ellsworth (Benton), Elizabeth Holman (Thompsonville), Rodney Reininger (Waltonville) and Susan Smith (Wayne City).

▲ 1993-94

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Melanie Beehn, Amy Biggs, Christy Biggs, Annie Bond, Jana Caldwell, Rachel Greene, Deana Hammel, Chad Hayes, Heather Head, Jeremy Jokisch, Susan Kimble, Jeni Kirby, Damian Lainfiesta, Julie Loucks, Jason Lusby, Lisa Nelson, G. Newell, N. Pursell, G. Rightnowar, R. Robinson, M. Shagoda, N. Woods.

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Kathie Hefner (Benton).

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Beth Mitchell, Christine Owens, Elaine Owens.

SOPHOMORE MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Melanie Fullerton, April Galloway, Karen Hugo, Kathy Presley, Kimberly Jo Teel.

▲ 1992-93

SOPHOMORE MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Millie Buck, Jason Craddock, Abby Hampton, Gina Hower, Sue Morgenthaler, Stacy Story.

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Rebecca Laskowski (Sesser).

▲ 1991-92

SOPHOMORE MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Kimberly Aaron, Vicki Bond, Jan Carr, Brian Charron, Dan Halliday, Julie Owens, Deanna Smith.

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Karen Rains (Tamaroa), Steve Tate.

▲ 1990-91

SOPHOMORE MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Kara Jo Porter, Cary Sue Smith, Lori M. Smith, Gerry Strietzel.

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Cecelia Ealey (Salem).

▲ 1989-90

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Marda Barnfield (Benton), Julie Baston (Mulkeytown), Michael Beehn (Bluford / Wayne City H.S.), Teresa Dickey (McLeansboro), Tammy Frost (Benton), Amy Galloway (Valier), Jennifer Gilbert (Mulkeytown), Bradley Grubb (Dahlgren), David Harp (Benton), Nikki Harper (Bonnie / Mt. Vernon Township H.S.), Scott Jackson (Wayne City), Katie Kiefer (Belle Rive), Randa Kerley (West Frankfort), Kelby McKinney (Wayne

City), Sandra Pijut (Scheller / Waltonville H.S.), Shari Restivo (Mulkeytown), Geinger Robinson (West Frankfort), Cynthia Schubert (Tamaroa), Cary Smith (Benton), Jennifer Tygett (Sesser), Doug Wayer (Mt. Vernon).

SOPHOMORE MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Jeremy Anderson, Henry Clark, Terry Drone (McLeansboro), Helen Foster, Shay Hagel (Pinckneyville).

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Carlos Rodriguez (Mt. Vernon).

▲ 1988-89

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Brent Beltz (Tamaroa), Brian Brandon (Mulkeytown), Travis Clem (West Frankfort), Terry Drone (McLeansboro), Christy Galloway (Sesser), Rodney Johnson (McLeansboro), David Mitchell (McLeansboro), Melanie Morrison (Benton), Jeremy Myers (Pinckneyville), Cinnamon Mygatt (Sesser), Dawn Shockley (Benton), Dean Smith (Benton), Cassandra Wolfe (Pinckneyville).

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Tricia Kujawa (Woodlawn).

▲ 1987-88

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Lois Wilkin (Pinckneyville).

▲ 1986-87

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Sandra Cruse (Mt. Vernon).

▲ 1985-86

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Tamara Adams (Mt. Vernon), Penny Dickey (West Frankfort / ZRHS), Kevin Grantham (Pinckneyville), Keith Greenwalt (Wayne City), Kim Hyten (McLeansboro), Roy Kirkpatrick (Sesser), Roger Miller (Dahlgren / McLeansboro H.S.), Penny Morgan (Benton / Sesser-Valier H.S.), Michele Prosize (Woodlawn), Linda Verhines (Mt. Vernon).

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Martha House (Christopher).

▲ 1984-85

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Jane Chancey (Benton).

▲ 1983-84

R.L.C.F. SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP – Reneé Hertenstein (Mt. Vernon).

THIRD ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Michelle L. Andrews (Benton), Brad Cannon (Mt. Vernon), Melissa Gallo (Sesser-Valier), Eric W. Glatthaar (Mt. Vernon) and Laura L. Hindman (Pinckneyville).

▲ 1982-83

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Beth Bender (Pinckneyville), Cheryl Curry (Mt. Vernon), Melissa Gallo (Sesser-Valier), Lisa Gariepy (Benton), Michelle Hodge (Sesser-Valier), Denita Johnson (Wayne City), Karen Kash (Mt. Vernon), Vicky King (Zeigler-Royalton), Kevin Kirsch (McLeansboro), Kathy Klapman (Mt. Vernon), Jayma Lampley (Thompsonville), Becky Likens (Woodlawn), Kent Linder (Pinckneyville), Lisa Lowry (Benton), Sallie Maloney (McLeansboro), Jaimette Mantoan (Wayne City), Cheryl McCurdy (Pinckneyville), Barbara Miller (Enfield), Dorothea Payne (Thompsonville), Gretchen Perry (Benton), James A. Rea (Christopher), Mark Rojek (Tamaroa), Teresa Snethen (Zeigler-Royalton), Angela Wilson (Webber Township) and Angela Witges (Waltonville).

R.L.C. FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP – Judith L. Smith (Christopher).

SECOND ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

1. Tammy Hunt (McLeansboro). Also, Julie Stewart (Mt. Vernon), Krystal Mitchell (McLeansboro), Bob Hudson (Sesser-Valier) and Jeron Jenkins (Mt. Vernon).

▲ 1981-82

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Joe Arvieu (Thompsonville), Scott Austin (Wayne City), Tim Aydt (McLeansboro), Marla Benard (Benton), Donnette Bochantin (Waltonville), Julie Boldt (Woodlawn), Paul Daniels (Bluford / Webber Township), Susan Fry (Mt. Vernon), Leanne Glass (McLeansboro), Sherry Hicks (Pinckneyville), Mike Klosterman (Pinckneyville), Jeani LeVault (Sesser-Valier), Jana Loeh (Zeigler-Royalton), Lori Lowry (Benton), Mike Malcolm (Benton), Linda Medder (Wayne City), Jamie Roberts (McLeansboro), Connie Sanders (Zeigler-Royalton), Stephanie Skorch (Tamaroa), Beth Szczebleski (Sesser-Valier), Melinda Ann Wills (Mt. Vernon) and Susan Woodward (Mt. Vernon).

R.L.C. FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP – Marion Logan (Tamaroa).

FIRST ESSAY CONTEST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

1. Rhonda Faulkner (Woodlawn). Also, Tim Aydt (McLeansboro), Ruth Brown (Sesser-Valier), Cindy Coffel (Sesser-Valier) and Paul Daniels (Webber Township).

▲ 1980-81

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Luanne Aydt (McLeansboro), John Blasdel (Wayne City), Tim Clemens (Mt. Vernon), Dalelisa Crocker (Wayne City), Angela R. Deitz (Mt. Vernon), Ted Gajewski (Woodlawn), Becky Heard (Benton), Pam Higginson (Benton), John T. Kabat (Waltonville), Cindy Lautenbacher (Mt. Vernon), Susan Malinski (Pinckneyville), Lisa Neal (Benton), Kathy Restoff (Tamaroa), Anita Riley (Bluford / Webber Township), Laura Rushing (Pinckneyville), Ken Savage (McLeansboro), Bryan Len Stubblefield (Thompsonville), Cathy Vaughn (Pinckneyville), Karla Waier (McLeansboro).

R.L.C. FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP – Maria Franscavitch (Mt. Vernon).

PHI THETA KAPPA OFFICERS

Local Rho Xi Chapter of Two-Year International Honor Society (Cumulative 3.25 GPA or better)

Established in 1918 by two-year college presidents, PTK Honor Society serves to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development through honors, leadership and service programming. PTK is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 1.3 million members and 1,100 chapters in 50 states, U.S. territories, Canada, Germany and Japan. The American Association of Community Colleges recognizes PTK as the official honor society for two-year colleges. PTK is patterned after the prestigious senior college honor society Phi Beta Kappa.

▲ 2014-15

Aaron Ramsey, President (Mt. Vernon)
Jessica Murphy (Thompsonville)
Alison Bulger (DuQuoin)
Vanessa Lawrence (Benton)
Jena Jensik, Advisor

▲ 2013-14

Caitie Wisniewski, V-P (Scheller)
Nathan Brouwer, Advisor

▲ 2012-13

Nathan Brouwer, Advisor

▲ 2011-12

Nathan Brouwer, Advisor

▲ 2010-11

Shawn Campbell, Pres. (Mt. Vernon)
Lindsey Boston, Vice Pres. (Zeigler)
Stephanie Smith, Sec. (McLeansboro)
Gabrielle Brumbaugh, Tr. (Woodlawn)
Jason Mills, P.R. (West Frankfort)
Rachel Sveda, Advisor

▲ 2009-10

Yvonne Kimble, Pres. (Christopher)
Troy Adams, Vice President (Bonnie)
Karissa Johnson, Sec. (Mt. Vernon)
Emma Talbert, Tr. (Wayne City)
Chelsie George, P.R. (Mt. Vernon)
Rachel Sveda, Advisor

▲ 2008-09

Jamie Bathon, Pres. (Pinckneyville)
Charity Duran, V-P (Trico H.S.)
Rebecca Heathcoat, Secretary
Brittany Spain, Treas. (Pinckneyville)
Zachary Collins, P.R. (Dahlgren)
Cheri Rushing, Advisor

▲ 2007-08

Olen Rodriguez, Pres. (Benton / Washington H.S.)
Heather Webb, V-P (McLeansboro)
Christa Mitchell, Sec. (McLeansboro)
Jaron Hubbard, Treas. (Christopher)
Kaylee Champ, P.R. (Mt. Vernon)
Cheri Rushing, Advisor

▲ 2006-07

Timothy Temple, President (Mattoon)
Elizabeth Clements, V-P (Benton)
Meghan Fourez, Sec. (Mulkeytown)
Sandra Tite, Treasurer (Pinckneyville)
Deanna Holder, P.R. (Christopher)
Cheri Rushing, Advisor

▲ 2005-06

Rachel Sveda, President (Christopher)
Marilee Beck, V-P (McLeansboro)
Melissa Loyd, Sec. (Sesser-Valier)
Sarah Dixon, Treas. (Benton)
Chrystal Manning, P.R. (DuQuoin)
Cheri Rushing, Advisor

▲ 2004-05

Adam Nagreski, President (Benton)
Rachel VanZant, V-P (McLeansboro)
Rachel Droll, Secretary
Amanda Young, Treasurer (Bluford)
Laura Zettler, Historian (Sesser)
Alicia Hutchings, P.R. (Pinckneyville)
Cheri Rushing, Advisor

▲ 2003-04

Samuel Grimes, President (Salem)
Sheri Garascia, Vice President (Sesser)
Andrew Blackwell, Sec. (McLeansboro)
Fawn Lorenz, Treasurer (Benton)
Amanda Learned, Hist. (Christopher)
Sara Blythe, P.R. (Benton)
Cheri Rushing, Advisor

▲ 2002-03

Robert Frassato, President (Marion)
Kent Leighty, Treas. (McLeansboro)
Cheri Rushing, Advisor

▲ 2001-02

Lynndi Tennyson, Pres. (Dahlgren)
Deloris Clark, President
Keith Shasteen, V-P (McLeansboro)
Rita Bruno, Secretary
Kent Lieber, Treasurer
Jeannie Mitchell-Collins, Co-Advisor
Cheri Rushing, Co-Advisor

▲ 2000-01

Amanda Moore, President
Lynndi Tennyson, V-P (Dahlgren)
Kristen Walker, Sec. (Benton/Dahlgren)
Rocky Millenbine, Tr. (McLeansboro)
Rachel Gartner, P.R. (Mulkeytown)
Esterina Pericolosi, Fund. (P-ville)
Erin Simmons
Jeannie Mitchell-Collins, Advisor

▲ 1999-2000

Kristen Clark, Pres. (West Frankfort)
Jasolyn Smith, Vice President (Bluford)
Tiffany Arvieu
Heidi Bruce (Mt. Vernon)
Lori Simmons
Christy Tarr
Jeannie Mitchell, Advisor

▲ 1998-99

Holly Hargadine, Pres. (Thompsonville)
Monica Braddy (Mt. Vernon)
Denise Clutter (Buckner)
Kiley Cummings (Mt. Vernon)
Brian Davitz (Pinckneyville)
Jessica Marshall
Jeannie Mitchell, Advisor
▲ 1997-98
Russell Jay, President (Benton)
Jyl Pepple, Vice President (Bluford)
Gina Todd, Secretary (Thompsonville)
Kathleen McCollum, Tr. (Benton)
Diane Rowland, Historian (Benton)
Chad Inabnit, P.R. (Macedonia)
Jay Lewis, Rho Xi Chapter Sponsor

▲ 1996-97

Julie Williams, President (Waltonville)
Kim Hart, Vice President (Dahlgren)
Jessica Pilson, Secretary (Belle Rive)
Timothy Hubbell, Tr. (Mt. Vernon)
Judy Kujawa, Historian (Waltonville)
Nellie Kelley, Publicist (Benton)
Jay Lewis, Rho Xi Chapter Sponsor

▲ 1995-96

Louis Viernum, President (Benton)
Jennifer Duchene, Vice President
Judith Courter, Sec. (Macedonia)
Jennifer Summary, Treas. (Benton)
Timothy Hubbell, Hist. (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1994-95

Sharon Taylor, Pres. (West Frankfort)
▲ 1993-94
Dr. Sue Trammell, Advisor

▲ 1992-93

Gayla Hall, President (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1991-92

Geraldine Parino, President (Royalton)
Jan Carr, Vice President (Mt. Vernon)
Helen Kabat, Secretary (Scheller)
James Holmes, Treas. (Mt. Vernon)
Lyn Rentfro, Publicity (Royalton)
Cathy Rezba, Social (Pinckneyville)
Gerard Niedbalski, Fund. (DuBois)
Robert Sieveking, Hist. (Thompsonville)
Karen Hagan, Service (Pinckneyville)
Dr. Barbara Luchsinger, Advisor

▲ 1990-91

Andrea Bradley, President (Sesser)
Helen Foster, V-P (Thompsonville)
Kelly Suzanne Smith, Sec. (Benton)
Arleen Hackworth, Tr. (Coulterville)
Diane Hiller, Social Srv. (Benton)
Danny Johnson, P.R. (Benton)
Geraldine Parino, Fund. (Royalton)
James Wangler, Membership (W.F.)
Kathy Kirkpatrick, Advisor

▲ 1988-89

Sandy Hiller, President (Zeigler)
Linda Kabat, V-P (Waltonville)

Karen Mohr, Secretary (Benton)
Tom Burke, Advisor

▲ 1980-81

Barbara Doherty, Pres. (Mt. Vernon)
Maria Franscavitch, V-P (Mt. Vernon)
Andrea Beaty, Steer. Comm. (Sesser)

▲ 1979-80

Jerry Brownberger, President
Michelle Davis, Vice President
Dorothy Johnson, Secretary
Tom Burke, Advisor

▲ 1978-79

Cinda Chullen, President (Benton)
Kim Grubb, Sec.-Treas. (Dahlgren)
Tom Burke, Advisor

▲ 1977-78

Elizabeth Beaty, President
Julie Hart, Vice President
Jan Maloney, Secretary-Treasurer
Barbara Tomek, Advisor

▲ 1976-77

Jean Page, President (Ewing)
Nolene Bond
Gayla Eubanks
Barbara Tomek, Advisor

▲ 1975-76

Peter Harris, President (Valier)
Hyla Farthing, Sec.-Tr. (Mt. Vernon)
Barbara Tomek, Advisor

▲ 1974-75

Carol Dilley (Mt. Vernon)
Beth Upcraft
Wayne Morris
Barbara Tomek, Advisor

▲ 1973-74

Les Johnson, Pres. (Thompsonville)
David Whitney, V-P (Mt. Vernon)
Debbie Knight, Secretary-Treasurer

▲ 1972-73

Gayla Harrelson, President
Mary Lynn Bertocchi, Secretary
Joni Toigo, Treasurer
Connie Dudley
Myron Foley, Advisor

▲ 1971-72

Brenda Record, President
Karen Book, V-P (Mt. Vernon)
Sheryl Guyton, Secretary
Terri Bagwell, Treasurer
Myron Foley, Advisor

▲ 1970-71

Sherry Wilson, President (Bluford)
Debbie Aldridge, Vice President
Tonya Ford, Secretary (Mt. Vernon)
Randy Depoister, Treas. (Mt. Vernon)
Myron Foley, Advisor

(Continued on Page 142)

STUDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Education Majors / Student Illinois Education Assn.

Imogene I. Book, Advisor

▲ 1982-83

Trisha Lee, President (McLeansboro)
Leanne Glass, Treas. (McLeansboro)

▲ 1981-82

Kim Nalley, President (McLeansboro)
Trisha Lee, V-Pres. (McLeansboro)
Mary Beth Lecher, Treasurer
Rita Schuster, Secretary
Jamie Roberts, P.R.

▲ 1980-81

Pam Abbott, President (McLeansboro)
Darlene Heil, V-P (McLeansboro)
Robin Miller, Secretary (Enfield)
Rhonda Reid, Treasurer (Enfield)
Denise Rubenacker (Mt. Vernon)
Ronda Irvin (Dale)
Rita Schuster (McLeansboro)
Becky Dale (McLeansboro)

▲ 1979-80

Martha Abbott, Pres. (McLeansboro)
Darlene Heil, V-P (McLeansboro)
Pam Abbott, Sec.-Tr. (McLeansboro)

▲ 1978-79

Penny Biggerstaff, President
Martha Abbott, V-P (McLeansboro)
Judi Cockrum, Sec.-Treas. (Dahlgren)

▲ 1977-78

Shirley Clark, President
Jeff Hale, Vice President
Debbie Curry, Secretary
Barbara Whisenhunt, Tr. (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1976-77

Jean Page, President (Ewing)
Shirley Clark, President / Region V-P
Barbara Whisenhunt, V-P (Mt. Vernon)
Jo Marlow, Secretary
Jean Page, Treasurer (Ewing)
Linda Dawson, Publicity (West York)

▲ 1975-76

Zena VanHorn, President (Sesser)
Southern Regional Vice President
Phyllis Carter, V-P (Christopher)
Barbara Buck, Treasurer (Ashley)
Jean Page, Secretary (Ewing)
Lesa Rhodes, Publicity (Zeigler)
Deidre Barnfield, Publicity
David Dent, Senate Rep (Nason)

▲ 1974-75

Shlonda Eastham, Pres. (Waltonville)
Diane Threewitt, Secretary
Curtis Richardson, Treas. (Dahlgren)
Zena Van Horn, Publicity (Sesser)
Phyllis Carter (Christopher)

▲ 1973-74

Karla Owens, President (McLeansboro)
Robert Munday, Vice Pres. (Benton)
Kathe Wilkerson, Secretary (Benton)

Carol Galbraith, Treasurer (Benton)
Shlonda Eastham, P.R. (Waltonville)
Imogene I. Book, Advisor

▲ 1972-73

Joni Toigo, President (Christopher)
Kurt Strothmann, 1st V-P (Mt. Vernon)
Nancy Jo Hefner, 2nd V-P (Benton)
Kathleen Schutte, Treas. (Mt. Vernon)
Mary Lynn Bertocchi, Sec. (Christopher)
Pam Stewart, Student Aid (Mt. Vernon)
Karla Owens, Publicity (McLeansboro)
Vicki Davidson, Historian (Christopher)

▲ 1971-72

Janice Webb, President (Ewing)
David Davidson, 1st Vice President
Kurt Strothmann, 2nd V-P (Mt. Vernon)
Marti McClure, Secretary (Mt. Vernon)
Joni Toigo, Treasurer (Christopher)
Kathleen Schutte, Hist. (Mt. Vernon)
Vicki Davidson, Publicity (Christopher)
David Davidson, Student Aid
Valerie Brown, Student Aid (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1970-71

Jean Derges, President (Mt. Vernon)
Joyce Barr, Vice President (Dahlgren)
Pat Keiffer, Treasurer
Karen Book (Mt. Vernon)
Carol Patton (Mt. Vernon)
Janice Webb (Ewing)
Valerie Brown (Mt. Vernon)
Jan Briley (McLeansboro)

▲ 1969-70

Leslie Page, President (M)
Janice Eater, 1st V-P (Mt. Vernon)
Diana Watts, 2nd Vice President
Sharon Simmons, Sec. (Mt. Vernon)
Joyce Thomas, Treasurer (Mt. Vernon)
Brenda Simpson
Mary Jane Shupe (Herrin)
Glenda Bond

▲ 1968-69

Kathy Herzog, President (Dahlgren)
James Aydt, 1st V-P (Dahlgren)
Diana Watts, 2nd Vice President
Leslie Page, Secretary
Joan Karcher, Treasurer (Mt. Vernon)
Sharon Simmons, Pub. (Mt. Vernon)
Albert Jungers, Publicity (Mt. Vernon)
Michael Kent, Historian (Mt. Vernon)
Joyce Thomas, Tutoring (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1967-68

Marsha Elzy, President (Mt. Vernon)
Evelyn Plummer, 1st Vice President
Bruce Wolfe, 2nd V-P (Mt. Vernon)
Susie Stephens, Sec. (Mt. Vernon)
Joan Karcher, Treasurer (Mt. Vernon)
Brenda Culli, Publicity (Mt. Vernon)
Diane Clark, Teacher's Aid (Wayne City)
Jeanne McCartney, Historian

DANCE ROYALTY

HOMECOMING

▲ 2016

QUEEN / KING
LeAnn Aaron (West Frankfort)
Ryan Bushur (Carbondale)

▲ 2015

QUEEN / KING
Claire Pytlinski (Waltonville)
Eli Liske (Okawville)

▲ 2014

QUEEN / KING
Ashley Clarry (DuQuoin)
Adam Carter (Marion)

▲ 2013

QUEEN / KING
Juanita Jones (Mt. Vernon)
Alex Heathcoat (Benton)

▲ 2012

QUEEN / KING
Stacy Bohn (Lebanon)
Greg Guest (Nashville)

▲ 2011

QUEEN / KING
Nichole Bressner (Fairbury)
Nick Neff (Smithton)

▲ 2010

QUEEN / KING
Karissa Johnson (Mt. Vernon)
Brent Hanke (Carlyle)
STAFF QUEEN / KING
Shawna Manion, RLCF Asst. Dir.
Abel Kinser, History Instructor

▲ 2009

QUEEN / KING
Abbie Eubanks (Whittington)
Spencer Ammons (Ewing)

▲ 2008

QUEEN / KING
Hannah Simmons (McLeansboro)
Robert Kapsoiya (Eldoret, Kenya)
STAFF QUEEN / KING
Jena Jensik, Counselor
Greg Poole, Educational Technology

▲ 2007

QUEEN / KING
Heather Mitchell (Benton)
Travis Zettler (Sesser)
STAFF QUEEN / KING
Tracy Devoy, Administrative Asst.
Jason Swann, Recruiter

▲ 2006

QUEEN / KING
Amber Meador (Mt. Vernon)
Charles Howell (Plainfield)
STAFF QUEEN / KING
Leslie Hodge, CPR Instructor
Rick Marlow, Architecture Professor

▲ 2005

QUEEN / KING
Sara Rose Pillers (Mt. Vernon)
Jordan Crotser (Thompsonville)

▲ 2004

QUEEN / KING
Laura Zettler (Sesser)
Howard Harper (Evansville, IN)

▲ 2003

QUEEN / KING
Stacia Bruce (Benton)
Ian Hornabrook (Queensland, Aust.)

▲ 2002

QUEEN / KING
Sara Blythe (Benton)
Skyler Taylor (Sims / Wayne City)

▲ 2001

QUEEN / KING
Kristen Walker (Benton / Dahlgren)
Pat Frank (Canfield, OH)

▲ 2000

QUEEN
Jenny Overturf (Benton)

▲ 1999

QUEEN / MAID OF HONOR
Jamie Wilson (Benton)
Kristin Rone (Benton)

▲ 1998

QUEEN / MAID OF HONOR
Nicole Hargett (Benton)
Amy Baltzell (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1997

QUEEN
Nikki LaBuw (Benton)

▲ 1996

QUEEN
Samantha Lewis (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1995

QUEEN
Jennifer Simpson (McLeansboro)

▲ 1994

QUEEN
Deni Bennis (Benton)

▲ 1993

QUEEN
Randie Marie Galloway (Sesser)

▲ 1992

QUEEN
Wendy Henson (Mt. Vernon)

OTHER DANCES

▲ 1978-79

CHRISTMAS DANCE QUEEN / KING
Linda Stein (Tamaroa)
Mark Michalic (West Frankfort)

▲ 1975-76

CHRISTMAS DANCE QUEEN
Lyne Mabry (Valier)

▲ 1974-75

HOMECOMING QUEEN
Beverly Walker (Benton)

(Continued on Page 142)

DANCE ROYALTY (CONT.)

▲ 1973-74

HOME COMING QUEEN

Peggy Disroe (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1972-73

CHRISTMAS DANCE QUEEN

Kerrie Lampley (Benton)

▲ 1971-72

CHRISTMAS DANCE QUEEN

Chris Jones

▲ 1970-71

CHRISTMAS DANCE QUEEN

Kathleen Kenney (Mt. Vernon)
 SPRING FORMAL DANCE QUEEN

Debbie Auten (Benton)

▲ 1969-70

CHRISTMAS DANCE QUEEN

Verna Sue Auxier (McLeansboro)
 SPRING FORMAL DANCE QUEEN

Janice Eater (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1968-69

CHRISTMAS DANCE QUEEN

Sheila Dodson (Mt. Vernon)
 SPRING FORMAL DANCE QUEEN

Kathy Herzing (Dahlgren)

▲ 1967-68

CHRISTMAS DANCE QUEEN

Donna Arnold (Mt. Vernon)
 SPRING FORMAL DANCE QUEEN

Pat Thompson (Sesser)

MT. VERNON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

▲ 1966-67

CHRISTMAS DANCE QUEEN

Donna Wesdell
 SPRING FORMAL DANCE QUEEN
Pat Marlow

▲ 1965-66

CHRISTMAS DANCE QUEEN

Joyce Bullard (Mt. Vernon)
 SPRING FORMAL DANCE QUEEN
Janice Abraham (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1964-65

SPRING FORMAL DANCE QUEEN

Kathleen Abraham (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1963-64

SPRING FORMAL DANCE QUEEN

Pat Lemay

▲ 1962-63

SPRING FORMAL DANCE QUEEN

Peggy Manion (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1961-62

SPRING FORMAL DANCE QUEEN

Nancy Flanagan

▲ 1960-61

SPRING FORMAL DANCE QUEEN

Dianne Gregory

▲ 1959-60

SPRING FORMAL DANCE QUEEN

Carol Cowen

▲ 1958-59

SPRING FORMAL DANCE QUEEN

Mary Kiefer

▲ 1957-58

SPRING FORMAL DANCE QUEEN

Mary Tinsley

MARKETING / PUBLIC INFORMATION STUDENT-WORKERS (Since 1978)

Student-workers campus-wide play a major role in helping in the day-to-day operation of Rend Lake College. We salute them all! Those individuals who helped in various ways in the preservation of The History of Rend Lake College...

Name (Hometown)	Years
David Fairchilds (Benton)	1978-79
Gina Mitchell (Benton)	1979-81
Randy Herrin (Benton)	1981-82
Michelle Fields (Mt. Vernon)	1982-83
Teresa McFarland (Thompsonville)	1983-85
Dixie Hicks (Mt. Vernon)	1985-86
Kim Benjamin Braddy (Woodlawn)	1986-88
Melissa Wiggins (Mt. Vernon)	1990-92
Channa Baxter (DuQuoin)	1992-93
Elizabeth (Benton)	
Bobbi "B.J." Walker (Christopher)	
Jennifer Mines (Sesser)	1994-95
Stacy Toms Tessone (Benton)	1995-96
Nicole Carpenter (Christopher)	1996-97
Allison Raski (Zeigler)	1997-98
Lisa Miller (Thompsonville)	1998-99
Maria Jurich (Christopher)	2000
Stacy Miller	
Melissa Webb	
Leslie Ward (Mulkeytown)	
Amy Miller (Thompsonville)	2001-03
Sara Rose Pillers (Mt. Vernon)	2003-05
Erin Weber (Wayne City)	2005-07
Takita Earl (Elkhart, IN)	2007
Erin Morris (McLeansboro)	2007-10
Leilani Epplin (Pinckneyville)	2011
Amanda Rice (DuQuoin)	2011-12
Sara Barnett (Benton)	2012-13
Michael Dees (West Frankfort)	2014-15

P.T.K. OFFICERS (CONT.)

▲ 1969-70

Bill Webb, President (Mt. Vernon)

Ted Mannen, V-P (Mt. Vernon)

Debbie Pullis, Secretary (Mt. Vernon)

Larry Davis (Mt. Vernon)

Kathie Estes (Mt. Vernon)

Sharon Simmons (Mt. Vernon)

Myron Foley, Advisor

▲ 1968-69

Tom Anderson, President (Marion)

Jay Lewis, V-P (Christopher)

Diane Clark, Secretary (Wayne City)

Glen Wright, Treasurer (Sesser)

Larry Stonecipher, Council (Texico)

Teri Newberry, Historian (Decatur)

William Farmer, Advisor

The Rho Xi Chapter of PTK was organized April 10, 1968, with 24 students.

SOCIETY OF SUCCESS AND LEADERSHIP / SIGMA ALPHA PI

Minimum – 3.25 GPA, 9 Credit Hours

▲ 2006-07

"Outstanding Member," Melissa Galvao (Mt. Vernon). Also, Erica Anselment (McLeansboro / Hamilton County Sr. H.S.), Kaylee Champ (Mt. Vernon), Charity Duran (McLeansboro / Hamilton County Sr. H.S.), Eric Friederich (McLeansboro / Hamilton County Sr. H.S.), Rebecca Heathcoat (Benton), Kelsie Knapp (DuQuoin), Chelsey Milt (Mt. Vernon), Crystal Rajcok (Mount Erie), Marie Rhine (Valier / Sesser-Valier H.S.), Olen Rodriguez (Benton), Janetta Stallons (Mt. Vernon), Sandi Tite (Pinckneyville), Kelsey Woodrow (McLeansboro / Hamilton County Sr. H.S.). "Outstanding Faculty Member Award," Physical Plant Director / Leadership Course Instructor Randall Shively. Jeannie Mitchell-Collins, Advisor.

Eleven Trustees serve dozen or more years

FROM STATE ICON BAKER TO LONGSTANDING SCOTT, DISTRICT WELL REPRESENTED

Forty-nine Trustees (one a repeater). Forty-nine years.

Rend Lake College has been blessed with many outstanding Board members providing guidance throughout its history. The majority of them very good ones. Some great ones.

And then there was one who was just O.K.

That would be O.K. Ausmus (Benton), who would serve just over one year during 1975-76 before moving out of the district. A General Tire employee who was serving as President of the Greater Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, Ausmus was a survivor in the Battle of the Initials – fellow newcomer B.B. Connaway (McLeansboro), incumbent Carleton Apple (Enfield) and the O.K. guy were elected April 12, 1975, with C.C. “Andy” Anderson the odd-man out. Ausmus resigned, effective June 12, 1976, to start his own Management Consulting business in Texas.

Among the great ones? How about 11 men who served as many as a dozen years or more, headed by Belle Rive farmer/small businessman Marvin W. Scott, who eventually stopped counting after 35 years. One, possibly two, other Trustees statewide boast longevity equal to or better than Scott, who was first appointed to the District 521 Board in 1978 to fill the position vacated by Dr. Clyde Funkhouser (Mt. Vernon). Scott was elected the following year.

Longtime colleagues, Dr. W. Richard Simpson (Benton) and Dr. Allan Patton (Zeigler), attended Board meetings alongside Scott for 23 and 22 years, respectively.

Others with double-digit years of dedication include William David Edmison (Mt. Vernon), 18 years; Joe Scrivner (Mt. Vernon), 15; Dr. Kirby Browning (Benton), 14; Randall Crocker (Sesser), 14; charter members Dr. Allen Baker (Pinckneyville), 13, and Apple, 12; Everett Thompson (Sesser), 12, and Hunt Bonan (McLeansboro/Mt. Vernon), 12. Crocker, serving for the second time, will move up to 18 years after being elected to a four-year term in 2015.

Thirteen communities have been represented among the memberships, headed as might be expected by the two largest cities – Mt. Vernon with 17 and Benton with 12.

McLeansboro is next with four (count-

ing Bonan’s change of scenery during his tenure), ahead of Sesser with three and Belle Rive with two.

Ironically, the best-known statewide of all the RLC Trustees, Baker, was part of the original seven-person Board. And in recent years, the college has bolstered its presence in Perry County with the creation of the RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus. But Baker is the lone representative to have called Pinckneyville home.

Also represented past or present by one Board member are the towns of Dahlgren, Dix, Enfield, Scheller, Texico, Wayne City and Zeigler. (One lists Hamilton County.)

Trustee occupations have covered the gamut from Pastor (Funkhouser) to Attorneys-at-Law (Mark Ballard of Mt. Vernon, Courtney Cox of Benton and Bryan Drew of Benton) and from Politician (Jefferson County Supervisor of Assessments William Moore of Mt. Vernon) to Politician’s Wife (Norma O’Daniel of Mt. Vernon).

Nine individuals have been owner-operators of small businesses, with the size of their companies varying a great deal. Eight have been educators, ranging from Administrators, Instructors, Counselor and Coach, as well as from high school to college to retiree.

Farming has preoccupied six Trustees, at least two of whom have been involved with small businesses, also. Bankers likewise account for five more.

Company executives have come from General Tire North America, Illinois Power, Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Crossroads Hospital and Farrar Oil Company.

Eight have been entitled to call themselves Doctors. The Charter Team included two Doctors of Optometry; there also have been a Family Physician, a Dentist, two Ph.D. educational types and a Dr. who was a Reverend, too.

Noteworthy . . .

■ A husband and wife have served. When Holland Simmons (Benton), elected to the first Board in 1966, drowned in a tragic boating incident July 27, 1969, he was replaced by his wife, Marie. Her initial appointment to the Board was followed by her first election to it in 1970

■ Two brothers have served after being



ICCTA Awards

Recognition bestowed on individuals with Rend Lake College connections from the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA):

▲ ICCTA HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Dr. Allen Y. Baker, RLC

▲ ICCTA TRUSTEE SERVICE AWARD

35-Year Trustee Award, '13

Marvin Scott, RLC

▲ ICCTA TRUSTEE EDUCATION AWARD

Five-Time Recipient, 2012

Marvin Scott, RLC

▲ ICCTA TRUSTEE EDUCATION AWARD

First-Time Recipient, 2011

Dave Edmison, RLC

▲ ICCTA TRUSTEE EDUCATION AWARD

4 x, 2009 3 x, 2005
2 x, 2002 First, 2001

Marvin Scott, RLC

▲ ICCTA CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD

Presented to individuals (usually former Trustees or Presidents) who have made a significant contribution to ICCTA, the Illinois System or a member college

2013 ~ **Marvin Scott**

2012 ~ **Charley Holstein**

2010 ~ **Jon Astroth**

2008 ~ **Mark S. Kern**

▲ LIFELONG LEARNING AWARD / 2006 ~

Margot McAfoos, RLC

▲ ICCTA PACESETTER AWARD

Nominee (not recipient), '02

Greg Hollmann (RLC '99)
Greater Atlanta YMCA

▲ ICCTA HARTSTEIN TRUSTEE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Nominee (not recipient), '06

Marvin Scott, RLC

▲ ICCTA BUSINESS/INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Nominee (not recipient), '04

Good Samaritan, Inc.



Board opens meetings to public district-wide

RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION

■ Most early RLC Board Meetings were conducted in Mt. Vernon Township High School offices, but June 9, 1967 Trustees conducted business as usual and held a Press Conference at the Benton Holiday Inn.

■ The regular November 19, 1968, Board meeting at which Trustees voted to purchase the Byford Jones farm in Ina as the future site of Rend Lake College was conducted at the Bonnie campus, home to the first-year Agriculture program.

■ The special recessed Board meeting from November 19, 1968, continued on December 3, 1968, in order to award contracts for Phase I construction was conducted at Pinckneyville High School.

■ Members of the RLC Board of Trustees took advantage of an off-campus meeting to dine together beforehand at Wilkey's Cafe in Belle Rive – encouraged to do so by local Trustee Marvin Scott – before moving on to McLeansboro, where they met October 1991 at the Hamilton County Unit District Board Room. They were joined by Dr. Don Roberts, Superintendent of Hamilton County Unit District.

■ The RLC Board returned at least three other times to Pinckneyville, meeting in March 1991 in the PCHS Library, December 1999 at Matsushita Universal Media Services (MUMS) LLC of America – following dinner

(Continued at far right on next page)

appointed for the first time, although not simultaneously.

Dr. W. Richard Simpson (Benton) was the first to be selected Board Chair for as many as five years when he was tabbed for the third time in a period that spanned 1976-99; he replaced Benton Consolidated High School Counselor Albert Gulley.

Banker brother William "Bill" Simpson came along two years later when he was elected in Spring 2001 to be seated that November, only to be seated September 18 when outgoing – defeated in the same election – Board Chair Dr. Allan Patton, stepped down prior to his expected termination date. The younger of the two brothers left the RLC Board in 2011.

■ Women certainly have been in the minority.

Small business owner Marie Simmons was unopposed when she ran the first time for the remaining one-year term which was earned by her late husband and then awarded to her via appointment. She was the leading vote-getter in a field of six when she ran for her first three-year term in 1971 and was re-elected in 1974.

A second female member did not emerge until almost 20 years later, under somewhat similar circumstances. Following the death of "Citizen of the Year" Jim Hinman (Mt. Vernon), Farrar Oil Chief Caroline Quinn (Mt. Vernon) was named to replace him in 1996. She chose not to run for election the next year.

Norma O'Daniel, the wife of veteran State Senator William "Bill" O'Daniel, was elected in 2001 without opposition to complete the four-year unexpired term which began with Dennis McEnaney, who vacated the position when he moved out of the district and was succeeded by appointee Sam Mateer, who in turn decided not to seek public support for the position. She was one of three incumbents vying for three seats when elected to a six-year term in 2005 but resigned for health reasons in 2008.

Simmons served as a Trustee approximately eight years, one more than O'Daniel.

■ Former Rend Lake College Instructors who returned in a different role were RLCF

"Alumnus of the Year" Courtney Cox (Benton) and former Academic Council Chair Rick Marlow (Mt. Vernon).

Eventual Attorney- and Judge-to-be Cox, who also is the father of three Rend Lake College products, taught Music full-time from 1977-79 and was on the Board of Trustees from 1999-2005.

Marlow had been retired for three years as a full-time Architectural Technology Professor when he was elected to the Board in 2009. Marlow out-poled a longtime incumbent, a former administrator and a former instructor when he claimed a four-way race for a two-year, unexpired term; he was re-elected for six years in 2011.

■ David K. Dalby (Benton) is believed to be the first Rend Lake College graduate to "graduate" to the Board of Trustees for Community College District 521. Dalby received his Associate in Arts Degree during the first Commencement Exercise in 1968 and was a Board member in 1987-88.

Other grads eventually receiving Trustee "promotions" include Randall Crocker (Sesser), former Student Achievement Recognition recipient Courtney Cox (Benton), RLC Sports Hall of Fame Golfer Bryan Drew (Benton), Marlow and former "Ag Students of the Year" John Kabat (Scheller) and Randy Rubenacker (Dahlgren).

■ Five of the seven original Board members – Carleton Apple, Dr. Allen Y. Baker, Harry N. Irwin, Dr. Curtis A. Parker and Holland Simmons – made first impressions as members of the original 55-person Steering Committee.

■ Four were appointed to the follow-up, 18-person Executive Committee (three from each of six counties) – Apple, Baker, Parker and Simmons.

■ At least three Trustees are known to have suffered heart attacks during their time in office.

Melvin Farlow was Vice-President of the Board in 1970, in line to become President the following year, when he incurred health issues. Although he continued to serve out his term (through 1972), he declined the Presidency for the '71-72 academic year.

Joe H. Scrivner (Mt. Vernon) already had a dozen years of proactive experience on the

TRUSTEES ELECTED / December 17, 1966

Original Board - Carleton Apple (Enfield), Dr. Allen Y. Baker (Pinckneyville), Melvin Farlow (McLeansboro), Harry Irwin (Wayne City), Dr. Curtis A. Parker (Mt. Vernon), Holland Simmons (Benton) and Forrest Stewart (Texico).

ELECTION / April 8, 1967

Baker and Stewart re-elected, this time to 3-year terms

TRUSTEES TIMELINE

1967 - 1968

RLC Board when he had serious coronary problems in November 1990. After spending time in Intensive Care in a St. Louis hospital, Scrivner soon returned as concerned as ever to complete three more years – 15 in all – before his retirement.

Dr. B. Kirby Browning (1985-99) experienced a mild heart attack shortly after his election for the second time in January 1994. The former Board Chair from 1989-91 also returned as good as new to fulfill his election obligation, choosing not to run again after 14 years.

CURTIS PARKER ▶ **Quiet leadership ‘prime ingredient’ to college’s formation, early success**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 1998

The same virtues that made him an effective leader may have led to virtual obscurity in later years for one of the founding fathers of Rend Lake College, Dr. Curtis A. Parker of Mt. Vernon.

Chairman of the Steering Committee that led to the formation of the comprehensive community college by an all-time record affirmative vote of 87 percent. First Chairman of the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees. One of those most responsible for the establishment of the RLC Foundation.

Unrecognized. Until now.

The Executive Board Room, located in the Student Center on the Ina campus, will hereafter be called the Curtis A. Parker Board Room following the recent recommendation by RLC President Mark S. Kern and subsequent action by some of Parker’s successors at the November Trustees meeting.

Parker also was recognized for his many contributions over the past 30-plus years at the RLC Foundation Annual Dinner December 8 at the Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn.

The patient honoree, according to longtime Rend Lake College Attorney and colleague, Donald G. Musick, “was greatly instrumental in (the college’s) formation, organization and early success.

“Curt Parker’s quiet leadership, and the confidence which he gained from all members of the informal Steering Committee, were perhaps the prime ingredient which led to a successful organization effort. The citizens of the district voted to incorporate the college, and to assess themselves additional taxes for its construction and operation, by the affirmative vote of 87 percent of those voting on the proposition; that stands

as the all-time record for an affirmative vote establishing a junior college in Illinois.”

The Administration Building was long ago named in honor of Dr. Allen Y. Baker, the Pinckneyville resident who also was an original member of both the Steering Committee and Board of Trustees. Baker served for 13 years and made his presence known at the state level as well. A portrait of Dr. Howard Rawlinson, the first Dean of both Mt. Vernon Community College and Rend Lake College, hangs in the Learning Resource Center.

In 1995, naming ceremonies were held for the James “Hummer” Waugh Gymnasium and the Wayne Arnold Aerobics Super-Circuit Fitness Center, in honor of two well-known faculty members and coaches. The new Aquatics Center took on the name of Mariah Boats, Inc. President Jimmy J. Fuls in recent months, in recognition of the largest donation ever to the RLC Foundation.

Parker patiently waited his turn, content with the memories of a job well done.

“It was a very happy period of my life,” recalls the Mt. Vernon Optometrist. It was noted Mt. Vernon Educator Dr. J.L. Buford who first reported a statewide investigation that might make a community college available for that community and recruited Parker in 1964 to become part of a feasibility study.

A college which would serve the communities of Mt. Vernon, Salem and Centralia was considered briefly, before the shift to Franklin County and other communities with ties to the Rend Lake Conservancy program began taking shape.

“There were no hidden agendas with the representatives from the 13 high school districts (on the Steering Committee),” the Chairman remembers.

“Unique to this particular proposal is the desire to take full advantage of the Rend Lake Conservancy program” said their report. “This local project is now under construction through state and federal assistance. The lake itself is in the geographic center of the area. Its recreational and industrial facilities combine with the new interstate highways to make the Rend Lake area a natural community center. The establishment of a junior college in this setting would provide the needed cohesive force for growth.”

Parker was satisfied to serve only four years on the Board, from 1966-70, before bowing out. “I didn’t come to be a perennial

* - * - *

Board meetings (cont.)

and a tour of the Pinckneyville Correctional Center – and again June 10, 2003 to tour and utilize the new \$1 million Rend Lake College Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus.

Among those in attendance in 1991 were PCHS Superintendent Dr. Tom Bradley, Principal Dean Brewer and Pinckneyville Mayor Joe Holder. Bradley praised the “healthy relationship we have” with the college.” Holder was on hand to “express the gratitude of our city” for the many educational opportunities made available to its citizens by RLC. “A lot of our people take advantage of what Rend Lake College provides for us.”

■ The April 11, 1995 RLC Board of Trustees meeting was held at the Rend Lake College Mt. Vernon Center in the Sister Joanne Building at Good Samaritan Regional Health Center. Trustees enjoyed a look at the new RLC Fitness Center and then conducted business in the Distance Learning Classroom.

■ The October 10, 1995 Board meeting was held on-campus, but not before Trustees and Administrators were dinner guests of Culinary Arts Instructor Joan Frank and her student chefs at Big Muddy River Correctional Center across Interstate 57 from the Ina campus. They were joined by Warden Jack Hartwig. The guests also toured the BMR Education Building. The meeting itself could not be held at the prison site because meetings must be open to the public.

■ Trustees conducted their regular monthly meeting July 8, 2003 at the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon.



County Supt. of Schools conducts initial business

DECEMBER 20, 1966

The first Rend Lake College Board of Trustees Meeting was presided over initially by Ogie Ellis, County Superintendent of Schools for Jefferson County. Ellis conducted affairs until after the election of officers.

Greetings came from Gerald Smith, Executive Secretary of the Illinois Junior College Board. He was on hand to explain the organizational pattern of higher education in Illinois and address specific responsibilities of the local Junior College Board.

Smith was accompanied by Albert Martin, Associate Secretary of the IJCB, who was present to discuss the newly created Illinois Junior College Association and urged those individuals who were associated with the college to become affiliated with the statewide association.

Others present, in addition to the recently elected Board members, were Eltis Henson, Superintendent of Mt. Vernon Township High School and Mt. Vernon Community College; Ben Martin, a member of the MVTHS/MVCC Board; Dr. Howard Rawlinson, Dean of Mt. Vernon C.C.; Wayne Arnold, MVCC Faculty Representative; Don Musick, who would be named Board Attorney, and members of the media.

The third Tuesday of the month (7:30 p.m.) was established as the regular monthly meeting schedule.

Board member. I came to get a job done," he said. He was 35 years of age when he assumed the chairmanship of the original Community College District 521 Board.

His accomplishments were considerable, beginning with the formal proposal in February 1966 that resulted in the overwhelming acceptance of the Class I Public Junior College and the hiring of Dr. James Snyder as its first President following a nationwide search.

Interviews for the presidency were conducted in the Parker home. Snyder, according to Parker, was selected based on his background in administration and construction projects. The committee also liked his quiet manner, recalled Parker, who still believes "Dr. Snyder was the best person for the position."

The 21st community college in the state to be approved, Rend Lake College in 1975 – eight years after opening its doors for the first time to 729 in-district students – became the first in Illinois to complete its original facilities Master Plan.

Just as amazing, perhaps, is how closely the public, two-year community college has stuck by the "General Aims" first proposed by Parker and the 55-member committee representing Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Perry, Wayne and White counties.

"Citizens of the area could have superior educational opportunities," the report indicated, "to prepare to enter a vocation; prepare for further studies in higher education; adjust to shifting technological changes; obtain information previously missed in high school; keep abreast of increasingly available technology; gain further education not presently available from distant, expensive higher educational institutions, and investigate varying interests without fear that weakness in one field will terminate opportunities in others."

The report concluded, "Education on a continuing basis for working adults will require initiative on the part of area leaders . . . the recruitment of area residents skilled in professional, industrial, commercial,

labor, sales and crafts talents for a part-time faculty will be needed . . . programs to fulfill the needs of senior citizens could be provided . . . the community service aspect of a comprehensive area junior college provides a means by which such a college can take its rightful place in the educational program of the nation . . . another important aim is to provide impetus for industrial and agricultural production, plus allied fields of supply, marketing and transportation.

"In short, it is expected that such a junior college would greatly contribute to the economy, health, culture and general well-being of the area and its citizens."

The proposal was to "implement this new concept of education as rapidly and thoroughly as can reasonably be expected. It is the desire of the citizens to have a superior institution."

The Foundation, which remained dormant until 1979, nevertheless was formed in the beginning by Parker and Musick at the insistence of the latter, who stated the college needed an avenue to take care of any potential gifts from the community.

Ken Miller, then at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, provided the paperwork that was used as a model for the RLC Foundation Bylaws and Constitution. Not-for-profit status was applied for and granted in the college's formative years. Several years later, Miller headed the Foundation on a part-time basis.

Parker and his wife, Mary Ann, are the parents of five adult children – Judy Hammer-Murphy, Jeff, John, Jane Bradford and Jacqueline Anderson – and have five grandchildren, with a sixth due in February.

Joining Parker and his wife for the Annual Dinner recognition were his mother, Bernice Parker, who will be turning 91 soon, and oldest son Jeff, a Rend Lake College graduate, along with wife Brenda and daughter Elizabeth.



The recurring theme throughout an upbeat evening of recognizing do-gooders at the RLC Foundation Annual Dinner . . .

FIRST BOARD MEETING ON R.L.C. INA CAMPUS Tuesday, 7:30 pm - Oasis / September 15, 1970

TRUSTEES TIMELINE

ELECTION / April 12, '69 Farlow, Apple and Irwin re-elected	Fall 1969 / Marie Simmons (Benton) replaces late husband • Huel Cross (Belle Rive) replaces F. Stewart	ELECTION / April 11, '70 Baker and Cross elected to 3-yr. terms • Simmons elected to remaining 1-yr.	ELECTION / April 10, '71 Simmons re-elected and Albert Gulley (Benton) elected to 3-year terms	ELECTION / April 8, '72 Apple, Bill Moore (Mt. Vernon), B.B. Connaway (McLeansboro) elected	ELECTION / April 1973 Baker re-elected and David R. Skorch (Mt. Vernon) elected
1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973

A Tribute to Holland Simmons

Holland Simmons bequeathed an enduring legacy to Rend Lake College. That legacy is the spirit of friendship and harmonious collaboration which has characterized our endeavors since the College was conceived. Holland kept our house in order; no feelings of local pride or parochial selfishness have ever appeared. In his firm and quiet way, he always aimed us in the right direction. If circumstances offered the opportunity for rivalries or misunderstandings, the Board always directed, "Call Holland." Our legacy of good feeling and harmony is embodied in Holland's answer to those calls.

We who enjoyed his friendship and esteem his work believe that Mrs. Simmons will know the sincerity of our sorrow at Holland's death, and too, our pride and appreciation of his accomplishments for Rend Lake College.

Therefore, be it resolved, by the Board of Rend Lake College that this tribute to our colleague and friend, Holland Simmons, be extended to him in memoriam, included in our minutes of this proceeding, and that a copy of this Resolution be delivered to Mrs. Simmons by the Chairman, with our heartfelt sympathy.

Signed

Curtis A. Parker
Allen Baker
Carleton Apple
Forrest Stewart
Melvin Farlow
Harry Irwin
Huel Cross

Dr. Rawlinson presented resolution on behalf of Board August 19, 1969

Nobody does anything worth doing alone. It takes a team. The support of family, friends, co-workers and other colleagues.

Said "Alumnus of the Year" Mark Michalic, the AFT Special Agent-turned-reluctant national hero who first identified Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, to an audience of 300-plus at the Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn: "I don't accept this (award) because of what I have done. I accept it for what you have done for me."

In honoring Parker, the humble honoree told those present, "You honor the original seven Board members . . . And when you honor those seven, you also honor the 70 (actually 55, according to **The First Fifteen Years** by Dr. Howard Rawlinson) members of the Steering Committee, 10 from each county . . . You honor people like Dr. J. Lester Buford, from whom the real genesis for Rend Lake College came; the Dean of Deans, Dr. Howard Rawlinson, who molded the faculty and curriculum that produced

the Mark Michalics and all of the other graduates of Rend Lake College . . . You honor the very first excellent President, Dr. James M. Snyder . . . You honor my wife, Mary Ann, and the families who didn't see much of us but carried on while we were working . . .

"For all of them, I would like to accept this honor."

FIRST NAMING OPPORTUNITY ▶ **Administration Building renamed in honor of Allen Y. Baker in 1979**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 23, 1979

Rend Lake College's Administration Building is now the "Allen Y. Baker Administration Building."

In a dinner gathering of statewide educational leaders Friday evening, April 20, to honor Dr. Baker, RLC officials announced the naming opportunity in his honor.

With assistance from Dr. Richard Simpson, RLC Board of Trustees Chair, Baker

* - * - *

Parker elected to head Board within three days

DECEMBER 20, 1966

Three days after the election of the first Rend Lake College Board of Trustees, the first monthly Board meeting was conducted.

Dr. Curtis Parker (Mt. Vernon) was nominated as President of the Board for a one-year term by Dr. Allen Y. Baker (Pinckneyville), with a second by Harry N. Irwin (Wayne City), and elected unanimously by all six other Trustees.

Board members were reminded the Secretary elected did not have to be a member of the Board; however, Forrest Stewart (Texico) was selected following his nomination by Holland Simmons (Benton) and second from Irwin for a one-year term, also.

Trustees did not elect a Vice President at this time.

Among those in attendance was Wayne Arnold, Health and Physical Education Instructor who was Faculty Representative for Mt. Vernon Community College. With the exception of less than a year off for good behavior (he retired as a full-time employee before returning as a part-time Instructor and Department Chair), he has been with the college ever since.

* - * - *

Trustee Bonan elected to Illinois Bank Board

JULY 1997

Peoples National Bank CEO Hunt Bonan was elected to the Board of Directors for the Illinois Bankers Association for 1997-98.

[Bonan would be elected to the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees in November 1997 and also serves as President of the RLC Foundation, which he joined in 1989.]



Board ceremony to burn 13-year building bonds

RLC BOARD MEETING 1981

As part of the February 17, 1981 Board meeting, Rend Lake College Trustees present ceremoniously burned the 13-year-old bonds representing the \$3.1 million investment to build the Rend Lake College campus by district residents.

The bonds were established by an overwhelming 6-to-1 vote on November 18, 1967, to approve the local share of the \$9.5 million total cost. The Illinois Community College Board allocated \$2,230,000 for construction of five initial Phase I buildings.

Bonds officially expired February 1, 1981. As a result, RLC officials indicated residents of Community College District 521 should expect to notice a reduction close to 25 percent in their property tax assessed valuations.

Taking advantage of the photo opportunity were Board Chair Joe McClure and fellow members Marvin Scott, Joe Scrivner, Dr. Richard Simpson and Everett Thompson, along with RLC President Dr. Harry J. Braun. In the picture, Braun held up a copy of a local paper from November 20, 1967, announcing the impressive vote in support of the new college facilities. Unable to attend the bond-burning ceremony were Vice-Chair Dr. Allan Patton and Rich Herrin.

unveiled the bronze plaque designating the official name change. The bronze plaque displays a graphic likeness of Baker, gives the building its name and states, "For outstanding service to Rend Lake College, 1967 through 1979."

The Pinckneyville optometrist recently retired from RLC's governing Board after serving over 12 years. He was one of the leaders in establishing the college, served on its first Board of Trustees and has served continuously since. Baker declined to run for re-election earlier this month.

When asked to give his philosophy for the years of hard work he has devoted to Rend Lake College, Baker quoted Albert Schweitzer, "Service is the rent you pay for space on this earth."

College President, Dr. Harry J. Braun, started the evening of honors for Baker by presenting him with a folder full of letters from people unable to attend but wanting to express their appreciation. This included a special poem written by Frieda Simon, Board of Trustees Chair for Elgin Community College.

Dr. Loren Klaus, Shawnee Community College President, sent a letter citing Baker as "... the man who has done more for community colleges of the state than any other." He indicated the community owed Baker its gratitude for the present system of funding for community colleges and called him "an eloquent speaker for the needs of this area."

The folder also had a copy of the Illinois State Senate Resolution passed April 18 saluting Baker for his contributions to all community colleges in the state. State Senator Terry Bruce (Olney) provided the copy.

In the first of the after-dinner speeches, Dr. Fred L. Wellman, Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board, praised Baker for his work in organizing the Illinois Community College Trustees Association and for his leadership in equalization funding efforts.

Wellman shared with the guests a letter from Hugh Hammerslag, ICCB Chair, thanking Baker for his work and deploring his absence would be a loss to the commu-

nity colleges in the state.

Baker is the one who knows what is going on before anyone else, a diplomat who is a master politician at reconciling opposing factions, according to Dr. L.H. Horton Jr., President of Kankakee Community College and a former Executive Director of the ICCTA. He also described Baker as a man dedicated to service but also a flamboyant and fun-loving man.

In reiterating the theme of those speaking during the evening, Horton said Baker has done much for Rend Lake College, but his accomplishments extend further to include significant contributions to the entire statewide community college system.

Horton provided the guests with a rather specific list of some of Baker's accomplishments. While Baker was ICCTA President, all 39 colleges in the system joined that organization.

Under his leadership, the Community College Act was codified. He helped establish a sound financial basis for community colleges, particularly through the equalization concept. And he gained the first override of a Governor's budget.

In his remarks after unveiling the bronze naming plaque, Baker indicated he intends to remain interested in the community college system and to assist in whatever he can in its continued success.

SOUTHERN APPOINTMENT Baker represents equalization districts on Illinois C.C. Finance Advisory group

REND LAKE COLLEGE TODAY SUMMER 1977

Dr. Allen Y. Baker of Pinckneyville, who has served as a member of the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees for the past 11 years, has recently been appointed to serve on the Illinois Community College Advisory Committee on Community College Finance.

Fred Wellman, Executive Director of the State Board, said Baker's appointment is an appropriate one since he is the only representative from the southern portion of the state and from a district which received equalization funds.

Dr. Baker, 55, has served as a Rend Lake College Board member since 1966, and along

TRUSTEES TIMELINE

ELECTION / April 13, '74
Gulley and Simmons
re-elected to 3-yr. terms

ELECTION / April 12, '75
Connaway and Apple
re-elected • O.K. Ausmus
(Benton) elected

ELECTION / April 10, '76
Baker, Dr. C. Funkhouser
(Mt. Vernon) elected
APPOINTED / 1976
R. Simpson & Joe McClure

ELECTION / April 9, '77
Everett Thompson (Sesser),
Dr. W.R. Simpson (Benton)
elected to 3-yr. terms •
J. McClure (Mt. Vernon) 1-yr

ELECTION / April 8, '78
Rich Herrin (Benton),
Joe Scrivner (Mt. Vernon)
and McClure elected
to 3-year terms

1973 - 1974

1974 - 1975

1975 - 1976

1976 - 1977

1977 - 1978

with Carleton Apple is one of the original Trustees still serving the district. He has served as Chairman of the Board during four of those years.

Considered an expert on community college affairs throughout the state, Baker is a Past President of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association and has served as an advisor to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

"By serving as a member of the Finance Committee, I will continue to do my best in representing the interest of Rend Lake College and the other community colleges which are affected by equalization funding," he said.

"Equalization has played an important role in the growth of Rend Lake College. It is in the best interest of the public that it is continued," Baker added.

The college has received about \$1 million since the equalization process began in 1972 and received approximately \$160,000 this year in equalization funds.

POST-RETIREMENT ►
Scholarship Commission adds Baker, ICCTA names him Honorary Member

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASES JULY 1979

Dr. Allen Y. Baker, a Pinckneyville optometrist who served on the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees for almost 13 years until his retirement earlier this year, has been named to two statewide education groups in recent weeks.

Baker became the newest member on the Illinois State Scholarship Commission when he began his six-year term July 1 and attended his first meeting less than two weeks later. He was nominated to the seven-member commission by Gov. James Thompson and confirmed by the Senate.

One of the leaders in the establishment of Rend Lake College and a four-time Board of Trustees Chair between 1967-79, Baker is the only commission member representing the area of the state south of Quincy.

The Illinois Community College Trustees Association named Baker an Honorary Member at its annual meeting in Springfield. A charter member of the ICCTA who served as that group's President from 1972-74, Baker was recognized for his outstanding contribution to the success of the Illinois community college system.

In filling a vacancy on the Illinois State Scholarship Commission, Baker will serve as one of four representatives of the gen-

eral public. Other members represent the interests of high schools, private higher education and the public higher education system.

The ISSC, which meets 6-8 times per year, is responsible for regulating the major state student aids programs.

"Dr. Baker already has given considerable time to higher education in a variety of ways," noted Dr. Joseph Boyd, Executive Director. "I know he is going to be a valuable addition to the commission."

Rend Lake College named its Administration Building in his honor in April.

Considered throughout the state as an expert on community college affairs, Baker has held several committee assignments in higher education, including serving as the Trustees Association liaison to the Illinois Board of Higher Education, serving on the Illinois Community College Advisory Committee on Community College Finance and serving on the Governor's Advisory Committee to State Community College in East St. Louis.

In his role as a member of the appointed, five-person advisory committee to State Community College, he will work with a local governing board to be appointed by the Governor to oversee the "experimental" two-year college in East St. Louis.

The seven-member Board comprised of East St. Louis residents, under the guidance of Baker and the four other members of the advisory panel, will be charged with the responsibility of making the transition from a state-controlled college to a community-controlled college, according to the announcement by Gov. Thompson's office.

PEOPLES VICE CHAIR ►
Highest honor: Association names Bonan 2012 Illinois Banker of Year

P.R. NEWSWIRE - U.S. NEWSWIRE JUNE 27, 2012

SPRINGFIELD – Hunt Bonan, Vice Chairman of the Board of Peoples National Bank in Mount Vernon, was honored as the 2012 Illinois Banker of the Year by the Illinois Bankers Association (IBA).

The award was presented during the IBA's Annual Conference and Trade Show held at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis on June 21.

This is the 10th year for the Illinois Banker of the Year award, which is the highest honor the Illinois Bankers Association can bestow on one of its members. It is presented annually to an individual



Four of five longest serving Trustees together 14 years

Marvin W. Scott was a member of the RLC Board of Trustees 35 years, longer than any other individual who has served by 12 years. Scott was first appointed to the Board in 1978 and elected to the position six times, through 2013.

Trustee	Years
Marvin Scott	35
Dr. Richard Simpson	23
Dr. Allan Patton	22
David Edmison	18
Randall Crocker	* 18
Joe Scrivner	15
Dr. Kirby Browning	14
Dr. Allen Baker	13
Carleton Apple	12
Everett Thompson	12
Hunt Bonan	12

* If serves through current term

■ COUNT ON US . . .

Four of the six Trustees who have served longer than any others – Scott, R. Simpson, Patton and Scrivner – formed a steady, reliable majority of the Board for 14 years between 1979 and 1993.

■ Similarly, the experience factor was even greater from 1985-93 (8 years), when Browning joined the Board, giving it five of the seven longest-standing members serving during the same time.

■ With Edmison replacing Scrivner in 1993 – albeit the former was just beginning the start of an 18-year tenure – it remained five of the top six in years served from 1993-99.

■ R. Simpson and Thompson, in 1976 and '77, respectively, joined Boards which still included original, holdover members Baker and Apple.

■ By the time Scrivner and Scott joined the Board in 1978, Apple had stepped down, but Baker was still around for one more year, as were R. Simpson and Thompson. I.e., Baker served with 20 others.



Stewart on move, replaced by 'unincorporated' Cross

BOARD MINUTES AUGUST 11, 1969

When Forrest Stewart moved out of the district – from Texico to nearby Salem – he could not be replaced by just anybody. Stewart was special because of where he lived.

According to Illinois community college statutes: "If 30 percent or more of the taxable property in the district is located in unincorporated territory, at least two members of the Board must be residents of the unincorporated territory."

Stewart met that qualification. So did Huel Cross, who was appointed as his successor at the August 11 special meeting. Cross resides in unincorporated territory of Jefferson County, south of Belle Rive.



No quorum, no meeting; January '76 plans change

JANUARY 20, 1976

For the first time, the RLC Board of Trustees could not meet Tuesday night due to lack of a quorum. David Skorch was a late scratch because of illness. Chair Carleton Apple, O.K. Ausmus and B.B. Connaway had previously indicated they would be unable to attend.

Dr. Allen Y. Baker and Albert Gulley were the only Trustees in attendance. Marie Simmons had planned to attend but was informed earlier in the day the Board would not have a quorum. The meeting was rescheduled for January 27.

[The December 20, 1977 meeting also was adjourned as a result of no quorum.]

whose dedication to excellence has most profoundly enhanced the banking industry.

Throughout his more than 26 years in banking, Bonan has been very active in the Illinois Bankers Association and has worked closely with the Association to lobby on behalf of Illinois bankers.

He is a past member of a number of IBA committees and boards, including, but not limited to, the Strategic Planning Committee, Government Relations Committee, Illinois BancService Corporation Board and Illinois Bankpac Board.

He has served on the IBA Board of Directors and was Chairman in 2004.

Extremely active in his community, he was a board member and officer of the Jefferson County Illinois Economic Development Corporation; he currently is involved with and is Chairman of the Hamilton Memorial Hospital Foundation Board, and he also serves on the Board of Trustees for Cedarhurst Center for the Arts and the Rend Lake College Foundation Board.

Bonan received the Citizen of the Year award from the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce in 2008, was honored with the Rend Lake College Foundation Board Hourglass Award and was voted "Most Community Involved" in Jefferson County.

The Illinois Bankers Association is a full-service trade association dedicated to creating a positive business climate that benefits the entire banking industry and the communities they serve.

Founded in 1891, the IBA brings together state and national banks, savings banks and savings and loan associations of all sizes in Illinois. Collectively, the IBA represents nearly 90 percent of the assets of the Illinois banking industry, which employs more than 100,000 men and women in over 5,000 offices across the state.

SOURCE: Illinois Bankers Association

EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ▶ Quinn one of about 30 Illinois leaders building Asian trade relationships

MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS OCTOBER 1996
BY MARY KAYE KOCH-DAVIS

Caroline Quinn, President of Farrar Oil

Co., recently returned from an Asian trade mission to help solidify and expand markets for Illinois firms.

Quinn and her husband, Ted, traveled to Japan, South Korea, China and Hong Kong during the September 15-28 mission which was led by Gov. Jim Edgar. Quinn was one of about 30 leaders involved in business, trade organizations, education and labor who were invited to attend.

Quinn said rewards of the mission may not be immediate, but the trip can only help relations with the countries.

"In Asia, if you want to become business allies you have to build a long-standing relationship. If you want to foster relations with other countries that relationship has to be there. For example, in China the first time you meet someone it is just that . . . a meeting. The second time you are an acquaintance, and then third time you may become a friend.

"It's not like the United States, where you can make a call and be immediately accepted. It takes a lot of time and meetings," she said.

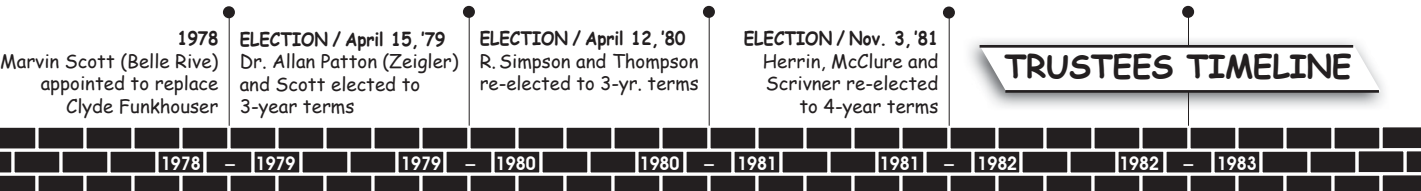
Quinn said although she was a representative of Farrar Oil, she wasn't there trying to push her company.

"Any time you can build a positive relationship with other countries is a plus. We were there to exchange ideas. We were there to work on building relationships. It was all part of that positive response that may come," she said.

During the visit they met with leaders of Koito, a parent company to the Illinois-based Northern American Lighting; Mitsubishi Motors, which oversees several Illinois-based facilities; officials from Motorola, Deere and Co. and Ameritech, and numerous others.

She said women business leaders aren't common in Asian countries.

"When we were in Japan, some were amazed that a woman was leading a business. They thought that was very unique and they seemed to be very interested in that. It seemed to me they thought it was such a novel idea that a woman was doing this," Quinn said.



She said although the visit was to foreign countries she never felt far from home.

Her husband Ted took along some baseball cards to give to their new acquaintances.

"We were there to further goodwill and the cards certainly were a part of that. We were in Japan when Dodger pitcher Hideo Nomo pitched a no-hitter. Gov. Edgar took the opportunity the next night to present a baseball card of Nomo to the Governor of Niigata. They were just as thrilled in Korea when they received baseball cards of Chan Ho Park, also of the Dodgers. And in China, they knew of Michael Jordan and were pleased to receive unopened packs of basketball cards.

"It gave you a warm feeling to know they (Asians) were excited about U.S. sports. It was interesting that although we were in another country, we had this in common," Caroline Quinn said.

She said there were more similarities to the U.S. than differences, stating the U.S. and Asia have similar social problems, including care for the elderly, education and health care.

"That makes it obvious that no country has the best answer. They may handle the situations differently, but the problems remain," she said.

Quinn said Asia did not seem to have the crime problem the United States has. Big news one day was a man carrying a gun.

"He didn't use the gun, he just had it on his person. This was news which just horrified people, and that is all they were talking about," she said.

During their visit, they also met with Li Lanqing, the Vice Premier of China; visited Southern Illinois University's Nakajo, Japan campus, and attended Hong Kong's Moon Festival, a celebration of the harvest, similar to our Thanksgiving.

Another difference the Quinns noted was menu items. Popular items in Asia are chicken feet, shredded sea blubber, shark's fin soup and a condiment which is made of dried chrysanthemums and grape sauce.

Want to play golf in Japan? Quinn said you can expect to pay between \$200 and \$300 for 18 holes. A membership to a country club costs about \$1 million. In motels, a Coke costs \$6; but at other vending machines, the price dropped to \$1.

The trip also gave Quinn a chance to learn about the Asian oil industry. She said the Chinese have an oil reserve and are not exploring their options and technology as

rapidly as the U.S. Japan consumes in one day what it produces in a year, relying exclusively on imports.

"The whole trip was interesting, and it was a learning experience. There was a lot of networking and many sources were cultivated. Those sources will be helpful as everything becomes more global," Quinn said.

[Ted Quinn, an English Teacher at Mt. Vernon Township High School, visited several schools during the trip. After trips, he takes materials he has collected back to MVTHS for use in his classroom. He also writes a synopsis from his trips for others to read.]

ICCTA PROXY SCOTT ▶ **Trustee Education Award-winner knows his way around Springfield**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 2009

CHICAGO – Rend Lake College Trustee Marvin Scott has been around the block once or twice. One block in particular – the 400 block of East Capitol Avenue in Springfield – has been a frequent stop of his for about the past two decades. That is where the Illinois Community College Trustees Association has its headquarters.

Scott, who has been the college's ICCTA proxy for almost half of his more than 30 years on the Board, was recognized at the organization's annual meeting this year.

The Trustee Education Award was given to him at the ICCTA Awards Luncheon on June 5 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel. Created by the ICCTA Board of Representatives in 1992, it recognizes outstanding achievement in the area of professional development.

This year's recipients have participated in at least 15 ICCTA seminars during their tenure as Board members. It is the fourth time Scott, a resident of Belle Rive and owner of Hamson Feed Store, has earned the award. He was the lone fourth-time recipient.

Dave Maguire, a Trustee at Spoon River College, is the only five-time recipient.

"As long as I feel good and my mind's right, I will keep doing it," Scott said of being a Trustee for the RLC District.

He started attending ICCTA meetings and conventions with former RLC Board Member Allan Patton, who served from 1979-95. Scott took over as ICCTA rep for Rend Lake College in 1997 and hasn't stopped yet. He is the man for the job, he

✱ - ✱ - ✱

As Chair Drew departs, Crocker returns to fold

THE SOUTHERN NOVEMBER 13, 2013

The Rend Lake College Board said goodbye to one Trustee and welcomed back another at its Tuesday meeting.

Bryan Drew, an eight-year Trustee and Board Chairman, resigned, citing family and work obligations. Randall Crocker, Franklin County Board Chair and owner of Crocker Insurance Agency in Sesser, will fill the seat until the 2015 election.

Drew said RLC holds a special place for him as both a 1995 graduate and a Board member.

"I have enjoyed helping the college during my term on the Board, through what have been trying economic times in Illinois," Drew said. "The President and administration have done an excellent job and I believe the Board has placed an excellent group of individuals in charge of the college. It has been my pleasure to work alongside President (Terry) Wilkerson and my fellow Board members, and I look forward to seeing Rend Lake College continue to grow and provide a great education to the people of Southern Illinois."

Wilkerson thanked Drew for his service and welcomed Crocker, who served previously as a Trustee, back to the Board.

"We certainly appreciate everything Bryan has done for Rend Lake College in his time on the board. He has a true love of this college and enjoys seeing it grow and succeed. It's been a real benefit to have him on our Board," Wilkerson said. "We are glad to welcome Randall back. He brings plenty of experience from his earlier service, and he continues to be a strong supporter of Rend Lake College."



Teachers salute Musgrave, Flanigan for changing lives

F.Y.I. MAY 11, 1992

The Jefferson County Teachers Confederation recently recognized two individuals with ties to Rend Lake College. Trustee Olie Musgrave and Foundation Board Member Bruce Flanigan, both of whom are Mt. Vernon bank officers, were among eight non-teachers cited in honor of National Teacher Day May 5.

Teachers were asked to nominate those "who show enthusiasm for schools and the mission of changing children's lives," following the day's overall theme, "Teaching Transforms Lives."

Musgrave is President of First Bank and Trust Co., which sponsors teachers seminars. "A good teacher with a lot of empathy can mold attitudes and set a kid off in a good direction," Musgrave said. "... The biggest thing in our society is that we are dropping behind economically. One reason for that is our education system. Industry should get involved."



Bryan Drew: Board Attorney

BOARD MEETING MAY 13, 2014

Trustees appointed Bryan Drew as Board Attorney.

Drew is a partner in the long-standing, family-based firm of Drew & Drew, P.C. Attorneys-at-Law in Benton with his brother, Jason.

Bryan Drew (RLC Class of '95) was a member of the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees from 2005-13, serving as Chair the last two years.

explained, simply because he feels he has the time.

"It takes time, and I think I've got the time. Other people (on the Board) are busy. I say this all the time... If someone else gets the time, then I will let someone else do it. That's the main reason. I've got the time to do it and I am interested in the college."

Scott always makes a point to get others involved with ICCTA business. Many times, a fellow Board member or college official will go with Scott to meetings or events. Recently, it was RLC President Charley Holstein who accompanied Scott to an ICCTA-sponsored seminar.

"Marvin Scott is the epitome of commitment to the community college system in Illinois," Holstein said. "His volunteerism and untiring efforts are vital to the Board staying up-to-date with college and state initiatives."

Scott has been a linchpin on the RLC Board of Trustees since 1978. He is in attendance at almost every meeting, as well as many other college functions, whether it is for agriculture, athletics or the RLCF Annual Dinner or the Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner.

"I don't think very many have received an award that I haven't been there," Scott said. "If our instructors or someone at the college has put in the time and work to get an award, then I'm going to put in the time to be there. I just want to be there."

At the most recent statewide convention, he was able to witness ICCTA officials recognizing the college's 2009 RLC Foundation "Faculty Excellence" Award-winner, English Professor Rob Little, and RLCF "Alumnus of the Year" Randy Rubenacker.

Scott attends meetings and seminars on the regional, state and national levels throughout the years and reports back to the full Board regarding what he has learned.

And Scott said he has learned a thing or two serving as ICCTA Representative for so many years. "The money issue always has been an issue and still is. You learn what other colleges are doing or not doing. You see what is going on throughout the state and you learn from it all," he commented.

The Illinois Community College Trust-

ees Association is a statewide organization formed in 1970 as the voice of the state's community college boards. Membership is comprised of Trustees from public community college districts throughout Illinois.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 1, 2012

NORMAL – Rend Lake College Trustee Marvin Scott recently received his fifth Trustee Education Award from the Illinois Community College Trustees Association. The award honors outstanding achievement in the area of professional development for community college trustees in Illinois.

To be considered for the award, recipients have participated in at least 15 ICCTA seminars during their tenure as board members. Scott, 81, of Belle Rive, was named a fifth-time recipient of the award at the ICCTA's Annual Awards Luncheon in June. He is the owner of Hamson Feed Store in Belle Rive and has served on the Board of Trustees for RLC District No. 521 since 1979.

The only current Illinois Community College trustee to receive more Trustee Education Awards from the ICCTA is Dave Maguire, a board member at Spoon River College. Maguire was handed his sixth award at this summer's ceremony. Jake Rendleman, a Trustee at John A. Logan College, also received his fifth award at the luncheon.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 2002

SPRINGFIELD – RLC Board Chair Marvin Scott earned his second Trustee Education Award in the past four years from the ICCTA as one of 13 Trustees statewide recognized June 13 during the 32nd annual convention at Crowne Plaza Hotel. Five of the honorees are two-time recipients.

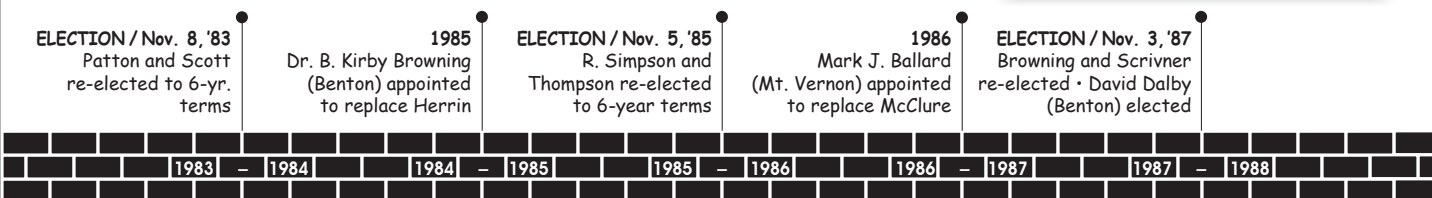
REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 1998

SPRINGFIELD – Marvin Scott received his first Trustee Education Award at the 28th annual ICCTA convention.

Scott was one of six trustees statewide to receive the honor during ceremonies June 18, 1998 at the Renaissance Hotel.

Scott currently serves as the RLC Board Secretary, as well as its ICCTA Rep.

TRUSTEES TIMELINE



MARVIN AND VIVIAN SCOTT ▶ **Life on farm began with three hogs, \$500 in bank, 17¢ in hand and a car**

REGISTER-NEWS AUGUST 26, 1995
BY MARY KAYE KOCH-DAVIS

BELLE RIVE – After Marvin and Vivian Scott were driving home from getting married in 1950, he asked her how much money she had. She said she had 17 cents. He said he had three hogs, \$500 in a bank account and a paid-for 1946 Plymouth.

The family has come a long way.

Today they own about 571 acres, cattle, hogs and a successful feed business.

The family also acted as the grand marshals for the Sweet Corn and Watermelon Parade, which was dedicated to Southern Illinois farmers.

The couple agrees hard work and living within their means was the key to their success.

After living in Rockford for two years after they were married, the Scotts returned to Belle Rive to help run the business of Vivian's father, Hamson's Feed Store.

She and her brother, Elmer, bought the business, and in 1961 the Scotts bought out her brother.

Along the way, Marvin began purchasing ground. His first acquisition was 110 acres in Bluford adjoining his father's farm.

Little by little, they began building their farm and business.

Vivian said with the strength of God, she and her family have been able to do many things. God also enabled her to be a hard worker.

"I've worked all my life doing something. When I was little I used to help in my father's store. Then when I was in eighth grade, I worked in a grocery store making \$6.50 a week. I also worked in restaurants and helped keep records for my dad," she said.

Marvin said the family was so close, they didn't need a lot to be happy.

"We just didn't worry about having a lot of things. We were happy with what we had," he said.

Vivian said little shortcuts the family took helped them out financially.

When they purchased the feed store, the name remained the same because her father had purchased "tons" of receipts with the Hamson logo. So instead of having to purchase more with a name change, they kept the Hamson name.

"I also sold the car when he went into

service. I didn't see a need for it. We just had fun with what we had and didn't worry," she said.

The couple said they took money out of the proceeds for the lights and phone bill and didn't use any of the rest of it for extras.

The Scotts are the parents of three children, Diane Catalfamo of Lebanon, MO, and Dave Scott and Delores Daniels, both of Belle Rive.

The spirit of hard work has been instilled in their children, who frequently help their parents with the farm and business when able. "Whatever we have been able to do, we have done together," Marvin said.

He said the kids worked hard financing their education by working and also selling hay in the winter they baled in the summer.

The couple said that when it came to weekends, they always tried to make it a family event with activities such as riding horses.

Marvin said he and his wife tried to instill good Christian values in their children.

"We made sure our children realized commitments were important. If they said they were going to do something or be somewhere, they were there doing it," he said.

Hamson's Feed Store has changed through the years as advances have been made in farming.

In 1961, they were one of the first to spread liquid nitrogen and do custom spraying. Because of government regulations and red tape, they decided to stop that line of business.

They also used to have a hammer mill and grind their own products. But as technology advanced, that also ceased.

They still do some custom grinding for customers, but it is by appointment only.

The feed store still keeps busy selling pet food, emu food, fish food and other feeds.

Both are dedicated members of Belle Rive Missionary Baptist Church.

Marvin is a member of the Jefferson County Board and a Trustee for Rend Lake College. He is a Deacon at the church and a member of the Baptist State Foundation Board. He also teaches Sunday School.

Vivian is a member of the Belle Rive Unit of Family Community Education and is Treasurer for the Jefferson County FCE. She also teaches Sunday School.

"We like farm life and living in this area because we are able to lead a great life," Vivian said. "Everybody is great, honest

* - * - *

Faculty Council, Estes thank Baker for efforts

LETTER DECEMBER 10, 1973

Dr. Allen Y. Baker:

Too often, those who do so much are the ones who receive so little, if any, praise, recognition and/or expressions of appreciation for the unselfish efforts which they have put forth to further a cause or to achieve a goal. I feel that this has been true to a great extent of the faculty of Rend Lake College in respect to your dedicated determination and perseverance in working for legislation affecting the community colleges of Illinois.

I am referring specifically to your efforts to obtain equalization for the smaller community colleges and your influence in obtaining an override of Governor Walker's veto of the appropriation funding billing to increase funding from \$17.61 to \$18.50 per semester hour. I am also quite certain that you have been instrumental in the success of numerous other activities that have influenced the community colleges of Illinois and in particular, Rend Lake College.

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Faculty Council, I want you to know that we deeply appreciate the tremendous effort you have put forth in helping to make Rend Lake College one of the best community colleges in the state. We also appreciate the fact you are not resting upon your past achievements, but rather you are continuing in your efforts to improve the status of Rend Lake College and other community colleges.

Sincerely yours,
Eugene T. Estes
President of Faculty Council
Rend Lake College



Marvin W. Scott Executive Board Room surprise honor

REGISTER-NEWS JULY 13, 2011

Longtime Rend Lake College Board member Marvin Scott was recognized Tuesday night (July 12) for his service, and surprised with an additional honor – the Board Room being named after him.

“As a Board member, he has been a part of everything positive at the college” RLC President Charley Holstein said. “More often than not, he is the voice of reason. He listens more than anyone I know. He once said you learn more from listening than you do from speaking, and he truly believes that.”

The Marvin W. Scott Executive Board Room plaque was unveiled during the ceremony, which was held Tuesday evening prior to the regular Rend Lake College Board meeting. Scott has served as a Trustee for 33 years, and will have served 35 years by the end of his current term in 2013. During his tenure, Scott has served as the Rend Lake College representative on the Illinois Community College Trustees Association Board, and has received many awards for his service from the organization.

“Marvin is not just a local guy,” said ICCTA Director Mike Monaghan. “He is well known on a statewide basis. He has been participating in the statewide community college system for many years. He recognized very early the importance of all

(Continued at far right on next page)

and hard working. We take a lot of checks at our business and it is very rare to get a bad one.

“People here have been so good to us.”

THE REGISTER-NEWS FEBRUARY 16, 1994
BY RICK HAYES

BELLE RIVE – Marvin and Vivian Scott used to watch their children run around the family’s feed store. Now the couple baby-sit their grandchildren.

The Scotts saw their children grow up at Hamson’s Feed Store, a business they still own and operate after 40 years.

They have owned the business exclusively since 1961, purchasing the remaining interest from Elmer Hamson, Vivian’s brother, who was a partner for about seven years. The Scotts have been involved in the business since 1954, but Hamson’s Feed Store has been operating in the Belle Rive area since 1935.

This business in southeast Jefferson County remains a family operation. The Scotts’ son, David, and daughter and son-in-law Delores and Ron Daniels assist customers. The Scotts’ other daughter, Diane Catalfamo, lives in Lebanon, MO.

Hamson’s Feed Store serves about a 10-mile radius in Jefferson and Hamilton counties. The store sells feed, bagged fertilizer, food for small pets, garden seed and propane and related accessories. The Scotts were forced to diversify their product offerings in the ‘60s, when government regulations put a dent in their custom spraying and liquid fertilizer business.

This summer will be the fourth that the Scotts have operated the ice cream stand across from the village’s Post Office.

“We’ve tried to give good service and I think we’ve had good relationships with our customers,” said Vivian in explaining the longevity of the business.

“We take pride in knowing that we’ve helped some of the young boys in the community,” she said. For several years, the Scotts have offered employment opportunities to young men in the community, many of whom were working for the first time.

“We’ve always felt like we’ve had a good,

friendly place for the community,” Vivian said.

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. JUNE 2000

Congratulations to Marvin and Vivian Scott, who will celebrate 50 years of marriage with a reception Saturday, June 17, at the home of one of their daughters. Helping the Scotts celebrate the Golden Anniversary will be two daughters, a son and their spouses; six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Marvin has been a very active Rend Lake College Trustee since 1978, longer than any other current member.

He will hurry home Saturday from the ICCTA Annual Convention in Decatur in time to enjoy the couple’s special day. They were married June 18, 1950.

VIVIAN ON MARVIN: ♦ ‘He really cares about people getting a better education... have a better life’

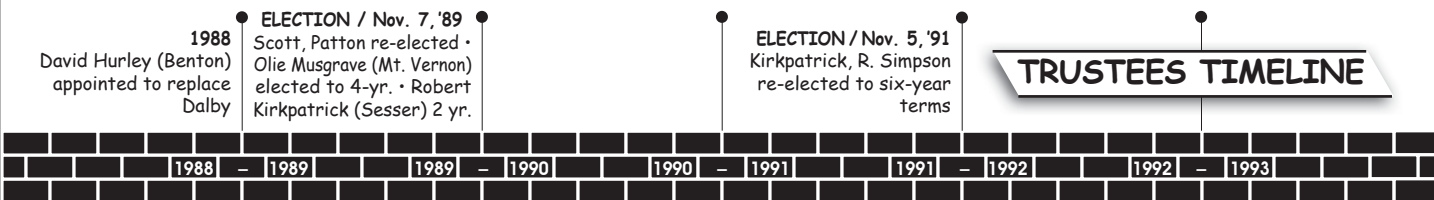
REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 12, 2011

If not for the photos on the tables and programs headlined with a name, unaware guests may have been hard pressed to pinpoint exactly who was the man of the hour Tuesday night in the Rend Lake College Student Center.

Prior to their regular monthly meeting, the RLC Trustees joined college administrators, staff and faculty, and RLC Foundation Directors in celebrating the unprecedented tenure of Rend Lake College’s longest-serving Trustee, Marvin W. Scott.

With unassuming tact, the 80-year-old Scott stood with a small group in the center of the room, undoubtedly bartering his latest Buck knife and catching up on the news around campus. And true to form, after RLC President Charley D. Holstein and Board Chairman Bryan Drew unveiled a plaque designating the “Marvin W. Scott Executive Board Room” on the second floor of the Student Center, Scott modestly said, “I appreciate this, but that’s not what I’ve been here 33 years for.”

Rend Lake College was established 45 years ago. In that time only a handful of facilities have been named after an individual



or entity – Allen Y. Baker Administration Building, James Waugh Gymnasium, Wayne Arnold Fitness Center, Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus and Mark S. Kern Applied Science Center.

Scott's service on the board – of which he receives no compensation – has lasted longer than most careers. He has served RLC District 521 for an unparalleled 33 years. He has represented the college on the Illinois Community College Trustees Association Executive Board for over a decade. He started attending ICCTA meetings and conventions with former RLC Trustee Allan Patton.

As RLC's ICCTA Representative, Scott goes to meetings and seminars on the regional, state and national levels throughout the year and reports back to the full board about what he learned. In 2009, he received a 30-year recognition from the association and his fourth ICCTA Trustee Education Award recognizing achievements in trusteeship development. His name appears seventh on the list of the longest-serving community college trustees in Illinois history.

The room was filled with Scott's family and friends, some of whom traveled quite a distance to step up to the podium and congratulate him. ICCTA representatives included Jim Ayers, Lin Warfel, Mike Sullivan, Mike Monaghan and Don Patton. Illinois Community College Board President and CEO Geoffrey Obrzut was there, as well as John A. Logan's Bob Mees, John O'Keefe, Jake Rendleman and John Sanders.

"In this world there are never too many gentlemen and it's always a pleasure to meet a gentleman. That's Marvin," past ICCTA President Warfel said. "It's been a real pleasure and honor to sit at the table with a real gentleman."

Scott and his wife, Vivian, live in Belle Rive where they have owned and operated Hamson Feed Store for 57 years. As a member of the RLC Board since 1978, Scott has been a part of giving the gift of education to thousands. But he never went to college himself.

He married Vivian when he was 19 and she was just two weeks out of high school. They worked together at a factory in Rockford for a while and he served two years in the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, spending 18 months as a personnel office clerk in Germany. They bought her father's part of the feed store after Marvin was discharged.

Vivian was there Tuesday night to watch her husband be honored.

"He really cares about people getting a better education, that they might be better off economically and have a better life," she said. "We've been married 61 years and I could not ask for anyone better. We are probably more in love now than when we got married – if that's possible. God has really blessed our family."

"Most successful people have pretty good helpers," he said when asked what it's been like working side by side with her for all these years.

Their children are Diane Catalfamo, Delores Daniels and David Scott – all teachers. Marvin and Vivian have seven grandchildren and an 18-month-old great-granddaughter.

"We're very much into education at our house," Vivian said. Their daughter Diane taught in the Culinary Arts program at Rend Lake, and David and two of their grandchildren are RLC graduates.

In addition to representing RLC on the ICCTA Executive Committee, Scott formerly served several terms on the Belle Rive Village Board, 15 years on the Hamilton County Telephone Cooperative Board and multiple terms on the Jefferson County Board. He is a past member of the Board of Directors for the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce and served many years on the Belle Rive School Board. He also served on the Belle Rive Saddle Club Board, Mt. Vernon Township High School Agriculture Advisory Board and is a former USDA Farm Service Director.

He has served nearly two decades with the Southern Illinois Baptist Foundation, and is a Deacon who teaches an adult Sunday School class at Belle Rive Missionary Baptist Church where they faithfully attend.

"I'm community-minded," he said, pointing out their appetite for staying active. "We don't watch much TV every night. I'm 80 and I got up at 4:30 this morning." He joked, "But sometimes I might fall asleep on the meetings, but you know . . ."

Scott got involved with the RLC Board when Dr. Clyde Funkhouser had to resign before his term was complete. Scott said former members Joe Scrivner, Rich Herrin and Chairman Richard Simpson paid him a visit in Belle Rive to ask if he would consider filling the seat. Seven consecutive terms later, he said his goals as a Trustee are the same as when he accepted the offer 33 years



Scott Board Room (cont.)

community colleges being a part of a system. He has been instrumental in the work of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association . . . He is a critical part of the state system."

John A. Logan College Board Trustee John O'Keefe, who also serves with Scott on the ICCTA, jokes about Scott's hobby of trading knives.

"I have been blessed in the years I have spent on the board with Marvin. When we are together at ICCTA events, I usually buy his meal, and then we get to trading knives. He always says he's getting together gas money for the trip home . . . I don't know what kind of travel reimbursement program the college has, but he eats on John A. Logan and drives on John O'Keefe!" O'Keefe joked.

"You have a gem here with Marvin. You always know where he stands. He loves the Lord, loves his family and, God help us, he loves Rend Lake College."

RLC Board President Bryan Drew and Holstein unveiled the plaque to rename the Executive Board Room in Scott's honor, with Scott talking about how much the college has grown since he took office in 1978.

"I thought it was really great when all the students could register in one building," Scott said. "There have been a lot of changes and building over the years."



Audit service extension

BOARD MEETING JANUARY 13, 2015

Trustees approved a five-year extension of the contractual agreement for audit services with Clifton Larson Allen LLP for Fiscal Years 2015 through 2019 at a total cost of \$264,475.



ICCB conducts business at RLC in March 2000

F.Y.I. MARCH 13, 2000

The 321st meeting of the Illinois Community College Board will take place Friday morning, March 17, on the Ina campus of Rend Lake College. The regular business meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. in the Student Center.

ICCB guests will be welcomed to campus by Rend Lake College President Mark S. Kern.

In addition to the usual committee reports and an update from Dr. Joseph J. Cipfl, ICCB President and CEO, the agenda will include:

An overview of the Governor's Fiscal Year 2001 budget; a status report on Adult Education Governance; a status report on the Illinois Community College System Strategic Planning Initiative; reports on Programs/Services for Special Populations and Under-Represented Groups, and P-16 Partnership for Educational Excellence.



Southeast Region Trustees select RLC's Patton Chair

NEWS RELEASE JULY 1981

Dr. Allan Patton, who serves as the Rend Lake College representative to the Illinois Community College Trustees Association, has been elected Chairman for the coming year for the Southeast Region.

One of nine regions statewide, the Southeast Region is comprised of RLC, John A. Logan College at Carterville, Shawnee College at Ullin and Southeastern Illinois College at Harrisburg.

ago. Scott's mission is to help people go to college and get an education.

"I think we've improved our options over the years," he said. "Things have changed for the better. Education is changing for the better."

He thinks one of the most notable changes at RLC was when leaders decided to renovate the Administration Building. It provides one location where students can sign up for classes, meet with a college counselor, pay a bill, apply for financial aid and take advantage of many other student services.

"I thought that was a great improvement, the Admin Building," said Scott. "Now we have the agriculture building and the mining building."

Buildings are fine, he said. However, RLC's core strength, according to Scott, will always be who's inside.

"We've got some dedicated people. I see some real hard dedication in our teachers who do the job over and above. Just look at our maintenance [department]. I tell people, you go [on campus] and just stand still for a while. One or more of them will end up going by you. If they are going to give their time and extra effort, so am I. A good Board has to do its job."

Scott's extra effort as the ICCTA Representative is noticed. The role requires him to invest time in meetings and travel.

"It takes some time and I have the time," he said. "It's hard [for other board members] to go, be regular and have the time. And I'm not the only one who goes all the time. Other board members go and Charley goes. I don't always have to give a full report. It's nice to know what the ICCB and the universities are doing. You just learn. You don't always have to be speaking to learn and carry those good things and bad things back home."

Holstein said Scott is the voice of reason. "He listens more than anyone I know," Holstein added. "He once told me, 'You'd be surprised at how much you can learn from just listening.' But after listening, he provides direct and clear guidance, always with the motive of taking care of students

and employees, reaching opportunities and ensuring people are treated fairly. Marvin has, in one way or another, played an integral part in helping to develop our area."

SOUTHEAST REGION Trustees begin informational series of meetings at RLC with special guests

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

Several special guests joined members of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association Southeast Region Monday night as Rend Lake College hosted the first in a series of the group's informational meetings at the Ina campus.

RLC President Charley Holstein welcomed the group, saying he hopes each meeting will be better than the last. Long-time RLC Trustee Marvin Scott, who also serves as the college's ICCTA representative, emceed the meeting.

The Southeast Region is made up of trustees from Rend Lake College, John A. Logan College (Carterville), Shawnee Community College (Ullin) and Southeastern Illinois College (Harrisburg). The ICCTA provides legislative advocacy and educational opportunities for community college boards.

Barbara Oilschlager, ICCTA President, was on hand to update the group about happenings at the state level.

"We have accomplished a lot this year, and we still have a lot on our plate," she said. "When you get ordinary people working together toward a common purpose, you certainly can achieve extraordinary results."

Oilschlager, a Trustee of the College of Lake County, became ICCTA President on July 1. Earlier this month, she penned a letter to the editor which was distributed to Trustees statewide for submission to their local papers. In it, Oilschlager noted that while enrollments at community colleges are climbing, the institutions still have considerable challenges to overcome in terms of funding.

"In Illinois, for example, though community colleges educate more than 60 percent of the state's undergraduates overall, we receive only 13 percent of the state's higher education dollars. Just as significantly, the

TRUSTEES TIMELINE

ELECTION / Nov. 2, '93
Browning and Musgrave re-elected • Wm. David Edmison (Mt. Vernon) elected to 6-yr. terms

1994
Jim Hinman (Mt. Vernon) appointed to replace Musgrave

ELECTION / Nov. 7, '95
Scott, Patton re-elected to 6-yr. terms • Hinman elected to 4-yr. term

1996
Caroline Quinn (Mt. Vernon) appointed to replace Hinman

ELECTION / Nov. 4, '97
R. Simpson re-elected to 2-yr. • Randall Crocker (Sesser) and Hunt Bonan (McLeansboro) to 6-yr.

1993 - 1994

1994 - 1995

1995 - 1996

1996 - 1997

1997 - 1998

dollar amount of that share has been declining – from \$347 million in Fiscal Year 2002 to \$297 million in the just-completed Fiscal Year 2009,” she wrote.

Guy Alongi, Chairman of the Illinois Community College Board, brought up the subject of the Monetary Award Program, the state’s oldest needs-based student aid program. The current state budget funds only the current Fall Semester for these grants and their recipients.

Funding for the Spring 2010 does not exist, which brings up the very real possibility that thousands of the neediest college students in Illinois may not be able to continue their educations in the spring. A statewide effort to convince legislators to restore funding for this program has been launched.

Holstein said the \$200 million shortfall in MAP funding is a “significantly important issue to anyone involved in higher education.”

ICCTA Executive Director Mike Monaghan updated the group on the status of Illinois’ finances. The state and the community college system face an uphill battle in terms of budgets and funding, he said. He noted the state is not going to make its quarterly payments to community colleges on time, and that it is possible these payments will be delayed by six months or more, adding to the need of community colleges to do more with less.

Illinois has the third-largest community college system in the nation. There are 39 community college districts which contain 48 community colleges statewide. Each fall, Illinois community colleges account for nearly two-thirds (63.2 percent) of all students enrolled in Illinois public higher education, according to the ICCB Web site.

Community colleges are the primary provider of the higher education experience in Illinois and serve as the local economic catalyst by providing retraining programs for displaced workers, additional education for career advancement for the employed, and advanced education for high school graduates preparing for the job market.

1995 RECOGNITION ▶ **Chamber ‘Citizen of the Year’ honors for ex-RLCF Chair/Trustee Hinman**

MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS APRIL 13, 1995

Tri-County Electric Cooperative General Manager Jim Hinman has been chosen “Citizen of the Year” by the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce.

Hinman will be honored by the chamber at its Annual Dinner April 21 at the Ramada Hotel, along with the “Small Businessman of the Year,” whose identity has not yet been announced.

Hinman will be honored for his service to the community as well as for his accomplishments in business. He has been General Manager at Tri-County for 10 years, after becoming Office Manager in 1973, then Assistant Manager in 1981.

Hinman has been a member of the Mt. Vernon Industrial Development Commission since 1987, working to attract new industries and to help local businesses expand. He has served as Co-Chairman of the Job Retention Committee since 1990.

He was recently appointed to the Rend Lake College Board after serving on the Rend Lake College Foundation Board from 1988 to 1992. He was Foundation Chairman in 1989 and 1990, and during his tenure the Foundation raised more than \$200,000 to support the college.

He also has been active with the United Way of Jefferson County. He was Chairman of the Utilities Division in 1987-89, and has been Co-Chairman of the Manufacturing Division since 1991.

Among his other accomplishments in the community, Hinman was a member of the Board of Directors of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce in 1986 and 1987, a member of the Rotary Club of Mt. Vernon since 1986 and its President in 1991-92 and a member of the Board of Directors of Boatmen’s Bank of Southern Illinois since 1992.

Through the co-op, he has promoted sending 11 area high school juniors each year on a week’s tour of the nation’s capital through the “Youth to Washington” program.

He has supported Tri-County employees’ annual craft fair that has raised more than \$18,000 for local organizations.

Professionally, Hinman has been a member of the United Utility Supply Cooperative Board of Directors, serving 13 states; has represented Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin on the Rural Electrification Administration’s Procedures Committee in Washington since 1992, is an Incorporating Director of the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group and has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Soyland Power Cooperative since 1985.

Hinman graduated from Murray State University in Kentucky in 1967 in Busi-



Executive Board Room honors Curtis A. Parker

NOVEMBER 1998

The Executive Board Room located in the RLC Student Center was officially named the “Curtis A. Parker Board Room” during the November 1998 Trustees meeting. The Mt. Vernon Optometrist was active on the original Steering Committee as one of 10 representatives from Jefferson County, served as the first Chair of the Board of Trustees and has continued to be a strong supporter long after his retirement, according to the college’s justification for honoring Dr. Parker.



Economic Development Committee adds Patton

NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 1982

Dr. Allan D. Patton of Zeigler was recently named a member of the Economic Development Committee of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association. His appointment was announced by Sheilah A. Dye, ICCTA President. He will serve for a one-year term.

Patton is currently Vice Chair of the RLC Board.

The Economic Development Committee will be providing leadership to the community colleges as they increase their work in this important field. The colleges are on the leading edge of job-training and working to recruit new and expanded industry in Illinois. This committee will provide higher visibility for the colleges’ economic development activities.

The public community college system in Illinois includes 39 districts with 52 campuses. Colleges provide vocational, continuing, baccalaureate and non-credit education for almost a million Illinoisans each year.



Former Trustee Bill Moore dies following auto accident

OCTOBER 1997

Former Rend Lake College Trustee William L. "Bill" Moore died Friday morning, October 17, as the result of an automobile accident.

Moore, 83, of Sesser and formerly of Mt. Vernon, was hit by a drunk driver on Interstate 64 near Lebanon and Illinois Route 4 in the early morning hours. He died at 9:19 a.m. at St. Louis University Hospital.

Moore was eastbound returning home from a trip to Las Vegas when his car was struck head-on by a car headed in the opposite direction. Moore, according to the police report, swerved in an attempt to avoid the collision in the eastbound lanes.

Graveside services for Moore, a retired Jefferson County Supervisor of Assessments, are scheduled Monday, October 20, at 1 p.m. at Oakwood Cemetery in Mt. Vernon. There will be no public visitation.

Survivors include one son, William David Moore of Atlanta, and one daughter, Becky Standridge of Mt. Vernon.

Moore served on the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees from 1972-75.

ness Administration and Accounting. He graduated from Officers Candidate School and served in the United States Army from 1968 to 1971, including a stint with the 46th Infantry Division in Vietnam.

He and his wife, the former Liz Buhner, have three children. They are Robbie, 15, a freshman at Mt. Vernon Township High School; Stephen, 11, and Sarah, 9, fifth- and third-graders at J.L. Buford School.

1995 COMMENCEMENT ▶ Browning: 'Here you found dedicated faculty, encouraging friends, job skills'

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 1995

Rend Lake College Trustee Kirby Browning is not lacking expertise. In 1964, he was Principal at Thompsonville High School and played a key role in helping organize the college district and setting its boundaries; more recently, he retired after 27 years as Director of Admissions and Records and Assistant Professor of Higher Education for Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

But called upon to deliver the message to 1995 graduates of Rend Lake College, Dr. Browning called upon the wisdom of others to leave an impression on the 493 candidates for various degrees and certificates and their guests.

[Editor's note: The robe-wearing portion of the 28th Annual Commencement included (approximately) the 10,000th graduate from Rend Lake College. The total number of candidates in the Class of 1995 was the third-highest to date.]

He first recalled an essay by Ralph Waldo Emerson, entitled "Self-Reliance," in which the epitome of America's spirit was demonstrated by the early colonists and pioneers and later by those involved with the Industrial Revolution, including such giants as Andrew Carnegie, Henry Ford and Thomas Edison.

"All had one thing in common . . . a drive to reach goals even if they had to do it on their own," he noted.

Dr. Browning concluded his words of wisdom by noting, "Life can be like a lad-

der or like a sliding board. By receiving this degree, you have put yourself on a ladder. If you set goals and meet those goals, it is kind of like a ladder in going from one level to the next. And like the words of a Dan Fogelberg song -

"The higher you climb, the more you can see;

"The more that you see, the less that you know;

"The less that you know, the more that you yearn;

"The more that you yearn, the higher you climb."

"May this degree be just one rung in a long ladder."

Dr. Browning has been a member of the RLC Board of Trustees the past 10 years and boasts longtime involvement with both universities and community colleges throughout the state working primarily with the transfer of credit from one institution to another. He is a Past President of the Illinois Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

He admitted all too often "self-reliance and goal-setting seem to have been lost by a lot of people in America," who now have a something-for-nothing attitude and feel "I can't do it on my own.

"Actually, self-reliance grows out of a realization of self worth, and that is what Rend Lake College is here for," Dr. Browning said.

"It is here that you found dedicated faculty who work hard to help you achieve all you can achieve. It is here you found friends who encouraged you to do your best and achieve what you want to achieve. It is here that you found the skills to get a job. It is here that you have found the opportunity to make a better life for yourself and others . . . It is here you learned to set goals and meet those goals."

Graduates also were reminded they did not accomplish things by themselves, that many others have contributed to their success. Parents, spouses, children, grandparents, friends, et al, were encouraged to stand and be recognized by the graduates.

"It took a lot of people to get this college

TRUSTEES TIMELINE

● ELECTION / April 20, '99
Edmison re-elected • Courtney Cox (Benton), Dennis McEnaney (Mt. Vernon) elected to 5 1/2-yr.

2000
Sam Mateer (Mt. Vernon) appointed to replace McEnaney

● ELECTION / April 3, '01
Scott re-elected and Bill Simpson (Benton) elected 5 1/2 yr • Norma O'Daniel (Mt. Vernon) elected 4-yr.

● ELECTION / April 1, '03
Crocker and Bonan re-elected to 6-year terms

1998 - 1999

1999 - 2000

2000 - 2001

2001 - 2002

2002 - 2003

where it is, also, as one of the very best colleges in the state of Illinois," Dr. Browning said with pride.

NOT LIKE PULLING TEETH ▶ Dr. Simpson one of two BCHS Ranger grid assistants keeping 'em smiling

BY STEVE CUNNINGHAM
THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN AUGUST 1996

Let's go down the list of a high school football coaching staff and identify all the components:

There's the offensive coach. And a defensive coach. Some schools set aside the resources to employ others, maybe to handle special teams or conditioning or videos. Still others have volunteers who donate their time to do whatever they can for the program.

And then there's Benton High School, which employs not one, but two team dentists. Think that's football specialization gone mad? Not quite.

Rangers Coach Jeff Roper has two assistant coaches – Dick Simpson and Robin LaBuwi – who just happen to be practicing dentistry in Benton. Each is a former player and each came back to the program hoping to restore football to glory in his hometown. And even more amazing is the fact that Simpson and LaBuwi schedule appointments *around* Benton practices.

On Thursday, for example, Roper had the Rangers on the field three times – from 8-10 a.m., then at 1 p.m. for another two hours and, finally, a session beginning at 6 p.m. – and Simpson and LaBuwi were there for all three.

That's seemingly not much of a way to run a successful business, but the duo has done it now for four years.

"Only 50 percent of our staff actually teaches at the school," said Roper. "We've got three teachers, including myself, who coach football and two of the other three happen to be dentists. They consider this as much of a full-time job as they do the dentist work.

"You know, they have to take a pay cut here . . . I just can't say enough about them. We are very fortunate to have them on our staff."

Ask for their reasons and Simpson and LaBuwi reveal a personal interest.

"(The district) was having some financial troubles and there was talk of disbanding the program," says Simpson, who played for the Rangers on their South Seven champion

in 1956. "I didn't want to see that happen. There have been a lot of good football teams here."

"I was tired of coming to games and seeing Benton get beat 45-0," said LaBuwi, a player in the early '70s. "I thought there might be some way that I could help, to get kids out and restore some pride to the program."

What the two have done is put their life's calling in a secondary position. Each adjusts his schedule so he can be at practices and both say there have been few complaints.

It may not be so coincidental that the Rangers have posted winning records in the past two seasons. A year ago, Benton made its first playoff appearance ever, advancing to the second round.

"These guys have a very strong interest in the program," Roper said. "That's why they got into it. They understand a little bit more so than myself the tradition, the heritage, the time when football in Benton was important."

Roper has experience from two different eras to incorporate into his philosophy, and he says it is a perfect mix. Simpson, the cagey veteran, coaches the offensive and defensive lines, and handles the rest of the defense as well.

"I was a little hesitant to do it," Simpson said. "I thought there would have been a lot more changes (in the game) in 31 years, but the only thing that has changed is offensive blocking. When I played, you could block below the waist, you could cross-body and leave your feet, but your hands had to be up against your chest.

"Now you can use your hands and can't block below the waist or leave your feet."

LaBuwi, on the other hand, is the fresh face, introducing kids to the game as freshmen. Benton has started a flag football program and LaBuwi initiated a weight program as well to prepare them for the rigors of high school football.

"I knew a little football and love the game," he said. "I thought that a little hard work could help the program and the last couple of years seem to be proof of that."

Before you think Simpson and LaBuwi are neglecting their dental practices, well, then think again. Each has tailored his schedule perfectly to work those long days.

It is gums and floss and fluoride then pads and helmets and blocking sleds. The arrangement seems to be working well and Benton's football team is the talk of the town.

* - * - *

18-year-olds eligible to run for Board as of April 1976

SPRING 1976

For the first time ever, 18-year-olds will be eligible to run for the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees in the April 10, 1976, election.

Prior to this year, 18-year-olds could vote for Board candidates, but no one under 21 years of age could run for a seat on the Board.

* - * - *

Six-year Trustee terms as of December 1982

BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 21, 1982

Dr. Harry Braun reported House Bill 2234, which provides for six-year terms for community college Trustees, is now a law. Trustees elected in 1981 (Joe McClure, Rich Herrin, Joe Scrivner) will serve until 1987; Trustees elected in 1980 (Richard Simpson, Everett Thompson) until 1985; Trustees elected in 1979 (Allan Patton, Marvin Scott) until 1983.

* - * - *

Teachers Local No. 3708 endorses '09 candidates

THE SOUTHERN MARCH 28, 2009

For the first time in its 27-year history, the Rend Lake Federation of Teachers Local No. 3708, is endorsing candidates for the Rend Lake College Board election April 7.

The three candidates voted on by the RLC faculty are William "Bill" Dill and incumbent Randall Crocker for the four-year term and Mary Roe for the two-year term.

Union officers said in a news release they organized two informal forums that allowed faculty to meet with all current candidates, ask questions and speak one-on-one.

Afterward, the unionized faculty voted by secret ballot to decide who they would support.



Golfer Bryan Drew named co-Student 'Athlete of Year'

NEWS RELEASE EXCERPTS MAY 1995

Athletes from five arenas and their classmates who led the cheers were honored in front of nearly 225 admiring parents, fans and colleagues Thursday night during Third Annual Warrior-Lady Warrior All-Sports Athletic Banquet festivities in the Rend Lake College Student Center.

Highlights included the naming of "Most Valuable Players" in golf, baseball, softball and men and women's basketball.

But even the MVPs had to share the spotlight with softball third sacker Robyn Houghlan (Herrin) and golfer Bryan Drew (Benton), named outstanding female and male "Student-Athletes of the Year" for their achievements in the classroom as well as on the playing field.

And even the top "Student-Athletes" were willing to share center stage with Athletic Director Jim (Hummer) Waugh, who was given a long standing ovation after the announcement by RLC President Mark S. Kern that Waugh plans to retire, effective later this summer, after 29 years at RLC and Mt. Vernon Community College . . .

. . . All-Region XXIV honoree Drew never was a medalist during his Juco career but was runner-up four times. The golf team won six of 13 tournaments and ascended to its first-ever No. 1 NJCAA national ranking in any sport. Academically, only one "B" keeps him from being a straight-A student.

Not only is there excitement lingering from last year, but improvements have been made in other areas.

There's a new scoreboard and a new sprinkler system for the field, which as turned the playing surface from half-grass, half-dirt into a lush carpet. This year's edition of the Rangers will be short on seniors, but 36 freshmen are on hand for the future.

Both Simpson and LaBuwi expressed their pleasure with the progress of the program, and Roper thinks his coaching team is a good one.

"We all really have a good relationship," he said. "All of the pieces fit into place. Hopefully, we can continue what we've got going here."

[Editor's Note: The story on the Coaching Dentists was re-run in the August 19 issue of **Rend Lake College F.Y.I.** Elsewhere in the RLC weekly publication, under the heading of F.Y.I. Briefs, was the following . . .

From the "As You Were" column in the *Mt. Vernon Register-News* on Saturday, August 17 . . .

20 Years Ago Today – Dr. Richard Simpson of Benton was last night elected by the Red Lake College Board of Trustees to fill a newly created vacancy on the board.]

'OUTSTANDING STUDENT' Recruiter-in-Training Kabat enjoyed hands-on Ag experiences, knowledge

REND LAKE COLLEGE AG ALUMNEWS SPRING 1991

They may not have realized it at the time, but the Rend Lake College Agriculture faculty was training a College Recruiter when they provided an education for Scheller native John Kabat from 1980-82.

Kabat, who graduated in Ag Production and Management, maintained a close relationship with his community college alma mater during the next three years while he worked on a Bachelor and Master's Degree at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Today, "I recommend Rend Lake College to many of my students because of its high-quality education at a reasonable cost," admits Kabat, who has been an Agriculture Teacher at Mt. Vernon Township High

School since his graduation from SIUC five years ago.

Kabat also serves as MVTHS Future Farmers of America Advisor and teaches Cooperative Education classes.

In April 1990, Kabat was recipient of the first "Young Leadership Service" Award, one of two honors bestowed annually by the newly formed Southern Illinois Agri-Business Club. The other honoree was former University of Illinois Agriculture Law Professor and Author Harold W. "Hank" Hannah, an active member and former President of the Rend Lake College Foundation in its formative years (1979-82).

Kabat likewise is a two-time recipient of the Jefferson County Conservation "Teacher of the Year" Award.

According to Southern Illinois Agri-Business Club President Dave Reynolds, Kabat was cited in particular for his "untiring, dedicated efforts with our FFA youth. Not just a teacher, he has established himself as a leading professional with the ability to inspire young people and has brought a struggling FFA program to success.

"I am happy to work with John on many occasions," added Reynolds, "and it can be a real challenge to attempt to run fast enough to keep up with him."

Students who do manage to keep up with their teacher learn they "can receive practical knowledge that can be used in the vast agriculture industry" by enrolling in the college's Ag programs.

"Rend Lake College's Agriculture Department is respected by the businesses in Southern Illinois," commented Kabat.

"I have never regretted going to Rend Lake College," added the 1982 RLC "Outstanding Agricultural Student of the Year" Award-winner.

"I appreciated all of the hands-on experience that I acquired. I also enjoyed the experience with the land laboratory and the cooperative (on-the-job) training that I had at Pitchford Elevator.

"The instructors are very knowledgeable and very personable. The other students also taught me very important, practical information."

TRUSTEES TIMELINE

ELECTION / April 5, '05
Cox, Edmison and O'Daniel re-elected to 6-year terms

2005
Bryan Drew (Benton) appointed to replace Cox

ELECTION / May 8, '07
Scott and B. Simpson re-elected • Drew elected, all to 6-year terms

2008
Ed Cunningham (Mt. Vernon) appointed to replace O'Daniel



No doubt, students at Mt. Vernon regard their instructor in similar fashion . . . very knowledgeable and very personable. Kabat, the District Director for Agriculture Teachers, conducts classes in "Introduction to Ag Industry I and II," "Ag Science I and II," "Ag Operations," "Ag Business Management" and "Cooperative Education."

All the while, telling his students, "I am very proud to be a graduate from Rend Lake College's Agriculture Department."

BAKER GIFT: \$100,000 ♦
Who knew? More reasons to remember name on Administration Building, wife

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 14, 2008

Every Rend Lake College student has been inside the Dr. Allen Y. Baker Administration Building – one of only two buildings on campus to be named after an individual.

Whether they are there to request a transcript, pay their bill or visit the counseling or financial aid departments, students have passed by his name many times. As of Friday, they have 100,000 more reasons to remember it.

Baker took the Commencement stage Friday night (May 9) and announced he and his wife, Stella, are establishing the Dr. Allen Y. Baker and Stella Baker Scholarship Fund. They were the only two who knew.

"This morning, at 11:30, I called Fidelity Investment Company," he told an unaware crowd – the largest in RLC Commencement history. "I directed them on behalf of my wife and myself to give a gift of \$100,000 to Rend Lake College."

The audience erupted in applause that grew to a standing ovation as RLC President Mark S. Kern walked up to Dr. Baker, shook his hand and thanked him.

Baker was a member of the founding Board of Trustees. He and six other local leaders stood together on March 27, 1969 and broke ground in a cornfield that would later become a college. He named each one of his fellow Board members who were there that day on the 300-acre, Jones family farm, located on the eastern shore of scenic Rend Lake. They were Carlton Apple of Enfield, Mel Farlow of McLeansboro, Harry Irwin of Wayne City, Dr. Curtis Parker of Mt. Vernon, Holland Simmons of Benton and Forrest Stewart of Dix.

"I'm sure each of us had vision, ambition and anticipation of what would hap-

pen at Rend Lake College," Baker said of that day.

He served on the RLC Board of Trustees from 1968-78 and was its Chairman from 1970-74. Prior to that, he served on the Steering and Executive Committees for Perry County and was instrumental in Pinckneyville becoming a part of the RLC District. He was also a key component in holding an election where voters decided by an overwhelming eight-to-one margin to establish the college.

Baker was involved in site selection and hiring the first President – one of three RLC Presidents he would be involved in hiring. He helped select an architect and pass a bond issuance for \$1.3 million – the local share of constructing the original campus. He helped develop the college's Master Plan and surely watched with pride as it became the first college in the state to complete its Master Plan.

He served as RLC's Representative to the Illinois Community College Trustees Association and served two terms as that organization's Chairman. As part of the ICCTA, Baker founded and successfully fought to establish equalization funding, which is the funding life force for RLC, since it is in an area with low assessed valuation. The mechanism also keeps college affordable for students.

"This year's equalization funding amounted to \$1.4 million to RLC," President Kern said. "Without this funding, our tuition rate would be \$51 dollars higher than it is."

After a decade of service on the RLC Board, Baker decided to step down. He was chosen to be a member of the Illinois State Scholarship Commission – now the Illinois Student Assistance Commission – and served in that capacity for 13 years under Governors Thompson and Edgar.

The Bakers will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 11 – one day before his birthday. On Friday, the former Pinckneyville couple who now reside in Florida received a complete tour of the RLC campus from Kern and his wife, RLC Foundation Chief Executive Officer Pat Kern. It had been 17 years since Dr. Baker's last visit.

"In the time that has elapsed since I first sat up here with the first graduating class, tremendous things have happened on this campus," Dr. Baker told graduates and their guests.



**An Evening Honoring
 Dr. ALLEN Y. BAKER**

SPRING 1979

**In Grateful Appreciation for
 Outstanding and Dedicated
 Service to the Rend Lake
 College District 1967-1979**

EVENING'S ACTIVITIES

Greetings Dr. Harry J. Braun
RLC President

Welcome

Master of Ceremonies
 Dr. W. Richard Simpson
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Invocation Dr. Eugene Estes
RLC Botany Instructor

Dinner

Personal Remarks

Dr. Fred L. Wellman
Executive Director, ICCB

Dr. L.H. Horton Jr.
President, Kankakee C.C.

Presentation / Comments

Dr. W. Richard Simpson

**BOARD MEMBERS WHO
 SERVED WITH DR. BAKER**

- Carleton Apple, 1966-78
- Melvin Farlow, 1966-72
- Harry N. Irwin, 1966-72
- Dr. Curtis Parker, 1966-70
- Holland Simmons, 1966-69
- Forrest Stewart, 1966-69
- Huel Cross, 1969-73
- Marie Simmons, 1969-77
- Albert Gulley, 1971-76
- B.B. Connaway, 1972-78
- William Moore, 1972-75
- David Skorch, 1973-76
- Robert Munday, 1973-74 *
- Brad Burzynski, 1974-75 *
- O.K. Ausmus, 1975-76
- Alecia Van Horn, 1975-76 *
- Dr. Clyde Funkhouser, 1976-78
- Joseph McClure, 1976-79
- Dr. W. Richard Simpson, '76-79
- Chuck Eckert, 1976-77 *
- Frances Rightnowar, 1977 *
- Mark Michalic, 1977-79 *
- Richard Herrin, 1978-79
- Marvin W. Scott, 1978-79
- Joe H. Scrivner, 1978-79
- Everett K. Thompson, 1978-79

* Student Trustee



Four names dominate ICCTA rep from RLC

YEAR	R.L.C. TRUSTEE
1971	Dr. Allen Y. Baker
1972	Dr. Allen Y. Baker
1973	Dr. Allen Y. Baker
1974	Dr. Allen Y. Baker
1975	Dr. Allen Y. Baker
1976	Dr. Allen Y. Baker
1977	Dr. Allen Y. Baker
1978	Dr. Allen Y. Baker
1979	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1980	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1981	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1982	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1983	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1984	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1985	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1986	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1987	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1988	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1989	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1990	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1991	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1992	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1993	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1994	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1995	Dr. Allan D. Patton
1996	Dr. Kirby Browning
1997	Marvin W. Scott
1998	Marvin W. Scott
1999	Marvin W. Scott
2000	Marvin W. Scott
2001	Marvin W. Scott
2002	Marvin W. Scott
2003	Marvin W. Scott
2004	Marvin W. Scott
2005	Marvin W. Scott
2006	Marvin W. Scott
2007	Marvin W. Scott
2008	Marvin W. Scott
2009	Marvin W. Scott
2010	Marvin W. Scott
2011	Marvin W. Scott
2012	Marvin W. Scott
2013	Rick Marlow
2014	Rick Marlow
2015	Rick Marlow
2016	Rick Marlow

“ . . . I think we can all be justifiably proud. If I can wish anything for this graduating class, I would wish that their realization in the years to come exceeds their expectations as much as what I have seen today . . . I hope your ambitions are exceeded as much as my ambition that I had 40 years ago in that cornfield has been exceeded by what I saw today.”

He recognized the Boards of Trustees throughout the years whose members have served without compensation. He also recognized the faculty, students and all the RLC Presidents – from Jim Snyder to Kern, who is retiring June 30.

“In the 40 years this college has existed, it has touched the lives of about 1,500,000 people, which is about 15 times the population of the Rend Lake College District,” Baker explained.

Once the standing ovation had settled and the applause died down, he concluded with, “Thank you very much. That made it all worthwhile. We sincerely hope – Stella and I – after having the pleasure of watching our two children proceed in life very successfully . . . that our grant to the college will enable some students to achieve their wonderful goals in life.”

According to Pat Kern, this is one of the largest student scholarship endowments the college has received and is by far the largest for the Pinckneyville area. The scholarship is earmarked for a male and female graduate of Pinckneyville Community High School who have maintained at least “C”+ averages through their junior and senior years and have enrolled in a Baccalaureate-Transfer or health-related program at RLC. The female student will receive the Stella Baker Scholarship and the male will be awarded the Allen Y. Baker Scholarship.

Pat Kern said the annual earnings generated on the \$100,000 gift will go toward funding the scholarship recipient’s tuition and fees to RLC. She said it should mean a full-ride to RLC for each recipient and added that ACT and SAT scores, along with community service and participation in school activities, will influence consid-

eration for the scholarship. Scholarship recipients must maintain at least a “B” average in their freshman year at RLC to get priority for the scholarship their sophomore year.

Sitting in his home in Clearwater, FL, the 86-year-old Baker said he wanted to announce the scholarship before President Kern retires in late June. He said he has watched Kern develop from a 20-something Agricultural Instructor to President.

“We are getting up there in years,” Baker said. “One day, Stella looked at me and said, ‘Are we going to do this thing?’”

So, after years of service to country, community, the college and mankind in general – Baker’s decision was to give even more.

“It’s payback time,” he said. “The people of Pinckneyville were so good to me over the 48 years I practiced there. I wanted to repay those who trusted me with their vision care and enabled us to enjoy the wonderful life we have today.

“I appreciate that and if I can do something for Pinckneyville by helping people to go to school, then it is a very, very useful expenditure of my funds. I couldn’t ask for better.”

FORMER TRUSTEE ▸ Cox returns to private practice after three years as U.S. Attorney in Illinois

THE SOUTHERN AUGUST 30, 2010
BY BECKY MALKOVICH

BENTON – When A. Courtney Cox got the call to serve as one of only 93 U.S. Attorneys, he wasn’t sure answering it was the right thing to do.

“I wasn’t sure it was something I would be able to do,” he said. “As I thought about what I was being asked to do, I realized it was a job that was important and in the nature of service to country and that I did want.”

But the Benton native was still skeptical. He called a trusted friend who assured him he could and should do the job.

Still, there was the four-day-a-week drive from Benton to Fairview Heights to consider. “I talked to my wife, who said,

● ELECTION / April 2009
Donald Mitchell (McLeansboro), Cunningham elected to 6-yr. • Rick Marlow (Mt. Vernon) elected to 2-yr.

● 2010
Kelly Woodrow (Hamilton County) appointed to replace Dr. Mitchell

● ELECTION / April 5, '11
Marlow, Randy Rubenacker (Dahlgren), John Kabat (Scheller), elected 6 yr. • Eric Black (Mt. V.) 4 yr.

● ELECTION / April 2013
Bryan Drew (Benton) and Larry Manning (Belle Rive) elected to 6-year terms



“Your brother, Jon, is going to Afghanistan to serve the country. I think you can drive to Fairview Heights,” he said with a laugh. “So I accepted.”

Appointed by the judges of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, Cox became the district’s top prosecutor in November 2007. His last day in office was Friday, when Stephen Wigginton was sworn in as the new U.S. Attorney for the Southern District.

Entering the office after a long career in private practice was a learning experience, Cox said.

“When I became U.S. Attorney, I was naive about child exploitation,” Cox said. “I very quickly learned of the magnitude of the problem of child pornography and exploitation. It has changed the way I look at the Internet and how I view people in general.

“There are 50,000 predators online looking to molest children, and it’s not talked about enough or dealt with enough by parents and educators. We vigorously prosecuted many but there are many, many more.

“I think a society is judged by how it treats its children and elderly and I think we can do more to protect our children from this epidemic, because that’s what it is . . . an epidemic.”

Another epidemic is illegal drug use in the area. Not only does the district have crack, methamphetamine and heroin, but prescription drug abuse is growing at an alarming rate, he said.

“People understand the use of some drugs is illegal, but they think if a drug is prescribed, how can it hurt them? Oxy-Contin leads to heroin as people search for more intensity. Mexican heroin is six times stronger and we are seeing many deaths from overdoses. That is an issue we are not ahead of and we need to be educating people about it,” he said.

However, Cox said, the illegal drug use

is a symptom of a larger problem.

“It’s the desire to get high that is the problem. You could take away all the meth, but you wouldn’t get rid of the problem. People would just migrate to a different drug. It’s not the specific drug, but the desire for what the drug does that we have to address in the community,” he said.

Cox said he will miss the talented and dedicated people he got to know in his office, the court system and law enforcement.

He will start a new job today in the Carbondale office of Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard P.C., where he will specialize in business and employment law.

“I practiced law 25 years before I became U.S. attorney and I always enjoyed representing clients,” he said. “I’m looking forward to getting back to it.”



Meritorious Service Award to RLC’s Baker from ICCTA

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. JUNE 1992
 SPRINGFIELD – Dr. Allen Y. Baker of Pinckneyville received a Meritorious Service Award from the Illinois Community College Trustees Association Saturday evening (June 13).

The Meritorious Service Award is presented annually to public officials and other friends of community colleges who have made outstanding contributions to ICCTA and the Illinois Community College System. Baker was presented with this honor during the ICCTA’s annual convention.

In addition to his 13 years on the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees, Baker was a member of the original Steering Committee that founded the Trustees Association in 1970. From 1972-74, he continued to lead the ICCTA through its formative years by serving one term as president.

Baker later received a gubernatorial appointment to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, where he has become an important advocate for community colleges and their students.

The Illinois Community College Trustees Association is a state-wide federation created in 1970 as the voice of the state’s community college boards. ICCTA membership is comprised of Trustees from all 40 community college districts in Illinois.

ELECTION / April 7, '15
 Dr. David Asbery (Mt. Vernon) and Eric Black (Mt. Vernon), elected 6 yr. • Randall Crocker (Sesser) elected 4 yr.

TRUSTEES TIMELINE

2013 – 2014 2014 – 2015 2015 – 2016 2016 – 2017 2017 – 2018

REND LAKE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Junior / Community College District No. 521 Highlights, 1967 - 2016

1970-71

■ TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

Dr. Allen Y. Baker stated that some time ago he had reported to the Board on a proposal to organize an association for Trustees of Illinois junior colleges. The plan is to divide the state into nine districts with each district having one member on the Board of Directors. Rend Lake College would be in a district with Shawnee College, Southeastern Illinois College and John A. Logan College. Since that time, Dr. Baker has met with various Trustees from the colleges who would be included in the same district with Rend Lake College.

Dr. Baker stated at the September 15 meeting that since he has been involved rather closely in this matter he would like to suggest the Rend Lake College Board and administration act as a host and catalyst to get Trustees of the four colleges together for an organizational meeting of this district.

Mr. Farlow moved that the Board host a meeting of the governing boards of Shawnee College, Southeastern Illinois College, John A. Logan College and Rend Lake College. Apple seconded the motion. All voted yes.

The action came during the first Board Meeting conducted on the new RLC campus in Ina. In attendance were six Board members – Baker, Farlow, Carleton Apple, Huel Cross, Dr. Curt Parker and Marie Simmons; Dr. James Snyder, Dr. Howard Rawlinson, Paul Fitch, James Yates, James McGhee and Robert Jones; Secretary Mavis Carter, and Mike Aaron (*Mt. Vernon Register-News*) and John Callarman (WMIX). / September '70

1972-73

■ Dr. BAKER APPOINTED

Dr. Allen Baker, who earlier in the April 17 meeting was selected Board Chair after being the leading vote-getter in the recent election, reported to fellow Trustees he has been appointed as a member of the State Commission on Licensure and Education of Nurses by Dean Barringer. In that position, Baker will represent the entire junior college system statewide. / April '73

■ PRESIDENT'S SALARY

Trustees increased the President's salary by 5 percent, to \$31,017, during a special meeting June 6, 1973. / June '73

1973-74

■ STUDENT REPRESENTATION

Dr. Allen Baker informed the Board at its September 18 meeting the Governor

has signed the bill whereby a non-voting Student Representative would be elected to the Board of Trustees of state colleges. To be implemented after October 1, students would have all the responsibilities and privileges of being a Board member, except for voting and filling a quorum. / September '73

■ R.L.C. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

In a special election November 29, 1973, Rend Lake College students cast 49 ballots and determined: Proposition A – Student Trustees will be chosen annually by an election-at-large (27 votes; 15 preferred by a majority vote of the Student Senate; five wanted the person to be appointed by the Dean, two votes spoiled); Proposition B - Qualifications – Candidates must be full-time students (45 votes) and must be a resident of the district (28 Yes; 8 No).

On December 18, 1973, Robert Munday was seated on the Board of Trustees as the first non-voting Student Representative. Munday edged Les Lampley, 39-38, with one other student receiving a vote and six ballots spoiled. / November and December '73

■ STUDENT BUS SERVICE

Trustees approved providing busing for RLC students on a two-month trial basis at their June 18, 1974 meeting. Beginning Fall Semester, there will be two round trips per day from Mt. Vernon and one round trip per day from Benton. The cost to the college will be \$.52 per mile.

Student bus service to and from the Ina campus was not successful – at a loss of \$50 per day – and was discontinued at the September 17 Board meeting, rather than waiting two full months as first planned. / June and September '74

1974-75

■ LEGAL NAME CHANGE

At the request of the Illinois Community College Board, Trustees at the January 21, 1975 Board Meeting changed the legal name of Junior College District No. 521. Parts of eight counties – Jefferson, Franklin, Hamilton, Wayne, Perry, White, Williamson and Washington – will now comprise Community College District No. 521. / January '75

1975-76

■ STUDENT CENTER NEW 'HOME'

The meeting place for the RLC Board of Trustees was moved from the Academic Building to the Student Center on a permanent basis September 16, 1975. / September '75

■ SENIOR CITIZEN WAIVERS

At the recommendation of Dean Mark Kern, Trustees approved tuition and any registration fees to be waived for senior citizens, with the exception of hobby and leisure non-credit classes. / October '75

■ MEETING RESCHEDULED

Only two Trustees made it to the regularly scheduled January 20 Board meeting. No quorum. No meeting. It was rescheduled for the following week. / January '76

1976-77

■ FOUR MEETINGS IN AUGUST

The 1976 calendar year found the RLC Board of Trustees meeting on 21 occasions (22 if the January 20 no quorum meeting is counted). Included were two meetings on November 16; three each during October and November, and four in August. / December '76

■ AUDITORS REAPPOINTED

Mt. Vernon Auditors Alfred Briel and Donald Wood were reappointed by the Board of Trustees at the April 12, 1977 meeting. They have performed the last 10 annual audits for the college. / April '77

■ ENROLLMENT UP 11%

A report to the Board indicated an approximate 11 percent enrollment increase in 1976-77 for Rend Lake College, one of only two or three institutions statewide to boast an increase. The state average is down 2 percent. / June '77

1977-78

■ BAKER MISSES MEETING

Dr. Allen Baker had to miss the September 20 Board Meeting, only the second time he was absent since being elected as a founding member in 1967. / September '77

■ NO QUORUM AGAIN

There was not a quorum present for the regular December 20 Board of Trustees monthly meeting. The meeting was adjourned. It was later rescheduled for December 30. / December '77

■ FEBRUARY 1978 MEETING

Among happenings during the February 21 Board Meeting . . .

- Trustees learned the college was recipient of an \$81,000 Senior Citizen Grant.

- Trustees likewise learned of a \$293,238 grant from Manpower and Human Development for creation of the Skills Training Improvement Program (STIP).

- A cooperative venture with McDonnell-Douglas Corp. for the purpose of developing and fabricating a continuous miner training system was endorsed.

• Learned the Presidential Search Committee met for the first time February 15. [Gerald Smith was hired as a consultant the following month.] / February '78

1978-79

■ STATE ASSOCIATION TABS BAKER

Dr. Richard Simpson reported at the October 17 Board Meeting fellow member Dr. Allen Baker has been appointed Vice President of the Illinois Optical Association. / October '78

■ BAKER RETIRING, NOT QUITTING

One of the Founding Board Members – the only one still serving – Dr. Allen Y. Baker, will be retiring April 17. He was honored at the March 21 Trustees Meeting with the presentation of a plaque "In grateful appreciation of outstanding and dedicated service to Rend Lake College" . . . and a standing ovation from his colleagues on the Board, Rend Lake College administrators and others present.

Later in the meeting, Baker informed the Board even though he is retiring he "would continue to represent Rend Lake College at Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) Meetings if they so desired." / March '79

■ ADMINISTRATION BUILDING NAME

Trustees at the April 23 Special Meeting approved naming of the Dr. Allen Y. Baker Administration Building by a 5-0 vote. (Baker and Marvin Scott, who had been a member slightly less than one year, both passed; non-voting Student Rep Mark Michalic wanted the minutes to note he, too, was in favor of the motion.)

Baker "extended his thanks to the Board for the privilege of having worked with them during the past years. He commended the Chairman (Dr. Richard Simpson) for his leadership and development of a cohesive united Board whose objective is excellence in education. He also commended Mr. Witunski (Business Manager/Board Treasurer B.J. "Skip" Witunski) for his dedication, helpfulness and sincerity over the long span of years during Dr. Baker's tenure on the Board," according to Board minutes. / April '79

1979-80

■ JETS TUITION WAIVERS

At the February 19, 1980, Board of Trustees Meeting, the Rend Lake College Board approved two-year waivers of tuition for winners with the highest overall scores in each testing category of the annual Junior Engineering and Technological Society (JETS) Contest for high school students. / February '80

■ PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

At the April 15, 1980, Board of Trustees

Meeting, the Presidential Scholars Program was established. RLC will award annual scholarships to some of the top students from every in-district high school.

The number will depend on the size of each graduating class, with one awarded for schools with 50 or fewer graduates, two for those with 51-100 graduates and three for those with 101 or more. Students must rank in the top 10 percent of their class to be eligible; ranking is based on the first seven semesters. High school personnel will be responsible for choosing their recipients. / April '80

1980-81

■ I.C.C.T.A. MEETS ON-CAMPUS

The Illinois Community College Trustees Association Board of Representatives met on the Rend Lake College campus Saturday, September 6.

The Board approved a proposed one-year planning project, "Policies for the '80s." The project will examine issues the colleges are likely to face in the coming decade and will suggest policy solutions and goals.

There was consensus that attempting to override Gov. Thompson's reduction veto in community college appropriations for the current year was not desirable. / September '80

■ ATHLETIC AID APPROVED

A proposal to offer athletic scholarships (grants-in-aid) for the first time during the 1982-83 academic year was passed by a vote of 6-1 (Trustee Joe McClure dissenting) at the April 14 Board Meeting.

According to the proposal, a total of 20 tuition waivers can be awarded to RLC student-athletes in 1982-83, as well as a maximum of \$13,500 in scholarships (\$7,000 provided by institutional funds, \$6,500 via private funds raised by college representatives). Those numbers will increase to a maximum total of 36 tuition waivers and \$20,000 in scholarships (\$10,000 institutional; \$10,000 private) for 1983-84. / April '81

■ ALLIED HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Allied Health Department was created at the April 14, 1981, Board Meeting. It puts all Nursing programs together, along with all other health-related degree and certificate programs. / April '81

■ NEW AUDITORS

The Springfield firm of Clifton, Gundersen & Company conducted its first general audit for Rend Lake College, as well as audits for the Disadvantaged Student Grant and the Basic Educational Opportunity and Title IV Grants. A presentation to the Board April 14 was made by Senior Partner Bill Crompton. / April '81

1981-82

■ PATTON ELECTED SOUTHEAST CHAIR

Dr. Allan Patton, who serves as the RLC representative to the Illinois Community College Trustees Association, has been elected Chair for the coming year for the Southeast Region.

One of nine regions statewide, the Southeast Region is comprised of RLC, John A. Logan College, Shawnee College and Southeastern Illinois College.

Patton is the Assistant Superintendent for the Franklin County Educational Service Region. The Zeigler resident has been a member of the RLC Board since 1979 and is currently serving as Vice Chair. / July '81

■ MINING PROGRAM FEATURED

The Board was provided with copies of the First Edition of *Illinois Economic Progress*, which features RLC's Mining Technology program on its front page. The publication is being circulated by Illinois Community Colleges to governmental leaders, Chambers of Commerce and industry leaders. The article highlights the cooperative efforts between the college and area industry. / February '82

■ SOUTHEAST TRUSTEES ON-CAMPUS

The Southeast Regional Trustees Association will meet at Rend Lake College February 25. Dr. Allan Patton, RLC Trustee, is Chair of the Southeast Regional contingent. / February '82

1982-83

■ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REP

Dr. Allan D. Patton of Zeigler was recently named a member of the Economic Development Committee of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association. His appointment was announced by Sheilah A. Dye, ICCTA President. Patton will serve a one-year term.

The Economic Development Committee will be providing leadership to community colleges as they increase their work in this important field. The colleges are on the leading edge of job-training and working to recruit new and expanded industry in Illinois. / September '82

■ RICH HERRIN

The RLC Trustee became the first Illinois high school basketball coach to have teams qualify for both the Class A and Class AA state tournaments. / March '83

1983-84

■ BANKING FACILITY CLOSING

The Board was informed at its July 19 meeting the banking facility on-campus, located in the Student Center, is scheduled to close after July 29, 1983. The facility is operated by First Bank and Trust Co. (formerly Ina State Bank). / July '83

■ **Dr. C.K. WELLS SALUTED**

Mt. Vernon Physician Charles K. Wells was recognized by the Board of Trustees at its March 20 meeting for his many years of service as the college's health officer.

Due to recent changes in his family medical practice, Dr. Wells will no longer be able to serve Rend Lake College in a similar capacity.

Trustee Marvin Scott noted Wells "had gone far beyond the call of duty" to help RLC over the years.

Wells thanked the Board for the recognition and recalled joining the Mt. Vernon Rotary Club shortly after starting his practice. "Rotary is an organization that stresses service beyond self," he said. "I have thoroughly enjoyed serving the community and Rend Lake College." / March '84

■ **1984-85**

■ **BOARD LEARNS OF HOUSING**

Board members were informed July 17, 1984 of plans by an outside contractor to build a dormitory housing facility near the Interstate 57 exchange at Ina. / July '84

■ **MAGAZINE RECOGNITION**

Trustees were provided with copies of the article that appeared recently in *Prairie Farmer* Magazine, which recognized the cooperative effort of Franklin and Jefferson County 4-H Fair Associations, Rend Lake College and the Rend Lake Conservancy District in making a site available for shared 4-H facilities. / August '84

■ **I.C.C.B. VISITATION**

An official visit by the Illinois Community College Board at Rend Lake College is scheduled March 20. / March '85

■ **1985-86**

■ **MEETING PLACE**

Trustees conducted business July 16, 1985, at the Trap Shoot Facility adjacent to the RLC Ina campus. / July '85

■ **TUITION WAIVERS FOR HEATONS**

Approved tuition waivers for members of the Heaton family. The decision honors the late Richard Heaton, longtime Science Instructor and Department Chair. / April '86

■ **Dr. KIRBY BROWNING**

The RLC Trustee from Benton, who replaced Rich Herrin in August 1985, is serving as President of the Southeast Region Trustees Association. / June '86

■ **1986-87**

■ **FITNESS CENTER TOUR**

Trustees received a closeup look at the new Aerobics Super-Circuit Fitness Center on-campus prior to the September 16 Board meeting. / September '86

■ **TUITION WAIVERS APPROVED**

Tuition waivers were approved for all

full-time employees and their dependents – spouse and children under 21, still living at home and not married (children qualify if two of three conditions are met) at the February 17 Board meeting. / February '87

■ **ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS**

Trustees approved Articulation Agreements with the Rend Lake Regional Vocational System, which includes Jefferson, Hamilton and part of Wayne counties, as well as the Jackson-Perry County Regional Delivery System during meetings March 17 and May 19, respectively. / March-May '87

■ **1987-88**

■ **INTERRUPTIBLE POWER**

Officials of Tri-County Electric Cooperative approached Rend Lake College administrators and Trustees regarding the possibility of an Interruptible Power Agreement. Under such an arrangement, when peak demand is anticipated, the college would shut down a majority of its campus in order to conserve electricity. The co-op would notify the college prior to any interruption.

(The history of previous agreements indicates there have been no requests to close during winter months; closure was requested once in July 1986 and twice during August 1987.)

The college is able to move some of its operation during these times to the Industrial Technology Building, which operates on a different meter and is not affected by the shut-down requests.

Trustees approved the arrangement at their June meeting, after learning the estimated savings for doing so is \$100,000. Particulars: Advance notice of at least 12 hours is required; the length of closing can be for no more than six hours at a time; months covered include July-August and December-February. / May-June '88

[Ed. Note: The August 16 meeting was conducted in the Industrial Technology Building due to a campus closing request.]

■ **1988-89**

■ **WORKDAY EXTENDED**

Trustees approved an administrative request to extend the workday for full-time employees from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., effective September 6. / August '88

■ **M.L. KING HOLIDAY**

Martin Luther King's birthday will be celebrated as a holiday for the first time by Rend Lake College on (Monday) January 16, 1989, after Trustees approved doing so at the September 20 meeting.

Other highlights: a lengthy discussion regarding the possible need for a full-time security individual (armed?), with no action taken; approved the bid for a telecommunication system (satellite dish);

the graduation fee was increased from \$15 to \$20. / September '88

■ **10-YEAR ACCREDITATION**

Dr. Gregory Adkins, Chairman, indicated to college administrators and the Board of Trustees his committee's official recommendation will be for a 10-year accreditation for Rend Lake College from the North Central Association. / November '88

■ **1989-90**

■ **FY90 BUDGET WORTH NOTING**

The FY1990 Budget approved September 12 is double noteworthy . . . it is the college's first with a \$6 million Operating Fund and first with an overall budget exceeding \$10 million. / September '89

■ **SATELLITE SYSTEM DEMO**

Trustees met December 12 in Learning Resource Center Room 201 for a demonstration of the new satellite system recently installed. / December '89

■ **1991-92**

■ **WAIVERS FOR IN-DISTRICT WORKERS**

Trustees voted at the November 12 Board meeting to grant tuition waivers to any Out-of-District and Out-of-State potential students who work 35 hours or more per week at any entity located within the RLC district. / November '91

■ **1992-93**

■ **BIG MUDDY RIVER C.C. TOUR**

Members of the RLC Board of Trustees and administrative staff toured the new Big Muddy River Correctional Center prior to the regular August 18 meeting.

The group returned to campus for the meeting, however, since they must be open to the public and could not be if conducted inside the confines of the correctional facility. / August '92

■ **INDUSTRIAL TECH TOURED**

Trustees toured the newly remodeled Industrial Technology Building prior to the January 19 meeting. / January '93

■ **INVESTING COLLEGE FUNDS**

A special joint meeting of boards representing Rend Lake College and the Rend Lake College Foundation was held March 2 at Windows Restaurant in the Rend Lake Boatel Resort. The topic for discussion: investing college funds. / March '93

■ **MARVIN SCOTT**

The RLC Trustee from Belle Rive is serving as Chair of the Southeast Region Trustees and is a Representative on the Illinois Community College Trustees Association Executive Committee. / June '93

■ **1993-94**

■ **JOINT MEETING WITH CLEMENTS**

The Rend Lake College Board of Trust-

ees and Directors of the RLC Foundation Board met jointly in a special meeting October 15 along with recently hired consultant Ray Clements. Clements and Associates was hired the previous month (September 21) for \$7,683 to provide support for upcoming fund-raising efforts sparked by a Title III "Strengthening Institutions" federal grant. / October '93

■ DINNER WITH ADVISORY COUNCILS

Dinner with the college's Vocational Advisory Councils preceded the November 9 Trustees meeting. / November '93

■ FEASIBILITY STUDY SHARED

A special breakfast meeting February 28 with the RLC Foundation enabled Consultant Ray Clements to share the results of a "very favorable" feasibility study and the recommendation for Rend Lake College to launch a major capital campaign "immediately."

On March 22, Trustees approved a 12-month contract with Clements and Associates, at a cost of \$72,000, to assist the RLCF in planning and conducting a major gift campaign. / February-March '94

■ SOUTHEAST CHAIR RE-ELECTED

RLC Trustee Marvin Scott was re-elected Chair of the Southeast Region Trustees Association. / May '94

1994-95

■ DISTANCE LEARNING INCLUDED

Prior to the November Board Meeting, Trustees toured the new Distance Learning classrooms, new computer classrooms for Architecture and Agriculture, new tiered classroom in the Allied Health wing of the Science Building and the recently remodeled gymnasium with new bleacher seating, chair seats and handicapped accessibility. / November '94

■ MEETINGS NOW SECOND TUESDAY

Regular monthly meetings of the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees, which had been held the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., have been moved to the second Tuesday of the month, starting at 6:30 p.m. / March '95

■ ADVISORY VOTE FOR STUDENT REP

A Student Representative first joined the RLC Board of Trustees in 1973-74 when members welcomed Robert Munday to the non-voting position approved by the state.

Joe Anderton became the 23rd individual to serve in that capacity when he was seated during the April 11, 1995 meeting. A little later, Anderton listened when President Mark S. Kern recommended and Trustees approved (on first reading) a Board Policy change which would include the right of the Student Trustee to cast an

advisory vote. All present voted "yes" to the advisory vote, which does not count as an official vote to pass/defeat motions but does allow the student vote to be officially expressed and recorded.

The revision passed on Second Reading in May, and Anderton became the first of all those Student Reps who would follow to cast his advisory vote. / April-May '95

1995-96

■ SIMPSON, RANGERS ADVANCE

Assistant Coach Dick Simpson and the Benton Rangers advanced to the Illinois High School Association football playoffs for the first time. They won their Class 3A post-season opener, 21-12, over previously unbeaten Robinson. / October '95

1996-97

■ DINNER WITH ADVISORY MEMBERS

Trustees enjoyed dinner with volunteer members of the RLC Vocational Advisory Committees prior to the regular October Board Meeting. / October '96

1997-98

■ I.B.M. AS/400 COMPUTER LEASE

At a special meeting October 29, Trustees approved the lease of an IBM AS/400 computer at a cost of \$22,351.75 per year for three years. / October '97

1998-99

■ SCOTT HEADS SOUTHEAST TRUSTEES

Longtime RLC Board member Marvin Scott has been elected Chair of the Southeast Region Trustees. / September '98

■ ATHLETES RATE HIGH IN CLASSROOM

A report to the Board March 9 revealed Warrior and Lady Warrior student-athletes posted a cumulative 2.80 grade-point average for (4.0-point scale) Fall 1999, compared to 2.62 for the general student body. The overall GPA for athletes is 2.76. / March '99

■ MEETING AT GOLF COURSE

The regular monthly meeting of the RLC Board of Trustees April 20 was held at the Rend Lake Golf Course Restaurant in Whittington. / April '99

1999-2000

■ TUITION WITHIN 80% OF AVERAGE

When requesting a tuition increase from \$40 to \$42 per credit hour beginning Fall 2000, President Mark S. Kern explained:

"The college would lose a percentage of its equalization unless it (tuition) is within 80 percent of the state average. The total cost for one year per student would equal \$55-\$60. Over 60 percent of our students receive tuition waivers or scholarships. Everything considered, with fees which are only course-specific and with book

rental, we probably are still the least expensive college in the state." / February '00

■ RE: R.L.C., MATEER 'UNSURPASSED'

When Sam Mateer was appointed to replace Dennis McEnaney March 14, at the recommendation of the Trustee who was moving out of the district, fellow Mt. Vernon resident and Board member Dave Edmison commented, "I do not know of anyone" who has done more for Rend Lake College than Sam Mateer. "What he has done for Rend Lake College is unsurpassed." / March '00

■ COLLEGE HOSTS I.C.C.B.

The Illinois Community College Board will be meeting on the RLC Ina campus March 17 at 9 a.m. / March '00

2001-02

■ PATTON RESIGNS FROM BOARD

Dr. Allan Patton, Board Chair, submitted his resignation at the August 14 Trustees Meeting, effective immediately. Marvin Scott was appointed to succeed him as Chairman. / August '01

■ SMART TOUR OF CLASSROOMS, LABS

Board members took a tour of the new Smart Classrooms and Computer Labs in the Technology Building prior to the September 18 meeting. / September '01

■ AUDIT: NO FEDERAL VIOLATIONS

Senior Partner Bill Crompton of Clifton, Gunderson and Associates praised audit findings to the RLC Board of Trustees at the November 13 Meeting. He reported Rend Lake College "is the only college he works with where there are no federal violations." He commended the Financial Aid Office (Director Doug Carlson and Advisor Cheri Rushing) for following federal guidelines. / November '01

2002-03

■ STUDENT REP FITCH CITED

Student Trustee Candice Fitch will receive the second-place trophy from the Illinois Community College Trustees Association for her efforts in recruiting the second-most new student voter registrations in friendly statewide competition. / January '03

2005-06

■ COMBINED TWO-MONTH MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of Trustees scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, was postponed due to lack of a quorum.

According to an announcement from the office of President Mark S. Kern, the meeting has been rescheduled in combination with the March meeting on Tuesday, March 7, at 6:30 p.m. / February '06

REND LAKE COLLEGE TRUSTEES / 1966 - 2016

CARLETON APPLE

■ Enfield / 1966 - 1978

Well-known White County farmer was a member of the original Steering Committee, which was comprised of as many as 10 individuals from each of six counties; the Executive Committee, which included three representatives from each county, and the original Rend Lake College Board of Trustees. He was awarded one of the three three-year terms when lottery draw was conducted for first Board. (Two one-year terms and a pair of two-year terms likewise were determined by lottery.) Re-elected for last time in 1975.

- Chose not to run for re-election in Spring 1978 after completing four three-year terms.

Dr. DAVID S. ASBERY

■ Mt. Vernon / 2013 -

Assumed the vacant seat in June 2013 left by Ed Cunningham, who accepted a new position in hospital administration and moved to Granite City. His obstetrics and gynecology practice, Asbery & Associates OB-Gyn, LLC, has two offices in Mt. Vernon and one in Nashville.

"Asbery & Associates is a world-class medical center that provides outstanding comprehensive care for women of all ages," according to its website. "We are proud to serve and live in our community, giving our patients state-of-the-art medical care in a family-oriented setting.

"We strive for excellence by providing you with an integrated team of highly trained professional providers at every stage of your life, from pre-reproductive through post-menopausal years. We are committed to providing timely and complete individualized care integrated with maximum comfort, convenience and privacy in order to promote the advancement of women in our community."

"Caring for you through all stages of your life . . . Serving God through Serving People."

According to the practice's website, Dr. Asbery graduated from the University of Kentucky School of Medicine in 1996, then completed his residency at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, NC, in 2000 and became Board Certified in 2002. A former Marine, he and his family moved from Georgia to Illinois in 2007 and he has been providing care in Mt. Vernon and the surrounding area since.

He began his private practice through Asbery and Associates in 2010. At the time of Asbery's appointment to the RLC Board of Trustees, his medical center boasted three doctors, a Physician's As-

sistant, a Certified Nurse Midwifery and Nurse Practitioner and 15 additional staff members.

"I think we've got the best person for the job," Cunningham said of Asbery.

His wife, Kathy, is a Medical Assistant - Counselor for the Asbery & Associates Center for Medical Weight Loss. She also is the author of a book, **Altered Dreams: Living with Gender Disappointment**. An avid runner, she was the leading vote-getter in 2015 for a seat on the Mt. Vernon District 80 Board of Education and also is on the Mt. Vernon Township High School Foundation Board.

- Elected for first time in April 2016 to six-year term.

O.K. AUSMUS

■ Benton / 1975 - 1976

General Tire Comptroller was serving as President of the Greater Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce when he was elected in 1975 along with Carleton Apple and B.B. Connaway.

- Ausmus resigned from the Board effective June 12, 1976, when he moved to Longview, TX, to start his own business as a management consultant.

Dr. ALLEN Y. BAKER

■ Pinckneyville / 1966 - 1979

Optometrist was a Rend Lake College advocate from the beginning, serving as one of nine Perry Countians on the six-county Steering Committee, one of three from Perry on the six-county Executive Committee and the original Rend Lake College Board of Trustees. He was elected Chair of the RLC Board for three years, from 1971-74, and served longer than any of the founding seven Trustees.

The same could be said for Baker as a staunch supporter of the whole community college system, in general.

Baker served as President of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association from 1972-74 and was that organization's liaison to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

In the summer of 1977, he was appointed to the Illinois Community College Advisory Committee on Community College Finances.

Following his retirement from the RLC Board, the tireless, flamboyant supporter was appointed by Gov. James Thompson to the seven-member Illinois State Scholarship Commission for a six-year term. He also served on the Governor's Advisory Committee to State Community College in East St. Louis.

The ICCTA named Baker a lifetime Honorary Member.

Dr. Loren Klaus, President of Shawnee Community College, referred to Baker as "the man who has done more for community colleges of the state than any other" and as an "eloquent speaker for the needs of this area."

The President of Kankakee Community College, Dr. L.H. Horton Jr., called Baker "a diplomat who is a master politician at reconciling opposing factions."

The Allen Y. Baker Administration Building was named in his honor during special ceremonies held April 20, 1979.

- After five successful bids for the RLC Board - his lottery draw with the original Board was for one year only, followed by election to four three-year terms - Baker chose not to run for re-election in 1979.

Recipient - Dr. Allen Y. & Stella M. Baker / RLCF Diamond Seal Award (includes gift-in-kind)

MARK J. BALLARD

■ Mt. Vernon / 1986 - 1987

The Attorney with Campbell, Jacobsen, Moore and Furnall Attorneys-at-Law (later a Partner with Campbell, Black, Carnine, Hedin, Ballard and McDonald) was appointed to the Board to fill the position previously held by Joe McClure. He was recommended by McClure.

Ballard, 33, graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Political Science in 1975 and a Juris Doctorate degree in 1978. He is a native of Bellmont, near Mt. Carmel, who lived and practiced in Mt. Vernon for nine years prior to his appointment.

Ballard is President of the Mt. Vernon Rotary Club, Treasurer of Christian Counseling and Family services and a member of Meadowbrook Christian Church. He and his wife, Lana, are the parents of a 4-year-old daughter, Johanna, and a 2-year-old son, Andrew. He taught previously for Rend Lake College as a part-time Real Estate instructor.

- He was defeated in his bid to win election in 1987, falling 156 votes shy in a four-person race for three seats.

ERIC L. BLACK, RPH

■ Mt. Vernon / 2011 - 2015

The President/Director of Pharmacy of The Medicine Shoppe in Mt. Vernon, aka Mt. Vernon Community Pharmacy Inc, is a second-generation pharmacist and pharmacy owner who was the first home-educated student ever to be accepted by St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

The Registered Pharmacist was 31 at the time he ran unopposed to fill the four-year term on the RLC Board vacated by Kelly

Woodrow, who had been appointed the previous year.

Black is the oldest of four boys. He was home-educated from grades 6-12, graduating in 1998.

His father, Richard Black, received his diploma from St. Louis College of Pharmacy in 1973 – 30 years before Eric – and started The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy in 1984.

Eric and Linda Black are the parents of five children. The former Linda Pfister is from Murphysboro.

“I appreciate this community and its people,” commented Black, “and have always planned on making this my home and raising our kids here.”

“Although I did not study at Rend Lake College,” the Trustee added, “I know from many of my patients and friends, and from some of my own family, the importance of this institution to our area.

“The Board experience has been wonderful. I appreciate the other past and present Board members who have helped me transition.

“I’ve enjoyed serving the community through the Board and continue to look for ways to make the college more effective and efficient.”

Black is a private pilot and an avid history buff.

Linda Black and Brenda Black, Eric’s mother, are both listed as a Secretary for the family-owned corporation.

The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy is a comprehensive drug store, specializing in medical supplies and equipment.

Black was elected Board Chair at the November 2013 meeting following the resignation of Bryan Drew, the former Chair who had returned to that position earlier in the year when Ed Cunningham moved out of the district.

HUNT BONAN

■ McLeansboro • Mt. Vernon / 1997-2009

The President of the Rend Lake College Foundation emerged from field of three candidates – along with fellow newcomer Randall Crocker – for one of the two six-year terms available. Incumbent Robert Kirkpatrick decided not to run; the other six-year term was vacated by Dr. Richard Simpson, who opted for the two-year term with plans to retire at the end of that time.

Bonan is CEO for Peoples National Bank and Market Street Bancshares.

Bonan told *The Southern Illinoisan* his experience with the RLC Foundation would help solidify the district’s future. “With my involvement in the Foundation, I thought this would be a good time to run. With the erosion of our tax base, fund-raising is needed to help keep educa-

tion in the Rend Lake College District as affordable as possible.”

• Rather than run for another six-year term, he opted in April 2009 to run for unexpired, two-year term originally held by Norma O’Daniel and was defeated in four-way contest for the one position.

Recipient – Hunt Bonan
/ RLCF Silver Seal Award

Dr. B. KIRBY BROWNING

■ Benton / 1985 - 1999

A former Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Professor in Higher Education now serving as Director of the Office of Admissions and Records and Enrollment Manager, he was appointed to fill the seat previously held by Rich Herrin, who moved out of the district. Elected for first time in 1987 to first of two six-year terms.

By the time he was re-elected in 1993 (he was the leading vote-getter for three uncontested seats), Browning had retired after 26 years on the staff at SIUC (in 1991, although he continued to work for the university on a part-time basis) and had just completed service as Interim Pastor at First Christian Church in Vienna.

Browning suffered a mild heart attack in January 1994 and had to undergo balloon surgery. He recovered good as ever to complete his second six-year term.

He is the brother of longtime employee Sue Upchurch Wells, who would become Dean of Student Services before leaving the college on a medical disability, and RLC Foundation Board member Joe Browning. Dr. Browning and his wife, Carmen, live in Benton.

• Chose not to run again in 1999 after having served for 14 years.

B.B. CONNAWAY

■ McLeansboro / 1972 - 1978

Elected along with William L. Moore to one of the openings in 1972 when neither Melvin Farlow nor Harry Irwin were candidates. Connaway was a Hamilton County automobile dealer. Re-elected in 1975.

• Chose not to run for re-election in 1978.

COURTNEY COX

■ Benton / 1999 - 2005

Benton Attorney-at-Law is a Rend Lake College alumnus as well as a former Instructor (both part-time and full-time), former Conductor of the Rend Lake Civic Symphony and parent of RLC students. When he ran unopposed for six-year term in April 1999, at the same time as incumbent Dave Edmison and fellow newcomer Dennis McEnaney, Cox was the leading vote-getter in five of six counties, as well as overall with 10,328 votes (nearly 1,000 more than the second-leading vote-getter).

Cox completed degree requirements in 1982 and became an Associate with the law firm of Barber, Hall, Segatto and Hoffee, Springfield, from 1982-85. He returned to Southern Illinois in 1985 when he joined the Benton firm of Hart and Hart.

He is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Illinois Supreme Court, United States District Court for the Central and Southern Districts of Illinois and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

A Past-President of the Franklin County Bar Association, Cox has served as a Township Trustee for Benton Township since 1989 and is a member of First Christian Church in his hometown.

First ran for RLC Board in 1980, when he was a law student at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Cox and former Dean of Student Services Bob Graham were defeated then by Dr. Richard Simpson and Everett Thompson.

• Resigned position October 13, 2005, not long after being re-elected to another six-year term in April. Cox submitted his resignation at the conclusion of a continued meeting, two days after the regular October 11 meeting, effective immediately.

“I wish all of you and the college well,” he said. Fellow Trustees were reluctant to make a motion to accept his resignation but did so with regret after Cox assured them a second time of his desire to resign.

Aud Courtney Cox was sworn in as United States Attorney – one of only 93 in the nation – for the Southern District of Illinois in November 2007. The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District is the federal prosecuting office for cases arising in 38 counties in Southern Illinois, an area with a population of approximately 1.2 million people. The office is headquartered in Fairview Heights, with branches in Benton and East St. Louis. It is one of three districts in the state and comprises all counties south of a northern-most line created by the counties of Calhoun, Jersey, Madison, Bond, Fayette, Effingham, Cumberland and Clark.

In August 2010, Cox returned to private practice with the Carbondale office of Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard P.C., where he specializes in business and employment law. “I practiced law 25 years before I became U.S. Attorney and I always enjoyed representing clients,” he said. “I’m looking forward to getting back to it.”

RANDALL CROCKER

■ Sesser / 1997 - 2009 • 2013 -

Owner-Agent for Crocker Insurance in his hometown of Sesser emerged from field of three candidates – along with fellow newcomer Hunt Bonan – for one

of the two six-year terms up for grabs. He was hoping to replace Robert Kirkpatrick and retain the seat for a Sesser resident.

"Sesser has a good participation level at the college, so I think it needs to be represented," Crocker told *The Southern Illinoisan*. "I think the best way a board can represent people in the district is by having representatives from all across that area."

The former RLC student also is a member of the Franklin County 911 Board.

- Defeated in April 2009 election in four-way race for two seats.

- Re-appointed in November 2013 to replace Bryan Drew, who submitted his resignation. Elected unopposed in 2015 to remaining four years of unexpired term.

"I'm very pleased with the way the college is being run. I don't have any specific goals in mind, but I want to support the administration, because I think they are doing a great job," Crocker commented.

HUEL CROSS

■ Belle Rive / 1969 - 1973

Jefferson County farmer was appointed to fill the position held by Forrest Stewart, who moved out of the district. Elected to a three-year term (uncontested) in 1970.

His wife, Susie, was elementary school teacher in Mt. Vernon City Schools for many years.

- Defeated in reelection bid in 1973. In four-person race for two seats, he finished third behind fellow incumbent Dr. Allen Y. Baker and newcomer David R. Skorch.

- Cross died July 14, 2005 at age 91.

ED CUNNINGHAM

■ Mt. Vernon / 2008 - 2013

The Chief Executive Officer of Crossroads Community Hospital in Mt. Vernon was appointed to the RLC Board of Trustees at a Special Meeting in January 2008 following the resignation of Norma O'Daniel.

Cunningham, who doubles as a member of the RLC Foundation Board of Directors, sees Rend Lake College "as being an integral part of Southern Illinois" and a great driving force in the communities it serves. He said he hopes his background, knowledge and diverse résumé will be an asset to the Board of Trustees and the college. The Ball State University graduate has about 25 years of experience in hospital administration and business.

"This is a progressive college and a great resource. The college is important not just educationally, but for the well-being of the region."

"Anything I can do to help the college continue to grow and continue to be a great asset to these communities, I will," added Cunningham.

Less than a year after his appointment, he was elected for the first time in April 2009 to one of two six-year terms in a hotly contested race with one other incumbent and two first-time candidates (winner Dr. Donald E. Mitchell and a former college administrator).

Cunningham is a member and Past President of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce.

- Not long after assuming the position of Board Chair, Cunningham was forced to resign after being named Chief Executive Officer of Gateway Regional Medical Center in Granite City and relocating.

"I have truly enjoyed my time as a member of the Board," Cunningham said. "I enjoy the college. If at any time in the future I can be of assistance, call me. I appreciate the time you have allowed me to serve."

Recipient – 2009 Rend Lake College Foundation "Presidential Award"

DAVID K. DALBY

■ Benton / 1987 - 1988

David Dalby was one of 80 students recognized in the first Commencement Exercise conducted by Rend Lake College on Sunday afternoon, June 9, 1968 in the Mt. Vernon Township High School Auditorium.

He was the leading vote-getter in the November 1987 election in which four individuals vied for three six-year term positions.

- The following April, the newest member of the Board submitted his letter of resignation after having accepted a position with Roper Mountain Science Center in South Carolina and preparing to move out of the district.

"Please express my appreciation to (President) Dr. Harry Braun and the Board members for the professional and courteous relationship I enjoyed during my short term. I regret that circumstances did not allow me to remain in the district," Dalby indicated in his letter of resignation submitted to Dr. Allan Patton, Trustees Chairman.

BRYAN DREW

■ Benton / 2005 - 2013

Attorney was appointed November 16, 2005, to fill seat vacated by another Benton resident, Courtney Cox, who resigned. Elected for first time in 2007 and again in 2013.

He has been a partner since 2000 with Drew & Drew, P.C. Attorneys-at-Law, along with his father, John D. Drew, and his wife, Melissa. The firm specializes in criminal defense, personal injury, employment law, divorce, custody and civil litigation.

Former Warrior student-athlete was inducted into Rend Lake College Sports Hall of Fame in Spring 2003 as a member of the 1994-95 Men's Golf Team that led the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II Championships the first two rounds and eventually finished runner-up, nine strokes behind defending champion Tyler (TX) Junior College. Drew was a member of the Benton Ranger basketball squad that finished third in the 1993 IHSA Class "A" State Finals and concluded his athletic career as a golfer for Saint Louis University.

Both his father and mother, Cookie, as well as brother Jason are Rend Lake College graduates.

Drew graduated with an Associate Degree from Rend Lake College in 1995, from Saint Louis University with a Bachelor's Degree in History and from the Saint Louis University School of Law. He received his license to practice law in the State of Illinois in 2000.

In December 2006, Melissa Drew won election to an at-large seat for the 12-county Second Judicial Circuit Judge post.

At the time of his appointment to the RLC Board in 2005, the Drews were the parents of a daughter, Olivia.

- Re-elected to a second six-year term in Spring 2013, only to resign for personal reasons that November. He cited family and work obligations.

"I have been honored to have served the people of the Rend Lake College District," he said. "Rend Lake College holds a special place for me as both a graduate and a member of the Board of Trustees."

- Appointed Board Attorney May 2014.

Recipient – Bryan Drew and Family / RLCF Bronze Seal Award

WILLIAM DAVID EDMISON

■ Mt. Vernon / 1993 - 2011

A native and lifelong resident of Mt. Vernon, the 56-year-old President of East Side Lumber Company won the seat vacated by Joe Scrivner, who retired after 15 years as a Trustee.

Edmison graduated from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 1959 with a degree in Business Management and served on the District 80 Grade School Board for nine years.

He and his wife, Phyllis, are parents of two RLC graduates, Mrs. Clifton (Brenda) Pierce, who would later serve as Executive Director of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, and Brian Edmison, a graduate student at the University of Illinois before returning to his hometown as an architect.

Edmison joined fellow RLC Trustee Marvin Scott on the Jefferson County

Board when the Democrat filled a vacancy left by the late Carl Baker in District 8, effective February 14, 1996. In November, he was elected for the first time when he defeated Mt. Vernon Township High School Administrator and Counselor Ron Wilson.

County government, he explained, is important. "It touches our lives in many ways, including roads, schools, housing, public health, law enforcement and other daily activities. Our system works best with two strong political parties and active participation by informed voters."

He listed property taxes, education, drugs and county-wide zoning as some issues facing the County Board. "Property taxes are too high, in my opinion," Edmison stated. "We must find a better way to provide funding for education."

- Re-elected twice before falling short in fourth election bid in 2011.

MELVIN FARLOW

■ McLeansboro / 1966 - 1972

Elected as a member of the original RLC Board of Trustees which organized December 1966 and was chosen four months later as Vice President, a position not deemed necessary until April 1967. In the lottery drawing that followed, he was awarded one of the three-year terms along with Carleton Apple and Harry Irwin. Won re-election to another three-year term in 1969.

- He was serving as head of the Board in 1970 when he suffered a heart attack. Declined the role of Chair for 1971-72 but remained on the Board until his term expired in 1972 and he chose not to run.

Dr. CLYDE R. FUNKHOUSER

■ Mt. Vernon / 1976 - 1978

The Pastor of First United Methodist Church in Mt. Vernon for the past seven years was elected to the Board in 1976 to fill the seat previously held by another Mt. Vernon resident, David Skorch, who chose not to run for a second term.

Funkhouser is a former Chairman of the McKendree College Board of Trustees as well as a former Vice President for Development at McKendree, from which he graduated Magna Cum Laude. As V-P, he was responsible for fund-raising, public relations and alumni relations.

A White County native, he is a graduate of Fairfield High School and Lockyear Business College in Evansville, IN.

A retail food store owner/manager previously, Funkhouser also served as Director of United Methodist Village, a retirement and nursing home facility in Lawrenceville.

He has been Administrative Vice President for the Greater Jefferson County

Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Jefferson County Red Cross Fund-raising Campaign and a member of the RLC Community Development Advisory Committee and the Technology Advisory Committee of the Greater Egyptian Regional Development Commission.

- Submitted his resignation in May 1978 prior to assuming the pastorate at First UMC of Peoria on June 1. Funkhouser told his colleagues nothing had been more exciting in the last few years as his position on the Board; he was serving as Chairman at the time of his departure.

In a follow-up note to his appearance in October 1997, when the college was saluted at the 13th annual Industrial Appreciation Dinner sponsored by the Mt. Vernon Economic Development Commission, then O'Fallon resident Funkhouser wrote to President Mark S. Kern:

"I am proud to have had a bit in the original idea and 'birth' of Rend Lake College. I am sure we who were in that initial phase had no idea what we were 'giving birth' to such a vital and important part of the region you serve."

ALBERT GULLEY

■ Benton / 1971 - 1976

Elected for first time in 1971 to fill the position previously held by Dr. Curtis Parker. Gulley was a Benton Consolidated High School Guidance Senior Counselor and Vocational Coordinator.

Gulley earned both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Southern Illinois University. He also has attained an all-grade teaching and supervisory certificate from SIU and a specialist certificate as a result of graduate work at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago and SIU. He likewise has done post-graduate work at SIU in combination with Indiana State University.

The Board newcomer told a newspaper reporter, he "pledges to seek advice from and work with Board members, the administration, faculty, students and others to solve both the educational and physical problems" facing the Ina-based college.

In terms of curriculum needs, Gulley told *The Pressing Times* in May 1971, "He believes it is important that the Associate of Arts Degree be developed to the point it is fully accepted as filling the requirements for the first two years at four-year educational institutions.

"If this is done, then a student transferring to a four-year facility will be able to start upon his major field without having to take more general requirements, thereby extending the time required to get a Bachelor's Degree."

Added Gulley, "In the area of voca-

tional education, I believe one of the immediate goals should be the addition of more short-term, intensive trade-type programs."

Gulley and his wife, Helen, are parents of a son, Alan.

- Submitted his resignation in August 1976 after experiencing conflicts with RLC and BCHS Board meetings, which often met the same night. Commented Gulley, "I have gained much knowledge and experience" during his time on the RLC Board. He described his participation on the Board as a "learning opportunity."

RICHARD E. HERRIN

■ Benton / 1978 - 1985

The 44-year-old Teacher, Basketball Coach and Athletic Director at Benton Consolidated High School was first elected to the RLC Board of Trustees in Spring 1978. He was one of eight candidates for three openings.

Legendary coach obtained his Bachelor's Degree from McKendree College and a Master's Degree from Southern Illinois University.

Herrin told the *Southern Illinoisan* newspaper he was interested in seeing how the administrative side of the school system works and said his 22 years in education would be an asset to the college.

Herrin said the first step for the college would be to hire a new President to replace Dr. W. Travis Martin Jr., who was relieved of his duties by the board after indicating he did not want his three-year contract renewed.

Herrin said he wants to "develop cooperation and unity with the staff, administration and Board and make it one group that can work very closely together."

"A lot of former students and players have gone on to the college in the years I've been here . . . I've followed the college's development since it was Mt. Vernon Community College and feel I can be an asset on the Board and learn more about education while I'm serving."

- Herrin vacated his seat on the Board in 1985 when he accepted the position of Head Basketball Coach for the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Salukis and moved out of the RLC District.

Herrin's Hall-of-Fame coaching legacy – 902 wins in Illinois, second all-time to Dolph Stanley's 947; IHSA - 677 wins (95-17 at Okawville H.S., 1956-60, 521 in 25 seasons at BCHS and 61-84 at Marion H.S., 2002-07); SIUC - 225-174 in 13 seasons (1985-98), fourth all-time in Missouri Valley Conference, with six 20-win seasons, two league championships, NIT appearance and three straight NCAA invitations (1993-95).

JIM HINMAN

■ Mt. Vernon / 1994 - 1996

The 50-year-old General Manager of Tri-County Electric Cooperative was appointed during a special meeting December 30, 1994, to fill the seat vacated by Olie Musgrave when he moved out of the district and was then elected unopposed to the unexpired four-year term in November 1995.

Hinman was a member of the RLC Foundation Board of Directors in its formative years, between 1987 and '93. He served as its President during 1989 and '90, a period in which the not-for-profit organization raised more than \$200,000, the majority of which went for student scholarships.

Hinman was only the second person to receive RLC Foundation Emeritus status and was presented with a painting of his race horse in December 1993.

In 1995, he was named Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year." At the time, Hinman had been General Manager at Tri-County Electric Cooperative for 10 years, after having become Office Manager in 1973 and Assistant Manager in 1981.

He was a graduate of Murray (KY) State University with a degree in Business Administration and Accounting. He also graduated from Officer Candidate School and served in the U.S. Army from 1968-71, including a stint with the 46th Infantry Division during the Vietnam conflict.

Prior to coming to Mt. Vernon, Hinman was a Cost Accountant for North American Rockwell in Columbus, OH

Hinman was generally regarded as a quiet but extremely effective leader in the business community. He was described by co-workers as an individual who cared dearly for his community and willing to volunteer many hours of his time for its betterment.

Hinman was a Director of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce and at the time of his appointment to the Board was a member of the Mt. Vernon Economic Development Commission and a Director/Officer for Soyland Power Cooperative. He was active in the Mt. Vernon Rotary Club (Past-President). He also enjoyed thoroughbred race horses and golf.

The Hinmans – Jim and Liz – are the parents of three children, Robbie, Steve and Sarah.

- Died May 30, 1996, at age 52 following complications from two liver transplants. The endowed Jim Hinman Memorial Scholarship was established in his honor by the RLC Foundation and is awarded annually to a deserving student.

DAVID HURLEY

■ Benton / 1988 - 1989

The Pharmacist for Franklin Hospital in Benton replaced fellow townsman David Dalby in May 1988.

Today, he is Director of Pharmacy Services for Harrisburg Medical Center, which includes its hospital campus in Harrisburg, Primary Care Clinics in Eldorado and Galatia, Family Practice Clinics in Alexander and Energy and on-site clinics at Mach Mine and Viking Mine.

HMC, according to its website, is "one of the largest health care facilities in Southeastern Illinois, Harrisburg Medical Center" and "offers the area's most comprehensive selection of health care services.

"From surgical procedures, diagnostic testing, to home health outreach and nutrition guidance, over 40 proven physicians serve patients in major medical specialties. Our facilities are dedicated to advancing healthcare in our community, every day, by combining the best health care talent with the latest medical technologies. HMC is a progressive hospital, featuring 45 physicians and an 80-plus bed capacity."

Hurley is a recent recipient of the SIUE School of Pharmacy "Above and Beyond Preceptor Award," given each year to an Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) Preceptor who has gone above and beyond in the pharmacy education of P-2 students.

"Through IPPE (and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience for seniors), School of Pharmacy students gain valuable pharmacy practice experience to enhance classroom learning. Students in their first two years of Pharmacy School complete IPPE developing proper practice skills through 300 hours of observation and hands-on active learning."

Hurley also has served as a Preceptor for University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy.

- Opted not to run when the unexpired four-year term was placed on the ballot in November 1989.

HARRY N. IRWIN

■ Wayne City / 1966 - 1972

Irwin was appointed as one of six Wayne Countians on the 55-member Steering Committee and was then elected as one of the seven original members on the Board of Trustees. In the lottery drawing that followed, he was awarded one of the three-year terms along with Carleton Apple and Mel Farlow.

The Wayne County native was a Science Teacher beginning with the 1942-43 academic Year and was promoted to the

position of Wayne County High School Principal in 1953-54. Within six years, he was moving on up to become Wayne County Superintendent of Schools, a post he held through 1963. He also owned Irwin Insurance Agency in Wayne City.

Irwin was a member of First Christian Church in Wayne City. His wife, France, died midway through his tenure on the RLC Board, in 1969.

- Chose not to seek election again when his second term expired in 1972.

Irwin died August 24, 1985, one week after his 80th birthday, following a lengthy illness. He was survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Randy and Sandra Irwin of Mt. Vernon.

JOHN KABAT

■ Scheller / 2011 - 2017

The 1982 "Outstanding Agriculture Student" Award recipient came full circle in 2011, when he was elected to a six-year term on the RLC Board of Trustees.

In between – and ongoing – the Scheller native and Waltonville High School graduate has been an award-winning Ag and Cooperative Education Instructor for Mt. Vernon Township High School since earning his Master of Science Degree in 1985 from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Not to mention serving as a bona fide supporter and unofficial recruiter for Rend Lake College, in general, and the Ag program, in particular.

In his first five years of teaching, Kabat already had been named recipient of the Jefferson County Conservation "Teacher of the Year" Award twice. In 1990, the 27-year-old educator won the first "Young Leadership Service" Award, one of two honors bestowed annually by the then newly formed Southern Illinois Agri-Business Club; the other honoree was former University of Illinois Agriculture Law Professor and Author Hank Hannah, one of the movers-and-shakers for the RLC Foundation in its early years.

Kabat was raised on Kabat Farms, the son of Melvin and Louise Kabat and the younger brother of Banker Mark Kabat, another former member of the RLC Foundation Board of Directors.

In a story in the October 11, 2012 internal publication, *The Clocktower Chronicle*, Kabat indicated he was in his 28th year teaching at MVTHS and in his 35th year farming. He and his wife of 27 years, Marcia, are the parents of three children – Jacob, Erika and Alicia.

ROBERT J. KIRKPATRICK

■ Sesser / 1989 - 1997

The President and Chief Executive Officer for the Bank of Sesser was appointed

in February 1989 to fill the position held by fellow Sesser resident Everett Thompson, who recommended him. Elected for first time in November 1989, when he claimed remaining two-year term in a race with one other candidate.

"I can't fill Everett's shoes, but I will do my best," he said at the time of his appointment.

Kirkpatrick was 64 and semi-retired in 1991, when he was re-elected for the second and final time to a six-year term. He was the leading vote-getter in a three-person race for two seats.

- Chose not to run in 1997.

LARRY MANNING

■ Belle Rive / 2013 - 2019

The 57-year-old Belle Rive farmer was elected to fill some big shoes . . . He ran for the seat held by another Belle Rive farmer, Marvin W. Scott, who was a Trustee for 35 years before choosing not to run in 2013.

Manning also becomes the first father to follow a son on the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees. Son Steven Manning was the Student Trustee in 2000-01.

The lifelong farmer owns and operates a 3,000-acre family farm with his brother, Paul Manning, and Steven.

Larry Manning has been a member of the Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board for 15 years and was preparing to come off the Bluford Grade School Board after more than 16 years around the same time he joined the Rend Lake College Board.

He said he is dedicated to local youth and their educational opportunities beyond high school.

"I didn't go to college," he said. "I didn't think I had the time. I don't want any more young people making the mistake I did. I think the more education the better."

Wife Debra, daughter Mary and Steven are all RLC alumni. Debra is a graduate of the Nursing program.

Steven graduated with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average from the Ag Production and Management program. He was recipient of the Doug Leeck Memorial Scholarship, among others, and later earned a Master's Degree from Murray (KY) State University.

Mary (Manning) Minor likewise was an outstanding student, earning both Associate of Science and Arts degrees in 2004, transferred to Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and now teaches at Waltonville Grade School.

"Marvin and I go way back," Manning was proud to admit.

"He is a very good choice," Scott said of his successor. "I think he will look out for the students. He will be a good Board

member. He will do his job. I think he is a good citizen and he will have the right interests as a Board member for Rend Lake College."

RICK MARLOW

■ Mt. Vernon / 2009 - 2017

Retired RLC Architectural Technology Professor (1992-2006) and former Academic Council President (1995-96 and 1996-97) won the contested, unexpired two-year term previously held by Norma O'Daniel. Her successor, Ed Cunningham, chose to run for one of two six-year terms and was elected. The registered, licensed architect defeated a former RLC administrator, another former RLC vocational instructor and longtime Trustee and RLC Foundation Board President Hunt Bonan in a four-way race.

At the time of his election, Marlow was Program manager of the grant for YouthBuild of Jefferson County, a program hosted by the United Methodist Children's Home in Mt. Vernon to educate at-risk teens and young adults. He also has been an Architectural Consultant since 1992 and an Adjunct Instructor for his alma mater, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, since 2004.

The only Rend Lake College Trustee to ever serve after having been "elected" previously as the Faculty-Staff choice as Homecoming King in 2006, the first time the light-hearted competition was conducted in conjunction with annual RLC Homecoming festivities.

Richard E. Marlow was hired in June 1992 as a full-time Architectural Technology Instructor for 1992-93, replacing Fred Bruno, who retired. He received his Associate of Arts Degree from RLC (1974) and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Vocational Education from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

He was head of the Architectural Division at Watwood & Heavener, Inc. in Centralia from 1989-92. He also worked for Wilson, Hodge & Groh, Inc., Mt. Vernon, and for 17 years was a Project Architect for FGM, Inc., Mt. Vernon.

SAM MATEER

■ Mt. Vernon / 2000 - 2001

Retired financial President, CEO and Chairman of the Board for Bank of Illinois in Mt. Vernon appointed to fill position left by Dennis McEnaney when he moved out of area.

The 1989 Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce "Man of the Year" left a lasting impression on Rend Lake College when he agreed to chair the most industrious capital campaign in its 27-year history beginning in 1994. He is a member of the RLC Foundation Board of Directors.

Mateer had chaired the Mt. Vernon Economic Development Commission since 1984 and was a founding Director and President of the Rend Lake Economic Development Corporation.

When fellow Trustee Dave Edmison was first asked to consider Mateer, who was McEnaney's choice to succeed him, he remembers thinking, "I knew of no one who has done more for Rend Lake College than Sam Mateer." His willingness to volunteer, the leadership he provided and his ability to raise funds on the college's behalf were "unsurpassed," according to Edmison.

Mateer served his country in combat as a Platoon Sergeant in the Vietnam Conflict. When the 1962 graduate of Mt. Vernon Township High School was recognized as one of six "Distinguished Alumni" to be inducted in 2011, it was stated, "Mr. Mateer is a decorated veteran who served his country in the United States Army from 1966-68. He attained the rank of Staff Sgt. E-6 in 15 months, served in combat in the Republic of Vietnam with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, and was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" for heroism in ground combat, the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement on ground operations against hostile forces and the Gallantry Cross with Silver Star for heroic action.

"Mateer is currently the Vice Chairman of the Rend Lake College Foundation and was a member of the Mt. Vernon Economic Development Commission who helped to bring a number of companies to the city."

- Chose not to run for same position in 2001.

JOSEPH A. McCLURE JR.

■ Mt. Vernon / 1976 - 1986

The 53-year-old owner of TRIPCO, Inc. of Mt. Vernon was first appointed to the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees in June 1976 to replace O.K. Ausmus - McClure and Bill Moore were nominated, with McClure receiving five of six votes - and was elected to a one-year term in 1977. It was not until 1978 that he sought his first full-term, winning election as one of three victors in a field of eight.

McClure and family moved to Mt. Vernon in 1959 when he was an employee of Dow Chemical Company (from 1949-64), serving in various engineering and supervisory positions. He formed TRIPCO, Inc. in '64 in order to serve as a sales representative for various manufacturers of oil and coal field equipment.

McClure is a native of Blytheville, AR. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-46 in submarine service, leaving active ser-

vice as a Lieutenant, and has been in the Naval Reserve since then. He graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1949 with a B.S. Degree in Electrical Engineering.

"I would like to continue to serve the college and see if we can't go ahead and straighten out our internal problems," McClure told the *Southern Illinoisan* newspaper prior to the April 18 election.

McClure said the college needs a strong administrator, so the Board can back out of day-to-day operations. He also said he wants the college to watch finances because, "I don't believe in spending money we don't have."

A member of the Mt. Vernon District 80 School Board for nine years, including two terms as President, McClure also has been associated with the Boy Scouts for 20 years and the Mt. Vernon Rotary Club.

He resigned from the elementary school board shortly before his appointment to the RLC Board. He did so because of a recent Attorney General's opinion that it is a conflict of interest for the spouse of a school board member to be employed by the district. His wife, Jean, is a teacher at J.L. Buford School.

McClure served as Board Chair between 1980 and 1982.

- Resigned in October 1986 because he was retiring and would be living in Florida at least five months a year.

"It is almost like leaving family," admitted McClure.

Fellow member Everett Thompson remembered conditions in 1976 when McClure came aboard. "Things were pretty rough back then. They aren't that way today," Thompson said.

College Dean Mark Kern echoed those sentiments. "Times were pretty tough . . . and you played a large part in helping us get through those difficult times."

"I don't think any Board member has ever done any more for Rend Lake College than Joe McClure," noted cohort Dr. Richard Simpson.

Board Chair Marvin Scott praised McClure: "He has been very good for me; working with him has been a learning experience for me."

Asked what he regarded as his top accomplishment during his tenure on the RLC Board, McClure replied, "The opportunity I had to select Dr. Harry Braun as our President."

Braun, after an emotional lapse prevented him from expressing his gratitude initially, recalled the day in July 1978 when McClure visited his Arizona campus for a pre-hiring interview. "I can't tell you how much I appreciate Joe," commented the President. "All of our Board Chairmen have helped me so much . . . I was between

the ages of 36 and 45, and they were helping me grow. Joe has been a big, big part of that, and I'm going to miss him."

DENNIS McENANEY

■ Mt. Vernon / 1999 - 2000

Local Illinois Power Administrator was one of three men to run unopposed for six-year term in April 1999. He was joined by incumbent Dave Edmison and another newcomer, former "Alumnus of the Year" Courtney Cox.

McEnaney and Cox will replace long-time members Dr. Richard Simpson and Dr. Kirby Browning, neither of whom chose to run again after 23 and 14 years, respectively.

Even though McEnaney and Cox were elected for the first time in April, they did not take office until November.

McEnaney has been associated with the college both professionally and as the parent of a Rend Lake College student.

- Forced to resign when a change in position with Illinois Power brought relocation to Central Illinois early in 2000.

The former Regional Manager accepted the new position of Director of Customer Service for Illinois Power. As such, he will be responsible for all 15 Regional Managers statewide and for the phone solution centers, both for residences and businesses.

After 10 years in Mt. Vernon, McEnaney and his wife, Phyllis, the City of Mt. Vernon's Administrative Assistant, are anticipating a move to the Springfield area in the near future.

Dr. DONALD E. MITCHELL

■ McLeansboro / 2009 - 2010

Hamilton County Physician served the area for over 40 years prior to his retirement in 2002 while still finding time to volunteer for many boards and organizations, including the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners (Chair), Hamilton County Public Health Department (President and Medical Director), Hamilton Memorial Hospital Foundation, Hamilton Grain Corporation and South-eastern Illinois Planning Commission.

According to his campaign background information provided by his supporters, "His education and professional career assure us Dr. Mitchell understands the necessity of a quality education. As a business owner, he also understands the challenges of succeeding financially in Southern Illinois. Most importantly, we feel confident Dr. Mitchell's professional ethics will guide him in making the proper decisions for the future of Rend Lake College."

Two children, former "Ag Student of the Year" Kent Mitchell and Krystal Mitchell

Donelson, are Rend Lake College graduates. A granddaughter, Jordan Short, was a Lady Warrior student-athlete (volleyball) at the time of his election.

Mitchell was the leading vote-getter in a four-way race that included Ed Cunningham, who also was elected, incumbent Randall Crocker and a former college teacher-administrator.

- Resigned in February 2010 following an informal opinion issued by the Illinois Attorney General's Office to the Hamilton County State's Attorney regarding a possible conflict of interest in holding County Board and College Trustee seats simultaneously.

WILLIAM L. MOORE

■ Mt. Vernon / 1972 - 1975

Elected along with incumbent Carleton Apple and fellow newcomer B.B. Connaway to one of the openings in 1972 when neither Melvin Farlow nor Harry Irwin were candidates. Moore was the leading vote-getter in a five-person race with 4,313 votes, compared to 3,976 for Apple and 3,428 for Connaway. He was the Jefferson County Supervisor of Assessments.

Moore had run previously in 1971 but finished third in a six-person field for two seats. Marie Simmons and Albert Gulley, who topped Moore by 91 votes, were victorious then.

- The incumbent apparently chose not to run for re-election in 1975.

[Moore, 83, died October 17, 1997, when his automobile was hit by a drunken driver. The former Trustee was returning home following a trip to Las Vegas.]

OLIE L. MUSGRAVE

■ Mt. Vernon / 1989 - 1994

The President and Chief Executive Officer of First Bank and Trust Co. of Mt. Vernon was elected to the unexpired four-year term previously held by David Hurley on the Rend Lake College District 521 Board in 1989. Musgrave was one of three candidates vying for a position which originally went to David Dalby, who was then replaced by Hurley.

Musgrave and his wife, Betty, who spearheaded the local Illinois Tech Prep program out of the Franklin County Regional Consortia, had lived in Mt. Vernon six years prior to his election the first time. The Musgraves [who were married for 48 years at the time of his death] are parents of a son, Jon.

According to his obituary in the *Southern Illinoisan*, Musgrave was "active in community affairs in the various places where he worked and lived. He was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow while he was a member of the Rotary Club of Mt. Vernon.

"Since the 1970s, he has provided leadership to community organizations, including the Chambers of Commerce and Rotary Clubs of Marion and Mt. Vernon; Southern Illinois Incorporated; the Marion Civic Center Foundation, which he helped found; Big Brothers/Big Sisters; the Illinois Bankers Association, and the Jackson County Business Development Corp."

He was a graduate of Anna-Jonesboro High School and Draughon's Business College in Paducah.

After just over a decade at First Bank and Trust – after Mercantile Bank bought the financial institution – he left to become President briefly of Heartland Savings and Loan in Herrin.

- The former Bank of Marion President moved out of the RLC district (less than a year after winning re-election in 1993) in order to start Marion-based South Pointe Bank. His letter of resignation was dated November 17, 1994.

Musgrave announced in November 1994 South Pointe Bank had received its permit from the Illinois Commission of Banks and Trust Companies to be a holding company and authorization from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. It opened temporary facilities the first week in January 1995. The locally owned South Pointe Bank later opened facilities in the RLC District in Benton and Mt. Vernon, as well as other Southern Illinois communities.

Ten years after opening its doors, South Pointe Bank had grown to seven locations in five communities, in addition to a loan origination office in Paducah, "where the bank holding company has just purchased land for a new Kentucky bank."

South Pointe Bank was acquired by Midcountry Bank in November 2006.

- Musgrave died April 6, 2005 at age 71.

NORMA O'DANIEL

■ Mt. Vernon / 2001 - 2008

Ran unopposed for the unexpired four-year term of Sam Mateer, who was appointed in 2000 to replace Dennis McEnaney when the latter moved out of the district due to a job transfer.

The wife of former State Senator William "Bill" O'Daniel and two others who were elected to six-year terms – incumbent Marvin W. Scott and William "Bill" Simpson – in the April 10 election were not officially seated until November due to a change in election procedure.

- Re-elected in 2005 to six-year term but gave up seat in 2008 due to health reasons.

Dr. CURTIS A. PARKER

■ Mt. Vernon / 1966 - 1971

Mt. Vernon Optometrist was member

of original Rend Lake College Board of Trustees and was elected Board President at the organizational meeting December 21, 1966, serving in that capacity the first three years. Original members drew lots to determine length of term to be served by each of the original seven; Parker's term was for two years, and he was elected to a three-year term in 1968.

Parker was one of 10 representatives from Jefferson County on the Steering Committee which took in six counties and one of three from his county on the six-county Executive Committee prior to his election to the Board.

Former Dean Dr. Howard Rawlinson, in his book, **The First Fifteen Years** (1956-72), noted, "Due primarily to the efforts of Curtis Parker, first President of the Board of Trustees of Rend Lake College, a Foundation was established as a non-profit organization with the State of Illinois. Registration of this Foundation has been kept current, but, to date, no activity has been forthcoming to develop it, other matters having been of greater priority. With Phase II construction under way and tuition being charged, the time might be ripe to develop the potential of this Foundation."

After 42 years and an estimated 65,000 patients, Parker retired from active optometry in January 1995.

Parker began practice with his father-in-law, Dr. J. William Dycus, in 1952. He leaves Provision Eyecare Inc., founded in 1991 when Dr. Edward Perry joined him in practice. Dr. Mark Barlow joined them two months ago.

"I leave a great practice ongoing for 68 years (since Dycus opened his practice in 1926) still serving our patients, and that was my goal," said Parker. "I am extremely fortunate to be an optometrist, and I never, never wanted to be anything other than an optometrist."

Parker spent all 42 years in Mt. Vernon practice, while adding a satellite office with Dr. T. Kisle in Sesser, an eye clinic in the Centralia Correctional Center and a practice, now a Provision Office, in Centralia. He also originated the Barkley Lake Optometric Seminar in 1971 and it continues as a state-certified post-graduate educational opportunity.

Parker served as President of the Southern Illinois Optometric Society twice (first in 1957), served on the Illinois Optometric Council twice and spent 23 years on the Board of Directors for Midwest Vision Service Plan.

An avid boater, he plans on spending some of his retirement pursuing more of that endeavor. "But I also plan to cover for my optometric colleagues when I can

and stay active in optometric affairs," he added.

The Board of Trustees Meeting Room on the first floor of the Student Center was officially named for him in November 1998.

- At completion of second term, chose not to run again.

Dr. ALLAN D. PATTON

■ Zeigler / 1979 - 2001

Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools for Franklin County when he was first elected to Board. Later became Superintendent of Benton Community Consolidated School District No. 47

Spent 17 of his years on the Board (1983-95) serving as the Rend Lake College liaison to the Illinois Community College Trustees Association.

Announced candidate for position of Rend Lake College President but did not resign from Board and dropped out of consideration before Mark S. Kern was eventually selected. He cited opposition from within the college community and the perception of a conflict of interest for withdrawing as a candidate.

"It was never my intent to create a controversial situation, but rather, to bring to the college the benefit of more than 30 years of educational experience within Southern Illinois," Patton said. "In addition, after speaking to many citizens of the college district, it was my belief that an area educator would be welcomed to lead our fine school."

Patton earned his Doctorate in Educational Administration from Southern Illinois University.

He is the brother of longtime Rend Lake College Librarian and Learning Resource Center Director William David Patton.

- Patton, by then retired, was serving as Board Chair at the time he was defeated in four-way race for two positions in April 2001. Incumbent Marvin W. Scott and newcomer William "Bill" Simpson were the leading vote-getters.

CAROLINE QUINN

■ Mt. Vernon / 1996 - 1997

The 1994 Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year" was appointed to the RLC Board following the death of 1995 JCCC "Citizen of the Year" Jim Hinman on May 30, 1996, effective through November 1997.

Quinn has been President of Farrar Oil Company since 1985 and also serves as President/Director of Operations for Potomac Management Co., the company responsible for managing the 236-room Ramada Hotel in Mt. Vernon. She is responsible for day-to-day operations of the oil and gas exploration and production

corporation which has properties in nine states and operates five drilling rigs.

Quinn was recognized in 1992 by the Illinois Federation of Business and Professional Women with the "Outstanding Working Women of Illinois Award."

- Chose not to run for an elected position the following year.

RANDY RUBENACKER

■ **Dahlgren / 2011 -**

Hamilton County Farmer/Businessman Randy Rubenacker was one of seven Rend Lake College alumni (Class of 1978) to become a member of the Board of Trustees when he was elected to a six-year term in 2011 at the age of 52. He was joined at the same time by fellow alumnus and Board newcomer John Kabat.

The RLC Foundation's "Alumnus of the Year" honoree in 2008 follows in the footsteps of former Trustee and 1995 "Alumnus of the Year" Courtney Cox in that regard.

Rubenacker also holds dual membership on the Rend Lake College Foundation Board of Directors, a position he was appointed to in 2005 following the death of his father, RLCF Director Richard Rubenacker.

Randy Rubenacker likewise has served as a longstanding member on the RLC Agriculture Advisory Council.

When he is not devoting his valuable time to Rend Lake College matters, Randy is Owner/Manager of Rubenacker Farms Partnership and 4R Equipment in McLeansboro, as well as President of Prairie Tile System, Inc. His business partners include brothers Rodney and Terry, both of whom also are graduates of the Ag program.

Two others have served concurrently on the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees and the RLCF Board of Directors - Ed Cunningham at the present time and Hunt Bonan previously. Others who have been on both boards are Mark Ballard, Courtney Cox and Sam Mateer.

MARVIN W. SCOTT

■ **Belle Rive / 1978 - 2013**

Farmer and operator of Hamson Feed Store in Belle Rive along with his wife, Vivian, was appointed originally to fill the position held by Dr. Clyde Funkhouser. Elected for first time to a three-year term in 1979 and to five more six-year terms; he was the leading vote-getter in each of his last four contested races.

Served 15 years from 1998 until 2012 as the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees representative to the Illinois Community College Trustees Association.

Also served concurrently for many years on the Jefferson County Board.

Scott was one of only three Republicans on 15-member County Board when he defeated Gary Shields in the District 3 race, 548-514, in November 1992. Shields was attempting to succeed his father, who was killed in a tractor accident earlier that summer, but lost to Scott in the closest of any of the contested races. Scott took office December 1.

In 2011, when the Board of Trustees Room in the Balcony of the Student Center was named in his honor, Scott held the distinction as the seventh-longest serving Community College Trustee in the history of the Illinois system.

- Election in 2007 kept him on RLC Board until 2013, at which time the 82-year-old Scott chose not to run again after 35 years.

JOE H. SCRIVNER

■ **Mt. Vernon / 1978 - 1993**

The 53-year-old businessman owns and operates Scrivner Company, which sells and services farm and construction equipment in Mt. Vernon (and later S & M Manufacturing, power distributors and specialty transmissions).

He worked for McDonnell-Douglas and General Electric before purchasing the business in 1971. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois.

Scrivner indicated to the *Southern Illinoisian* newspaper he was running for election for the first time because he "wants to watch the college's finances and make sure the right decisions are made."

He said the college should put more emphasis on baccalaureate (transfer) education and he would like to see about 90 percent of the students continue their education after leaving Rend Lake College.

The more immediate concern, as far as Scrivner was concerned at the time he first sought a seat: "The Board needs to decide what it wants in a President, put it in writing, search for and hire that man," he said. "Then it needs to let the President deal with faculty and students directly and learn to work through its administrator. When a business needs to terminate a President it indicates serious problems from top to bottom. The Board needs to deal with the college from a business point of view and do so out in the open in laymen's terms."

Scrivner incurred serious coronary problems in late November 1990. He spent time in the Intensive Care Unit of St. John's Mercy Hospital in St. Louis, where he eventually underwent a balloon procedure and was "doing very well," according to wife Marie, when released

a few days later. He remained an active member of the Board for almost three years before deciding to retire.

Scrivner previously was employed as an Electrical Engineer at General Electric and McDonnell-Douglas Aviation.

In addition to S & M Manufacturing and the Scrivner Company Case Tractor Dealership in Dix, he operated Bee Line Steel previously.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church in Mt. Vernon, United Methodist Men, Mt. Vernon Elks Lodge 819, U.S. Coast Guard Power Squadron Admiral, Mt. Vernon Masonic Lodge 31 AF and AM, Ainad Shrine Temple of East St. Louis and Jefferson County Shrine Club.

- After making the decision to retire from the Board after 15 years, Scrivner expressed his "appreciation to the voters of the district for allowing me to serve. Many good things have happened to the college during the last 15 years."

He added, "It has been a pleasure to serve and to watch the college grow. My primary objective has always been to work to provide a means for students to get a good, sound education. The bottom line always will be the students" and what is best for them.

- Scrivner died March 29, 2013, at age 88. His wife of 65 years, Marie, preceded him in death by less than two months.

HOLLAND SIMMONS

■ **Benton / 1966 - 1969**

Member of founding Board was awarded one of two two-year terms as the result of drawing lots. He was re-elected to a three-year term in 1968. Simmons was one of 10 Franklin County residents on the six-county Steering Committee and one of three Franklin Countians on the Rend Lake College Executive Committee.

Simmons and his wife, Marie, were fixtures in the Benton business community as operators for many years of Simmons Drug Store on the Benton Public Square. Mr. and Mrs. Simmons were among the founders of Benton Community Bank; both served as Board Chairs of that institution.

- Drowned in boating mishap in late July 1969 while fishing on Lake Moses with his mother, who also died in the accident.

MARIE SIMMONS

■ **Benton / 1969 - 1977**

Civic and business leader appointed to fill position held previously by late husband, Holland Simmons, who drowned in a tragic boating accident in July 1969. Elected to the Board for the first time in 1971 and re-elected in 1974. Simmons was

a Franklin County business woman whose gift and card store was on the west side of the Benton square.

She also was President of the Board of Directors for Benton Community Bank. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Benton, Eastern Star and White Shrine.

• Mrs. Simmons served on the RLC Board until only a few months before her death on August 10, 1977 at age 68. It was her choice not to run for re-election that spring.

Dr. W. RICHARD SIMPSON

■ **Benton / 1976 - 1999**

Dentist appointed August 17 to fill position held by Albert Gulley; elected for first time in 1977. Later gained local "fame" for joining staff of the Benton Rangers football team as Line Coach and helped turn a downtrodden program into Southern Illinois power for a number of years.

Simpson was age 37 at the time he was nominated to replace Gulley by Dr. Allen Y. Baker on behalf of Marie Simmons, who was unable to attend the meeting due to a death in the family. He also was serving as a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Benton High School District Board.

After spending 20-plus years on the Board, Simpson decided to run in 1997 for the two-year term vacated by Caroline Quinn, who replaced Jim Hinman following his death in 1996. He plans on retiring after some current projects are completed, he indicated at the time. "We have a remodeling and building project that should be completed within the next two years, and I would like to see that done," he told *The Southern Illinoisan*.

Simpson was elected to the Board on six occasions.

• Stayed with his plan to "retire" from the Board in 1999 after 23 years, having served as Chair on three different occasions for a total of five years. At the time, his tenure on the Board was the longest of any individual in the 32-year history of Rend Lake College.

WILLIAM "BILL" SIMPSON

■ **Benton / 2001 - 2011**

A banker with business ties to both Benton and Mt. Vernon, Simpson perhaps had the most unusual start to his Trustee position of any individual who ever served.

Simpson, the brother of former Trustee Dr. Richard Simpson, was elected to a six-year term by voters in the district in April 2001. But because of a change in voting procedure – from November elections statewide to Spring – newcomers who were elected were not scheduled to take

their seats on the Board until Fall 2001, since those serving had been elected to serve through November.

However, Dr. Allan Patton, the 22-year member who was Board Chair at the time, was not re-elected and submitted his resignation in August. The Board, which has 60 days in which to fill any vacancies, appointed Simpson to the position at the September 18, 2001 meeting, a month earlier than scheduled.

• Simpson was elected to another six-term in 2007 but resigned in 2011.

DAVID SKORCH

■ **Dix / 1973 - 1976**

The Mt. Vernon Township High School English Teacher was elected in 1973 to the Trustee seat held previously by Huel Cross.

• Chose not to run when three-year term ended. His decision, he indicated, was prompted by "increased demands toward personal and professional commitments."

Skorch said he plans to continue his support of the college "because it plays an important role in the education of the area's residents."

FORREST STEWART

■ **Texico / 1966 - 1969**

Member of original RLC Board of Trustees was elected Secretary by his peers. When Board drew lots for original length of service, he received one-year term along with Dr. Allen Baker. Re-elected to three-year term in April 18, 1967.

• Moved out of district.

EVERETT K. THOMPSON

■ **Sesser / 1977 - 1989**

Owner of Sesser Concrete Productions Co. until his retirement in 1987. He also was a past Chairman on the Bank of Sesser Board of Directors.

Thompson ran unopposed the first time for the seat vacated by Marie Simmons, who chose not to run again after almost eight years as a Trustee.

In addition to serving on the RLC Board, the quiet-spoken gentleman was a member of the Sesser Board of Education for 22 years.

• Stepped down for health reasons in February 1989.

Thompson was described as a "solid, quality person who has always been there when the college needed him." Added colleague Marvin W. Scott, "I have appreciated the good things he has stood for over the years as a member of this Board."

Two months later, Everett and Opal Thompson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Thompson died at age 79 on March 23,

2000, in Bloomington. The Thompsons were parents of a son, Duane, and daughter, Susan, and grandparents of four.

KELLY WOODROW

■ **Hamilton County / 2010 - 2011**

The longtime area farmer was appointed at the March 2010 meeting to fill the seat vacated by fellow Hamilton County representative Dr. Donald Mitchell. He will serve until the next election in 2011.

Woodrow and his wife, Shelley, are the parents of three RLC graduates – Justin and Jason, both of whom are involved with a family farm that has been in existence for 30 years, and Kelsey. Daughter Kelsey was a member of a select group of 13 in the first Society of Success and Leadership / Sigma Alpha Pi at Rend Lake College in 2006-07.

Kelly Woodrow served eight years previously on the Hamilton County Board. He also has served on the Southeastern Development Board in Harrisburg, the Wabash Area Development Corporation Board of Directors and the Beaver Creek Township Board of Directors.

Woodrow was approached by RLC Board Chair Dave Edmison and longtime Trustee Marvin Scott about representing his area on the Board of Trustees.

"They say to get someone who will do a good job, you need to find a busy person," Edmison said at the time of his appointment. "We have certainly found that in Kelly Woodrow."

• Chose not to run for remainder of four-year term in April 2011.

★★★ ★★ ★★

VACANCY

The Community College Act stipulates that whenever a vacancy occurs, the remaining members shall fill the vacancy until the next regular election for Board members. The Board has 30 days from the date of the vacancy with which to appoint a successor or that responsibility reverts to the Chairman of the Illinois Community College Board.

REND LAKE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- ▲ 1966 - 1979
Dr. Allen Y. Baker (Pinckneyville)
Elected to 1-yr. term; re-elected to 3-year terms four times
- ▲ 1966 - 1978
Carleton Apple (Enfield)
Elected to 3-yr. term; re-elected to 3-yr. terms three more times
- ▲ 1966 - 1972
Melvin Farlow (McLeansboro)
Elected to 3-year term; re-elected in 1969; Board President suffered heart attack in '70, continued to serve but declined leadership role in '71
- ▲ 1966 - 1972
Harry N. Irwin (Wayne City)
Elected to 3-year term
- ▲ 1966 - 1971
Dr. Curtis A. Parker (Mt. Vernon)
Elected to 2-yr. term; re-elected to 3-year term in 1968
- ▲ 1966 - 1969
Holland Simmons (Benton)
Elected to 2-yr. term; re-elected to 3-yr. term in 1968; Drowned in boating accident July 27, '69
- ▲ 1966 - 1969
Forrest Stewart (Texico)
Elected to 1-yr. term; re-elected to 3-year term in 1967; moved out of district during 2nd term
- ▲ 1969 - 1973
Huel Cross (Belle Rive)
Appointed August 11 to fill position held by F. Stewart; elected to 3-year term in 1970
- ▲ 1969 - 1977
Marie Simmons (Benton)
Appointed August 19 to fill position held by late husband; elected to 1-year unexpired term in 1970; re-elected twice
- ▲ 1971 - 1976
Albert Gulley (Benton)
Elected to fill position held previously by C. Parker; re-elected to 3-yr. term in 1974, vacated seat August 4, 1976
- ▲ 1972 - 1978
B.B. Connaway (McLeansboro)
Elected to 3-year term; re-elected to 3-yr. term in 1975
- ▲ 1972 - 1975
William L. Moore (Mt. Vernon)
Elected to 3-year term
- ▲ 1973 - 1976
David Skorch (Dix)
Elected to 3-year term
- ▲ 1975 - 1976
O.K. Ausmus (Benton)
Elected to 3-year term; moved out of state in Year Two
- ▲ 1976 - 1986
Joseph A. McClure Jr. (Mt. Vernon)
Appointed June 15 to fill position held by O.K. Ausmus; elected to 1-yr. unexpired term in 1977; re-elected three times; resigned October 21, 1986
- ▲ 1976 - 1999
Dr. W. Richard Simpson (Benton)
Appointed August 17 to fill position held by A. Gulley; elected 1977; re-elected twice to 3-year terms; re-elected to 5-yr. term in 1980; re-elected to 6-year term in 1985; re-elected to 2-year term in 1997
- ▲ 1976 - 1978
Dr. Clyde R. Funkhouser (Mt. Vernon)
Elected to 3-year term; resigned May 16, 1978
- ▲ 1977 - 1989
Everett K. Thompson (Sesser)
Elected to 3-year term; re-elected to 5-yr. term in 1980; re-elected to 6-yr. term in 1985; resigned in 1989
- ▲ 1978 - 2013
Marvin W. Scott (Belle Rive)
Appointed May 16 to fill position held by C. Funkhouser; elected to unexpired 4-year term in '79; re-elected to 6-year terms five more times
- ▲ 1978 - 1993
Joe H. Scrivner (Mt. Vernon)
Elected to 3-year term; re-elected to 6-yr. terms twice
- ▲ 1978 - 1985
Richard E. Herrin (Benton)
Elected to 3-yr. term; re-elected to 6-yr. term; resigned August 20 when moved out of district
- ▲ 1979 - 2001
Dr. Allan D. Patton (Zeigler)
Elected to 3-yr. term, extended to 4 years; re-elected to three 6-year terms
- ▲ 1985 - 1999
Dr. B. Kirby Browning (Benton)
Appointed August 20 to fill position held by R. Herrin; elected to 6-year terms twice
- ▲ 1986 - 1987
Mark J. Ballard (Mt. Vernon)
Appointed October 21 to fill position held by Joe McClure
- ▲ 1987 - 1988
David K. Dalby (Benton)
Elected to 6-yr. term; resigned five months later on April 19
- ▲ 1988 - 1989
David Hurley (Benton)
Appointed May 17 to fill position held by D. Dalby; chose not to run for unexpired 4-year term
- ▲ 1989 - 1997
Robert J. Kirkpatrick (Sesser)
Appointed to fill position held by E. Thompson; elected in '89 to unexpired two-year term; re-elected to 6-year term
- ▲ 1989 - 1994
Olie Musgrave (Mt. Vernon)
Elected to unexpired 4-year term; elected to 6-year term in 1993; resigned December 20 and moved out of district
- ▲ 1993 - 2011
William David Edmison (Mt. Vernon)
Elected to three 6-year terms
- ▲ 1994 - 1996
Jim Hinman (Mt. Vernon)
Appointed December 20 to fill position held by O. Musgrave; elected to unexpired 4-year term in 1995; died May 30, 1996
- ▲ 1996 - 1997
Caroline Quinn (Mt. Vernon)
Appointed June 11 to fill position held by J. Hinman; chose not to run in November 1997 election
- ▲ 1997 - 2009
Hunt Bonan (McLeansboro / Mt. Vernon)
Elected to two 6-year terms
- ▲ 1997 - 2009
Randall Crocker (Sesser)
Elected to two 6-year terms [Also see 2013-15]
- ▲ 1999 - 2005
Courtney Cox (Benton)
Elected to 5 1/2-year term; Resigned position just months after re-election for 6-years
- ▲ 1999 - 2000
Dennis McEnaney (Mt. Vernon)
Elected to 5 1/2-year term; moved out of district
- ▲ 2000 - 2001
Sam Mateer (Mt. Vernon)
Appointed March 14 to fill position held by D. McEnaney; chose not to run in November election
- ▲ 2001 - 2011
William "Bill" Simpson (Benton)
Appointed September 18 to replace Dr. Allan Patton; already duly elected to assume seat in November; re-elected to 6-year term
- ▲ 2001 - 2008
Norma O'Daniel (Mt. Vernon)
Elected to unexpired 4-year term; re-elected to 6-year term; resigned due to health
- ▲ 2005 - 2013
Bryan Drew (Benton)
Appointed to fill position held by Courtney Cox; twice elected to 6-yr. terms; November resignation following April election
- ▲ 2008 - 2013
Ed Cunningham (Mt. Vernon)
Appointed to fill position held by N. O'Daniel; elected to 6-yr. term in '09; moved out of district
- ▲ 2009 - 2017
Rick Marlow (Mt. Vernon)
Elected to fill original, two-year unexpired term of N. O'Daniel; re-elected to 6-year term
- ▲ 2009 - 2010
Dr. Donald E. Mitchell (McLeansboro)
Elected to six-year term, but stepped down over possible conflict of interest
- ▲ 2010 - 2011
Kelly Woodrow (Hamilton County)
Appointed to fill position held by D. Mitchell; chose not to run
- ▲ 2011 - 2017
John Kabat (Scheller)
Elected to 6-year term
- ▲ 2011 - 2017
Randy Rubenacker (McLeansboro)
Elected to 6-year term
- ▲ 2011 - 2021
Eric Black (Mt. Vernon)
Elected to fill unexpired 4-year term of K. Woodrow; re-elected to 6-year term
- ▲ 2013 - 2019
Larry Manning (Belle Rive)
Elected to 6-year term
- ▲ 2013 - 2021
Dr. David S. Asbery (Mt. Vernon)
Appointed to fill position held by Ed Cunningham; elected to six-year term in 2015
- ▲ 2013 - 2019
Randall Crocker (Sesser)
Appointed to fill unexpired term of Drew; elected in 2015 to fill unexpired 4-year term [Also see 1997-2009]

REND LAKE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIRS

- ▲ 2015-16
Eric Black
- ▲ 2014-15
Eric Black
- ▲ 2013-14
Eric Black
- ▲ 2013
Bryan Drew
- ▲ 2013
Ed Cunningham
- ▲ 2012-13
Bryan Drew
- ▲ 2011-12
Bryan Drew
- ▲ 2010-11
William David Edmison
- ▲ 2009-10
William David Edmison
- ▲ 2008-09
William "Bill" Simpson
- ▲ 2007-08
William "Bill" Simpson
- ▲ 2006-07
Hunt Bonan
- ▲ 2005-06
Hunt Bonan
- ▲ 2004-05
Hunt Bonan
- ▲ 2003-04
Randall Crocker
- ▲ 2002-03
Marvin W. Scott
- ▲ 2001-02
Marvin W. Scott
- ▲ 2000-01
Dr. Allan D. Patton
- ▲ 1999-2000
Dr. Allan D. Patton
- ▲ 1998-99
William David Edmison
- ▲ 1997-98
William David Edmison
- ▲ 1996-97
Dr. W. Richard Simpson
- ▲ 1995-96
Dr. W. Richard Simpson
- ▲ 1994-95
Robert J. Kirkpatrick
- ▲ 1993-94
Robert J. Kirkpatrick
- ▲ 1992-93
Marvin W. Scott
- ▲ 1991-92
Marvin W. Scott
- ▲ 1990-91
Dr. B. Kirby Browning
- ▲ 1989-90
Dr. B. Kirby Browning
- ▲ 1988-89
Dr. Allan D. Patton
- ▲ 1987-88
Dr. Allan D. Patton
- ▲ 1986-87
Marvin W. Scott
- ▲ 1985-86
Marvin W. Scott
- ▲ 1984-85
Dr. W. Richard Simpson
- ▲ 1983-84
Dr. Allan D. Patton
- ▲ 1982-83
Dr. Allan D. Patton
- ▲ 1981-82
Joseph A. McClure Jr.
- ▲ 1980-81
Joseph A. McClure Jr.
- ▲ 1979-80
Dr. W. Richard Simpson
- ▲ 1978-79
Dr. W. Richard Simpson
- ▲ 1977-78
Dr. Clyde R. Funkhouser
- ▲ 1976-77
Carleton Apple
- ▲ 1975-76
Carleton Apple
- ▲ 1974-75
Dr. Allen Y. Baker
- ▲ 1973-74
Dr. Allen Y. Baker
- ▲ 1972-73
Dr. Allen Y. Baker
- ▲ 1971-72
Dr. Allen Y. Baker
- ▲ 1970-71
Melvin Farlow
- ▲ 1969-70
Dr. Curtis A. Parker
- ▲ 1968-69 (President)
Dr. Curtis A. Parker
- ▲ 1967-68 (President)
Dr. Curtis A. Parker



Dr. Curtis A. Parker
MT. VERNON / 1966-71



Dr. Allen Y. Baker
PINCKNEYVILLE / 1966-79



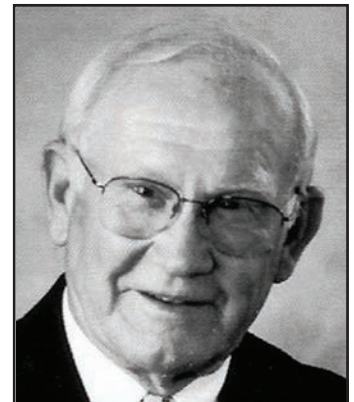
Dr. W. Richard Simpson
BENTON / 1976-99



Marvin W. Scott
BELLE RIVE / 1978-2013



Dr. Allan D. Patton
ZEIGLER / 1979-2001



William David Edmison
MT. VERNON / 1993-2011



Randall Crocker
SESSER / 1997-2009 • 2013-19



Joe H. Scrivner
MT. VERNON / 1978-93

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS

Community College District 521 / Rend Lake College

X - Elected

▲ December 17, 1966

Candidate (Hometown)	Votes Received
Carleton Apple (Enfield).....	X N/A
Dr. Allen Y. Baker (Pinckneyville)	X N/A
Melvin Farlow (McLeansboro).....	X N/A
Harry N. Irwin (Wayne City).....	X N/A
Dr. Curtis A. Parker (Mt. Vernon)	X N/A
Holland Simmons (Benton).....	X N/A
Forrest A. Stewart (Texico).....	X N/A

Lots were drawn for length of terms in office –
 Baker and Stewart, 1-Year each
 Parker and Simmons, 2-Years each
 Apple, Irwin and Farlow, 3-Years each

▲ April 8, 1967

3-Year Terms	
Dr. Allen Y. Baker (Pinckneyville) *	X 4,259
Forrest A. Stewart (Texico) *	X 3,926

▲ April 13, 1968

3-Year Terms	
Dr. Curtis A. Parker (Mt. Vernon) *	X N/A
Holland Simmons (Benton) *	X N/A

▲ April 12, 1969

3-Year Terms	
Melvin Farlow (McLeansboro) *	X 4,241
Carleton Apple (Enfield) *	X 4,102
Harry N. Irwin (Wayne City) *	X 4,003

▲ April 11, 1970

3-Year Terms	
Dr. Allen Y. Baker (Pinckneyville) *	X 3,721
Huel Cross (Belle Rive) *	X 3,449
Marie Simmons (Benton) *	X 3,762

1-Year Term

▲ April 10, 1971

3-Year Terms	
Marie Simmons (Benton) *	X 3,523
Albert Gulley (Benton).....	X 2,705
William L. Moore (Mt. Vernon).....	2,614
Larry L. Burkett (Mt. Vernon).....	1,558
Howard W. Roberson (Ina).....	1,352
Katharine F. Wall (Mt. Vernon).....	1,164

▲ April 8, 1972

3-Year Terms	
William L. Moore (Mt. Vernon).....	X 4,313
Carleton Apple (Enfield) *	X 3,976
B.B. Connaway (McLeansboro).....	X 3,428
Larry Hancock	2,762
Charles V. Jacobs (McLeansboro).....	1,881

▲ April, 1973

3-Year Terms	
Dr. Allen Y. Baker (Pinckneyville) *	X 3,001
David R. Skorch (Mt. Vernon).....	X 2,938
Huel Cross (Belle Rive) *	1,764
William E. Baker	1,386

▲ April 13, 1974

3-Year Terms	
Albert Gulley (Benton) *	X 3,451
Marie Simmons (Benton) *	X 3,149
Everett Bullock (Opdyke)	2,925

▲ April 12, 1975

3-Year Terms	
B.B. Connaway (McLeansboro) *	X 5,100
Carleton Apple (Enfield) *	X 4,590
O.K. Ausmus (Benton).....	X 3,475
C.C. "Andy" Anderson (Mt. Vernon)	3,174

▲ April 10, 1976

3-Year Terms	
Dr. Allen Y. Baker (Pinckneyville) *	X 4,612
Dr. C.R. Funkhouser (Mt. Vernon) * ..	X 4,211
C.C. "Andy" Anderson (Mt. Vernon)	3,155

▲ April 9, 1977

3-Year Terms	
Everett K. Thompson (Sesser).....	X 4,327
Dr. W. Richard Simpson (Benton) * ..	X 4,078
Joseph A. McClure Jr. (Mt. Vernon) * .	X 3,553

1-Year Term

▲ April 8, 1978

3-Year Terms	
Joseph A. McClure Jr. (Mt. Vernon) * .	X 3,198
Richard E. Herrin (Benton).....	X 3,763
Joe H. Scrivner (Mt. Vernon).....	X 2,840
John W. Stephens (McLeansboro)	2,583
C.C. "Andy" Anderson (Mt. Vernon)	2,485
George Alan Weed (Benton).....	1,805
Jean Ann Scroggins (Waltonville).....	1,525
Mitch Fulford (Mt. Vernon).....	1,318

▲ April 15, 1979

3-Year Terms *	
Marvin W. Scott (Belle Rive) *	X 3,617
Dr. Allan D. Patton (Zeigler).....	X 2,868
Joseph M. Holder (Pinckneyville)	2,420
Gene Mitchell.....	2,002

* Terms extended thru 1983 by law passed in 1982

▲ April 12, 1980

3-Year Terms *	
Dr. W. Richard Simpson (Benton) * .	X 6,286
Everett K. Thompson (Sesser) *	X 5,185
Courtney Cox (Benton)	2,709
Robert L. Graham (Woodlawn)	2,454

* Terms extended thru 1985 by law passed in 1982

▲ November 3, 1981

4-Year Terms *	
Richard E. Herrin (Benton) *	X 6,586
Joseph A. McClure Jr. (Mt. Vernon) * .	X 6,021
Joe H. Scrivner (Mt. Vernon) *	X 5,562
Charles M. Given (Mt. Vernon).....	5,037

* Terms extended thru 1987 by law passed in 1982

▲ November 8, 1983

6-Year Terms	
Dr. Allan D. Patton (Zeigler) *	X 7,329
Marvin W. Scott (Belle Rive) *	X 7,161

▲ November 5, 1985

6-Year Terms	
Dr. W. Richard Simpson (Benton) * .	X 6,641
Everett K. Thompson (Sesser) *	X 6,578

▲ November 3, 1987

6-Year Terms	
David K. Dalby (Benton)	X 5,307
Dr. B. Kirby Browning (Benton) *	X 5,243
Joe H. Scrivner (Mt. Vernon) *	X 5,113
Mark J. Ballard (Mt. Vernon) *	4,957

▲ November 7, 1989

6-Year Terms	
Marvin W. Scott (Belle Rive) *	X 6,732
Dr. Allan D. Patton (Zeigler) *	X 6,561
Olie L. Musgrave (Mt. Vernon)	X 3,158
Vincent A. Lacey (Thompsonville).....	2,738
Harold Roffmann (Mt. Vernon)	2,251
Robert J. Kirkpatrick (Sesser) *	X 5,970
Rex A. Daily (McLeansboro).....	2,050

Unexpired 4-Year Term

Unexpired 2-Year Term

▲ November 5, 1991

6-Year Terms	
Robert J. Kirkpatrick (Sesser) *	X 5,775
Dr. W. Richard Simpson (Benton) * ..	X 5,144
John Powell (Mt. Vernon)	3,974

▲ November 2, 1993

6-Year Terms	
Dr. B. Kirby Browning (Benton) *	X 6,948
Wm. David Edmison (Mt. Vernon).....	X 6,533
Olie L. Musgrave (Mt. Vernon) *	X 6,481

▲ November 7, 1995

6-Year Terms	
Marvin W. Scott (Belle Rive) *	X 5,734
Dr. Allan D. Patton (Zeigler) *	X 5,312
Jim Hinman (Mt. Vernon) *	X 5,386

Unexpired 4-Year Term

▲ November 4, 1997

6-Year Terms	
Randall Crocker (Sesser)	X 5,764
Hunt Bonan (McLeansboro).....	X 4,883
Carroll Turner (Zeigler)	4,646
Dr. W. Richard Simpson (Benton) * ..	X 4,531
John W. Stephens (McLeansboro)	4,291

Unexpired 2-Year Term

▲ April 20, 1999

5 1/2-Year Terms / Not seated until November 9, 1999	
Courtney Cox (Benton)	X 10,328
Wm. David Edmison (Mt. Vernon) * ..	X 9,389
Dennis McEnaney (Mt. Vernon)	X 8,988

ELECTIONS (CONT.)

▲ April 3, 2001

5 1/2-Year Terms / Not seated until November 13, 2001

Marvin W. Scott (Belle Rive) * x 9,168
 William P. "Bill" Simpson (Benton) x 9,086
 David N. Wright (Benton) 6,305
 Dr. Allan D. Patton (Zeigler) 5,196
 Unexpired 4-Year Term
 Norma O'Daniel (Mt. Vernon) x 13,056

▲ April 1, 2003

6-Year Terms

Randall Crocker (Sesser) * x 10,573
 Hunt Bonan (McLeansboro) * x 10,366

▲ April 5, 2005

6-Year Terms

A. Courtney Cox (Benton) * x 9,899
 Wm. David Edmison (Mt. Vernon) * ... x 9,529
 Norma O'Daniel (Mt. Vernon) * x 9,208

▲ May 8, 2007

6-Year Terms

William "Bill" Simpson (Benton) * x 11,512
 Marvin W. Scott (Belle Rive) * x 10,860
 Bryan Drew (Benton) * x 10,342

▲ April, 2009

6-Year Terms

Dr. Donald Mitchell (McLeansboro) .. x 5,861
 Ed Cunningham (Mt. Vernon) * x 5,612
 Randall Crocker (Sesser) * 5,385
 William "Bill" Dill (Benton) 4,972
 2-Year Term
 Rick Marlow (Mt. Vernon) x 4,665
 Mary Roe (Pinckneyville) 4,093
 Hunt Bonan (Mt. Vernon) * 2,915
 Fran Lentz (Ina) 1,089

▲ April 5, 2011

6-Year Terms

John Kabat (Scheller) x 9,779
 Rick Marlow (Mt. Vernon) * x 8,413
 Randy Rubenacker (Dahlgren) x 8,350
 Wm. David Edmison (Mt. Vernon) * 7,514
 4-Year Term
 Eric Black (Mt. Vernon) x 11,582

▲ April, 2013

6-Year Terms

Larry Manning (Belle Rive) x 7,933
 Bryan Drew (Benton) * x 7,223

▲ April 7, 2015

6-Year Terms

Dr. David Asbery (Mt. Vernon) * x 7,912
 Eric Black (Mt. Vernon) * x 7,010
 Unexpired 4-Year Term
 Randall Crocker (Sesser) * x 8,759

* Incumbent

ANNUAL BOARD WORKSHOPS

ACADEMIC YEAR	LOCATION	SITE	DATE
▲ 1978-79	RLC Campus	Academic Building	November 28, 1978
▲ 1979-80	Hardin, KY	Kenlake State Park	October 26-27, 1979
▲ 1980-81	Cadiz, KY	Kentucky Lake State Park	October 27, 1980
▲ 1981-82	St. Louis, MO		October 24-25, 1981
▲ 1982-83	St. Louis, MO	Westport Plaza Sheraton Inn	September 25, 1982
▲ 1983-84	St. Louis, MO	Westport Plaza Sheraton Inn	September 24, 1983
▲ 1984-85	St. Louis, MO	Downtown Marriott	September 29, 1984
▲ 1985-86	St. Louis, MO	Omni Union Station	October 26, 1985
▲ 1986-87	New Harmony, IN	New Harmony Inn	October 4, 1986
▲ 1987-88	St. Charles, MO	Howard Johnson Airport West	September 26, 1987
▲ 1988-89	St. Louis, MO	Omni International	October 1, 1988
▲ 1989-90	Paducah, KY	Executive Inn	October 21, 1989
▲ 1990-91	Collinsville	Holiday Inn	August 4, 1990
▲ 1991-92	Evansville, IN	Radisson Hotel	February 1, 1992
▲ 1992-93	Cape Girardeau, MO	Holiday Inn	February 27, 1993
▲ 1993-94	Cadiz, KY	Lake Barkley Lodge	March 26, 1994
▲ 1994-95	Evansville, IN	Airport Marriott	March 25, 1995
▲ 1995-96	Grafton	Pere Marquette Lodge	February 24, 1996
▲ 1996-97	Cape Girardeau, MO	Holiday Inn	February 22, 1997
▲ 1997-98	Paducah, KY	JR's Executive Inn	February 21, 1998
▲ 1998-99	Evansville, IN	Airport Marriott	February 27, 1999
▲ 1999-2000	Collinsville	Holiday Inn	March 25, 2000
▲ 2000-01	Collinsville	Holiday Inn	March 3, 2001
▲ 2001-02	Whittington	Rend Lake Resort	May 31, 2002
▲ 2002-03	Mt. Vernon	RLC MarketPlace	May 30, 2003
▲ 2003-04	Mt. Vernon	RLC MarketPlace	June 25, 2004
▲ 2004-05	Mt. Vernon	RLC MarketPlace	July 22, 2005
▲ 2005-06	RLC Campus	Student Center	April 21, 2006
▲ 2006-07	RLC Campus	Student Center	June 22, 2007
▲ 2007-08	RLC Campus	Student Center	May 30, 2008
▲ 2008-09	Whittington	Rend Lake Resort	June 19, 2009
▲ 2009-10			
▲ 2010-11	Whittington	Rend Lake Resort	December 14, 2010
▲ 2011-12	Whittington	Rend Lake Resort	December 13, 2011
▲ 2012-13	Whittington	Rend Lake Resort	December 13, 2012
▲ 2013-14	RLC Campus	Student Center	March 11, 2014
▲ 2014-15	RLC Campus	Student Center	March 10, 2015

Resolution of Commendation & Scholarship Award

Jim Hinman

Whereas, Jim Hinman served faithfully as a Director on the Rend Lake College Foundation Board for five years, between 1988 and 1993; and

Whereas, Jim Hinman served as President of the Rend Lake College Foundation Board of Directors for two years, from 1989-90; and

Whereas, Jim Hinman was appointed to the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees on December 30, 1994, was elected to the unexpired four-year term in November 1995 and served faithfully until his death May 30, 1996; and

Whereas, Jim Hinman was directly responsible for individually raising more than \$750,000 for the Rend Lake College Foundation during his tenure as President, when that organization conducted its first major capital campaign, and as one of three Chairs for Jefferson County in the "Generations of Excellence" Capital Campaign; and

Whereas, Jim Hinman was previously honored in 1994 as only the second recipient of "Board Emeritus" status by the Rend Lake College Foundation Board; and

Whereas, Jim Hinman willingly donated his time and talents to further the mission of Rend Lake College to the benefit of its students; and

Whereas, Jim Hinman Tri-County Electric Cooperative, under the direction of Manager Jim Hinman, received the Rend Lake College Foundation's 12th Annual "Outstanding Community Support" Award in 1991,

Therefore, be it resolved Jim Hinman is hereby recognized formally for all of these worthwhile endeavors and contributions beyond the normal call of duty.

Let it be known, the Rend Lake College Foundation Board of Directors – along with the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees and the Administration of Rend Lake College – sincerely appreciates the many accomplishments of Jim Hinman and wishes to endow the "Jim Hinman Scholarship" as a perpetual award to be presented annually and providing full tuition scholarship for a deserving student who resides within the Rend Lake College District.

Dated: December 12, 1996

The Resolution was signed by Rend Lake College President Mark S. Kern, RLC Foundation Chair Hunt Bonan and RLC Foundation Executive Director Herb Winemiller and presented posthumously to his wife, Liz, at the 1996 Rend Lake College Foundation Annual Dinner.

Rend Lake College / RLC Foundation

Resolution to Recognize

Richard R. Rubenacker & Family

Whereas, Richard R. Rubenacker was a longtime friend and supporter of Rend Lake College, and

Whereas, Richard R. Rubenacker was a member of the Rend Lake College Foundation Board of Directors from February 4, 2003 until the time of his death on February 23, 2005, and

Whereas, Richard R. Rubenacker had been a valued member of the Rend Lake College Ag Advisory Board almost since its inception before recently relinquishing his seat to son Randy, and

Whereas, all three sons of Richard R. and Margarette J. (Jody) Rubenacker – Randy, Rodney and Terry – were graduates of Rend Lake College, and

Whereas, the company owned by Richard R. Rubenacker and Family, Hamilton County Equipment in McLeansboro, has contributed money in order to sponsor student scholarships to attend Rend Lake College each year since 1987, and

Whereas, another company owned by Richard R. Rubenacker, Prairie Tile Systems, donated gifts-in-kind worth \$10,000 in drainage tiles and installation for the Rend Lake College Prairie Tile Research Project in conjunction with the Ag program and Applied Science Division, and

Whereas, Richard R. Rubenacker and his life partner, Jody, were presented the RLC Foundation Gold Seal Major Gift Award at the Annual Dinner December 2, 2004, for their \$25,000 lead gift to the Rend Lake College Foundation Challenge Grant II Campaign for the establishment of an endowed "Rubenacker Family Scholarship," as well as for past contributions, and

Whereas, Richard R. Rubenacker had longstanding business ties with Rend Lake College Trustees Hunt Bonan and Marvin W. Scott and on numerous occasions had shared his varied musical talents on a professional level with Trustee Courtney Cox, and

Whereas, Richard R. Rubenacker exemplified the qualities deemed important to be highly regarded as a representative of the RLC Foundation Board – very respected and influential within the community; a caring individual; a great believer in education, in general, and the benefits of a comprehensive community college, in particular, and a successful individual leader with a vision for the future and a willingness to share it with others, now

Therefore, be it resolved, Richard R. Rubenacker leaves a legacy that will impact Rend Lake College and the RLC Foundation, students and staff for many, many years to come, and

Be it finally resolved, Richard R. Rubenacker and the kind influence he exuded will be missed by Rend Lake College and the Rend Lake College Foundation.

Kend Lake College

'Editor of the Year' Nomination

Edwin Rackaway

Whereas, J. Edwin Rackaway, as editor of the Register-News, offered wholehearted support for establishment of an area junior college, knowing the campus for the new college would be moved from his community and prime readership area; and,

Whereas, Mr. Rackaway's editorial policy was taken, and faithfully carried out by his editorial staff, despite possible critical reaction of Register-News advertisers that could have been concerned about closing of a thriving Community College in the town where Mr. Rackaway's newspaper is published; that his position was taken in favor of superior education for everyone irrespective of possible business implications; and,

Whereas, the service rendered to the state junior college system involved originated of 1500 column inches of straight matter in more than 100 stories, a number of photographs and maps and other stories from news services published in the Register-News; that the material written and researched by the Register-News was supplied to other newspapers and radio stations in the proposed district even though some of them are in competition with the Register-News; that the Register-News staff devoted much of its own time to preparing and editing informational brochures and other publications for general distribution; that some of the material was printed by the Register-News without charge as a public service; that these services were recognized by an unprecedented letter from the editor of another newspaper in the district; that one of the special publications was a junior college insert section that was distributed with regular editions of six different newspapers; and,

Whereas, the time and effort put forth by the Register-News was continual, from January through December of 1966; and,

Whereas, the Register-News gave front page editorial support to the proposed area junior college; that the editorial was instrumental in the 7-1 favorable vote, the largest favorable ratio yet registered in referendums for new Class I area junior colleges created under the state's junior college act of 1965; that the unparalleled support of the Register-News has been instrumental in implementation of the new district that includes 1740 square miles and 77,800 people in six counties; and,

Whereas, this board is most cognizant of the effort provided by Mr. Rackaway and his paper in this and other educational endeavors;

Now therefore, be it resolved, by the Board of Education of Illinois Junior College District No. 521, County of Jefferson and State of Illinois, that this Board does hereby place the name of J. Edwin Rackaway in nomination for "Illinois Editor-of-the-Year" for 1966.

(Trustees Carleton Apple moved and Harry Irwin seconded that the action of the Executive Committee in nominating Edwin Rackaway for the Editor of the Year Award be ratified and the resolution approved. On roll call all voted aye; motion carried.)

BOARD MEETING MARCH 21, 1967

RLC environment perfect for student success stories

CAMPUS FINISHED FIRST; CLASSROOM AND LAB FACILITIES STILL SECOND TO NONE

Take it from somebody who has experienced it from both sides, the spacious, multifaceted layout that comprises the Ina campus – and its outreach facilities – adds immensely to the learning environment and educational endeavors of Rend Lake College students, in particular, faculty, staff and the district-wide community it serves.

In Fall 1967, when the RLC doors swung open to welcome the first Freshman Class and Sophomore carryovers from Mt. Vernon Community College, a majority of those students were merely switching buildings on the same Mt. Vernon Township High School campus that had served as home the previous four years. Confined, unless you shared science classrooms and labs with those immature prep students in another building or had to trek over to the church-turned-library complex a block away. [If they do not remember, they have a good excuse . . . they are old now!]

Since 1970, stay-at-home students have called the University of Ina home. The atmosphere is as it should be, college-like. Sprawling but well-designed; conducive to accomplishing the mission at hand. Pretty and practical. Windy in the winter, just like a college campus is supposed to be.

Other community college visitors (and accreditation teams) invariably brag on the campus, its cleanliness and maintenance.

Proof our students take pride in it, also.

351 ACRES IN '67 = \$242,500 ▶ Farm property purchased west of I-57 near Jefferson-Franklin County line

MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS OCTOBER 28, 1967

Members of the Rend Lake College Board, at a meeting at the Bonnie campus Tuesday night (October 27), approved the purchase of the Byford Jones property on which the new college campus will be constructed.

The purchase price of the 351-acre site was \$242,500 less option money that had been previously paid.

The Jones property lies west of Interstate 57, on the north side of the Jefferson-Franklin county line road and a short distance east of the shores of Rend Lake.

In other action concerning the purchase of the Jones property, the Board also agreed

to sell 12.2 acres west of the site to the Rend Lake Conservancy District for \$6,710 and to purchase 47 acres in the northeast section of the campus site from the Conservancy District for \$22,325. The college will also purchase another 13.3 acres between the highway and the Jones property from the Conservancy District for \$1,500.

Another 86 acres of the 351-acre Jones farm lies in the "take" area of the Army Corps of Engineers for control of the Rend Lake shoreline. A settlement for this property has not been arranged yet.

According to Rend Lake College Attorney Don Musick, "We now own everything we proposed for campus development."

Expect Several Construction Bids

Dr. James Snyder, College President, told Board members last night several firms have obtained forms for bidding on construction of the new \$9.1 million campus.

Bid openings will be held in Chicago on November 27.

COLLEGE CATALOG ▶ Centrally located Ina campus grows to 19 buildings between 1969 and 2010

REND LAKE COLLEGE CATALOG / THE CAMPUS

Rend Lake College is located on the east shore of Rend Lake, the second-largest man-made lake in the state, with access provided by Interstate 57 and State Route 37. The college is centrally located within the community college district it serves. Campus facilities include the following buildings:

- An Academic Building for academic and business classrooms, including the Distance Learning Classroom. The Textbook and Retail Store shares ground-level space in the two-story facility.

- The Administration Building, named for former Trustee Dr. Allen Y. Baker, which includes the President's Office, Vice Presidents' offices, Student Records, Business Office, Academic Advisement Center, Financial Aid, Career Center, Resource Development, Information Technology and Marketing and Public Information.

- The Advanced Technology Center, which houses Computer Programming; Electricity and Electronics; Industrial Maintenance and Technician programs; IT Systems programs; Manufacturing, Radiologic

* - * - *

Just some of the costs of doing business . . .

BOARD MINUTES JULY 18, 1967

Rental fees to Mt. Vernon Township High School for facility usage the first three years was established –

- \$75,000 or \$125 per full-time equivalency (FTE) during 1967-68.
- \$80,000 or \$125 per FTE during 1968-69.
- \$85,000 or \$125 per FTE during 1969-70.

The actual cost will be based on whichever figure is greater, with total rental not to exceed \$100,000.

[Looking back, calculated on official FTE numbers, rental costs would have been \$83,000 the first year (664 FTE), \$87,500 the second (700 FTE) and the maximum \$100,000 the third (based on 809 FTE, that figure would have been \$101,125).

BOARD MINUTES MAY 21, 1968

Board members approved leasing the Bonnie Campus to house the Agriculture program for three years at an annual cost of \$6,000.

BOARD MINUTES MAY 1969

Leases were drawn up for rental facilities in Benton – for the Cosmetology program, 4,200 square feet for \$250 per month; for the Automotive program, 5,180 square feet for \$300 per month.



Campus Groundbreaking Ceremonies – Ina, IL

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1969

BOARD

Dr. Curtis Parker	President
Forrest Stewart	Secretary
Carleton Apple	Dr. Allen Baker
Melvin Farlow	Harry N. Irwin
Holland Simmons	

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. J.M. Snyder	President
Dr. Howard Rawlinson	Dean
Paul Fitch	Bus. Manager
James Yates	Dean, Stu. Srv.
Ron Kruppa	Dean, Vo-Tech

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies

Dr. Howard Rawlinson

Selections RLC Band

Invocation Max Brandon

Remarks

Students Sheila Dodson

Faculty Glenn L. Dare

Administration Dr. J. Snyder

Board Dr. C.A. Parker

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Benediction Eugene Estes

Selections RLC Band

Rend Lake College is being built on the foundations laid by Mt. Vernon Community College. Long before Legislature established a system of junior colleges in the State of Illinois, faculty, staff and lay citizens were planning for the expansion of the district to include neighboring areas being served. On October 22, 1966, citizens of the proposed Rend Lake District made it an actuality by an enthusiastic vote of 8,513-1,221. Rend Lake College was born.

In December 1966, a Board of Education was formed, and planning began for the acquisition of a centrally located campus. On November 18, 1967, the citizens of District No. 521 showed their continued support by approving a \$3,100,000 bond issue for the construction of such buildings by a vote of 5,263-900.

(Continued at far right on next page)

and Welding Technology programs.

- The \$2.6 million Aquatics Center, which features a six-lane, 75-foot pool with access for the physically challenged, therapy pool and whirlpool. Included are shower and locker room facilities. The RLC Sports Hall of Fame is located in the Aquatics Center Lobby, which doubles as the main entrance to Waugh Gymnasium as well.

- The 20,000-square-foot Coal Mine Training Center opened in Fall 2009. The college was awarded nearly \$2.7 million in federal and state aid to design, engineer and construct the facility, equip it and provide training in anticipation of the resurgence of coal mining in Southern Illinois.

It is located on the west side of campus and includes classroom and office space, operational coal mining equipment and a mock mine which features movable walls and other components, such as a pitch-black interior, to simulate actual mining conditions and a smoke machine to be used for mine rescue drills. The accompanying Mine Rescue and Fire Training Facility was completed in 2010.

- Two greenhouses for botanical research and for use by Horticulture students.

- The restored, one-room Independence Schoolhouse and natural prairie.

- The James "Hummer" Waugh Gymnasium, which includes the Wayne Arnold Aerobic Super-Circuit Fitness Center, coaches' offices and locker rooms for both Warrior and Lady Warrior athletic teams.

- The Learning Resource Center, which includes a library, fine arts facilities, an open computer lab and the Nursing, Art, Theatre and Music programs.

- A Maintenance Building.

- The 22,300-square-foot Mark S. Kern Applied Science Center, which was built in 2005 and houses the Agricultural Business, Ag Production and Management, Ag Mechanics, Heavy Equipment Technology and Diesel Technology programs.

- The North Oasis, which combines a lounge area for students with faculty offices. The North Oasis includes offices for Applied Science and Technology Division and Liberal Arts Division faculty and staff. The Learning Enhancement Center also is located here, as is the Adult Education and Family Literacy Department.

- The South Oasis, which combines lounge areas for students with faculty offices. The South Oasis includes faculty offices for two divisions – Allied Health and

Math and Sciences – along with STARS and Upward Bound grant programs.

- The Rend Lake College Foundation Children's Center, which provides practical laboratory experience for students in the Early Childhood Education program and child care for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and Pre-K of students, faculty and staff and other district residents.

- A Science Building for the sciences and related programs.

- The Sports Center, which includes facilities for volleyball and tennis, and The Hitting Zone, a baseball/softball training complex for area youth 8 and over, plus college teams.

- A Student Center which includes offices for the Center for Community and Corporate Education, Truck Driver Training, Rend Lake College Foundation and Campus Security. State-of-the-art Culinary Arts lab facilities and faculty offices also are located here, as well as the Subway restaurant and accompanying dining area.

The Student Center likewise houses the Marvin W. Scott Executive Board Room and the Pat Kern Private Dining Room.

- A Truck Driver Training facility, where four weeks of intensive training can turn the ambitious unemployed individual into a well-paid transport employee.

- A Vocational Building providing classroom, computer and laboratory space for the Automotive Technology, Architectural Technology, Graphic Design and Machining Technology programs.

In addition, the college provides a land lab for the natural sciences and agriculture program, plus recreational facilities for baseball and softball, a bicycling and walking path, a golf driving range and short-game practice area and a disc golf course.

ADDITIONAL REND LAKE COLLEGE FACILITIES

Off-campus facilities are thriving in Mt. Vernon and Pinckneyville, both of which came into existence in 2002.

- The Rend Lake College MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon, as unique as it is eclectic. [Definition 1 – deriving ideas, style or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources; NOT Definition 2 – Philosophy of, denoting or belonging to a class of ancient philosophers who did not belong to or found any recognized school of thought but selected such doctrines as they wished from various schools.]

The bustling MarketPlace – at the time of publication – boasts the ultramodern

Studio RLC Cosmetology School and Therapeutic Massage programs; a new Nurse Assistant complex for would-be CNAs, EMT-Paramedics and American Heart Association trainees; classrooms and computer labs; the new RLC MarketPlace Fitness Center and Exercise Room; Adult Education and Literacy classrooms; the RLC Children's Center; "Project CHILD," the 12-county Child Care Resource and Referral program; the Kumon Math and Reading Center for youthful learners and overachievers.

Not to overlook the RLC Golf Outlet, a proving ground for business students and a Southern Illinois attraction; the RLC Coffee Shop; popular stops for area shoe-lovers (Shoe Stop), steak-lovers (Lone★Star Steakhouse and Saloon) and style/fashion-lovers (Salon Hollywood and Bon Worth); long-standing State of Illinois One-Stop "roomers," the Department of Human Services and Employment Security, Office of Rehabilitation Services and Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse.

- The Rend Lake College Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus, which can now boast of the possibility of some Perry County residents graduating with an Associate Degree without having to leave "home."

A facility which has been a hit from the get-go in 2002 recently got better with expansion to include a science lab.

No one here is claiming ownership. In no way do they fit the description of "Physical Plant" or even "Facilities."

But if all of the above are geared toward providing educational opportunities, career-technical training, recreational/health outlets and/or a support system for the success story that is Rend Lake College, then how can we overlook additional, undeniable, indispensable resources for the daily delivery of some of our goods in today's world?

- The Internet? Online courses.
- Distance Learning? Videoconferencing which can help alleviate some community differences between the larger haves and the smaller have-nots.
- Telecourses? Providing limited convenience offerings – your time, your place, your schedule.

Thank goodness, also, for the willingness and teamwork from other actual facilities – in-district high schools, public libraries and industrial "friends," to name a few. And it works in reverse, with many cooperating four-year colleges and universities.

AESTHETICS PLUS ▶

Landscaping project approved to add about 400 trees/shrubs over 350 acres

REND LAKE COLLEGE TODAY OCTOBER 1, 1976

Rend Lake College's modern 350-acre campus has been cited by many as one of the finest community college campuses in the state; but it does not take long for one to notice there are few trees surrounding the entire area.

However, the RLC Board of Trustees recently gave its approval to a project calling for a \$31,682 landscaping project, after giving the matter consideration for more than two months.

The landscape design was drawn up by Dr. John Lonnergan (Carbondale), who served as the SIUC Campus Planner for 22 1/2 years and has worked on several other campus projects. The plans call for the landscaping of the immediate Rend Lake College campus and the baseball field on the south side of the campus. Lonnergan said the project will provide a pattern of shade and protective plantings made up of white pines, red pines, oak, maple, dogwood and sweetgum trees.

"We have planned the project to be very informal, while at the same time providing as great a variety of plantings as possible," Lonnergan said. The project consists of about 400 trees and shrubs. Trees will range in size from about 15 to 18 feet tall, he added.

Dr. Allen Y. Baker, member of the RLC Board of Trustees, said on several occasions people from the Illinois Community College system have commented that the RLC campus was one of the finest in the state, but that it badly needed some type of landscaping.

Although immediate plans call for work only in the immediate campus area, Baker said the entire campus would need to be done at some time. He spoke of the possibility of encouraging organizations and civic groups from within the college district to sponsor portions of the college's landscaping needs, similar to the way many college foundations have helped other college's fund their projects. Dr. Clyde Funkhouser, another Board member, said he agreed with Baker's proposal and urged the Board to give the matter its consideration.

Meanwhile, the landscaping firm of Kemco, based in Carbondale, is preparing to start work on the project immediately. Lonnergan said the project would take about six months to complete.



Groundbreaking (cont.)

Enrollment has grown from 198 in 1956 to 992 in January 1969.

Performance of graduates has attested to the quality of the program.

Today's ceremony marks the beginning of construction which will turn these dreams into brick, mortar and stone.

FACULTY

Wayne Arnold
 Barbara Benard
 Heinz K. Boeckmann
 Imogene I. Book
 Max Brandon
 Thomas R. Burke
 Gene Cormier
 Glenn L. Dare
 Sandra Davis
 Carolann DeSelms
 Judson DeWitt
 Eugene Estes
 William Farmer
 Myron Foley
 Frances Giamanco
 Eleanor Hall
 William J. Hazelbauer
 Mark S. Kern
 Ardell W. Kimmel
 Edward P. Kownacki
 Mary Ksycki
 Julien J. Levesque
 Barbara Luchsinger
 Lois M. Mackey
 James McGhee
 Shirley McHaney
 Cheryl Merkens
 Georgine Monken
 William Myers
 Melvin R. Partridge
 William David Patton
 Richard Perrachione
 Rebecca Pettit
 Gela Riley
 Arthur Samford
 Jack Sistler
 Julius R. Swayne
 June Thompson
 John Traver
 Carroll Turner
 Betty Ann Ward
 James E. Waugh
 William Younghusband



Campus Dedication and Open House – Ina, IL SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1971

PROGRAM

Selections RLC Concert Band
Edward Tandy, Conductor

National Anthem

Janet Raney, Student Soloist

Invocation Rev. Joseph Trapp

St. Johns Parish, Dahlgren

St. Clements, McLeansboro

Welcome Dr. James Snyder

Introductions Dr. Allen Baker

Special Presentation to

Dr. Curt Parker Melvin Farlow

Address Hon. Kenneth Gray

Battle Hymn of the Republic

RLC Choir - Dir. Larry Phifer

Address Dr. William Lenoir

Benediction Rev. E.G. Mayes

Corinthian Baptist, Mt. Vernon

BOARD

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Carleton Apple Vice Chair

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Holland Simmons

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Ardell Kimmel Dean, Vo-Tech

James McGhee Dean, Ad.Ed.

Imogene Book Dir., Library

Paul Fitch Business Manager

Robert Webb Plant Supt.

Eleanor Hall Faculty Pres.

Diane Clark Senate Pres.

BUILDINGS

Academic Building (Phase I)

Science Building (Phase I)

South Oasis (Phase I)

Gymnasium (Phase I)

Maintenance Building (Phase I)

Phase II – Administration,

Student Center, LRC, North

Oasis, Vocational-Technical

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Associated Architects:

Caudill, Rowlett Scott and

Fields, Goldman, Magee

(Continued at far right on next page)

Besides adding aesthetic qualities to the \$9.5 million campus, it is hoped the plantings will subdue the strong winds which sweep across the campus during the fall and winter months.

Last winter one faculty member returned to his office after class only to find his papers all over the room and a large window shattered by the wind.

PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE ▶ Snyder: RLC jump-starts building race 'before all bureaucracies settled in'

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN DECEMBER 29, 1974
BY GARY SOSNIECKI (FIRST OF A SERIES)

John A. Logan College at Carterville, Shawnee Community College at Ullin and Rend Lake College at Ina have exhibited substantial progress in a short number of years in the race to construct a permanent campus.

It is a race that apparently has been won by Rend Lake College. Only a few finishing touches remain on the \$500,000 Little Theatre before the sprawling \$9 million campus is complete.

"We're real proud of what we have here," President James M. Snyder says. "We're probably as far along as any community college in the state."

The nine-building campus is situated on a 300-acre site bordered to the west by Rend Lake and to the east by Interstate 57. It was built in two stages, with Phase I buildings ready for occupancy by the fall of 1970.

Phase I included Academic, Science and Gymnasium buildings, plus an Oasis, a combination faculty office building and student lounge. Phase II included Administration and Vocational-Technical buildings, a Student Center and Learning Resource Center and a second Oasis.

A steel maintenance-type building also is being erected as the future home of Rend Lake College's ambitious Coal Mining Technology program, a joint venture with Southeastern Illinois College at Harrisburg and Olney Central College.

Every classroom is carpeted, and all furnishings with the exception of some vocational equipment have been financed by local funds.

"Theoretically, the state pays for 75 percent of the construction and the local effort is 25 percent," Snyder explains. But Rend Lake College's local share was closer to half because state aid for furnishings was not as prevalent as it is today.

"We actually have about \$9.5 million invested totally in our campus," Snyder says. "But if we had to replace it today, it would cost double that."

Even with construction nearly complete, Snyder says wise investments have left the college's building fund with an extra \$500,000.

Why is Rend Lake College so far along with its permanent campus when some other community colleges are just starting construction? Snyder points to several reasons.

First, Rend Lake College is the only community college in Southern Illinois [Kaskaskia College in Centralia, which succeeded Centralia Junior College, is not in the newspaper's circulation area] with a beginning that pre-dates the legislature's 1965 action. The school is an outgrowth of Mt. Vernon Community College, founded in 1955, as an extension of Mt. Vernon Township High School. Rend Lake College continued to hold classes in the high school for three years until Phase I was completed.

More importantly, Rend Lake College "got in on the development of the physical facilities before all the bureaucracies got settled in," Snyder says. Community colleges that are starting building programs now are being saddled with more state red tape, he said.

Snyder takes much of the credit personally for Rend Lake College's head start. As the administrator of junior colleges in three other states before taking the Rend Lake College post in 1967, Snyder says he learned from experience what shortcuts to take and what pitfalls to avoid.

"One thing I learned was to get into the building program early."

Because enrollment is not keeping pace with prior projections, Snyder says Rend Lake College's facilities will take care of school needs for at least another six years "and probably longer."

SUPER SALE ▶ College goes shopping, finds bargain in a MarketPlace of eclectic options

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. SEPTEMBER 17, 2001

If you are looking for some scrumptious Fannie May chocolates or a mouth-watering sweet potato from Lone Star . . . Rend Lake College is the place you ought to be.

The same is true for young fashions by rue 21 or any number of other brand names . . . brass works from all over the world avail-

able from your local Brass Werks world . . . home decor from Kountry Depot Krafts . . . or selections galore from Rack Room Shoes.

The RLC MarketPlace is *the* place you need to be. For (almost) all your shopping needs, present and future, think The Rend Lake College MarketPlace, located in Mt. Vernon.

It is official. Rend Lake College is in the retail business, as of September 10.

In the not-too-distant future, look for a return of the Golf Outlet Store, with an RLC connection.

Shortly thereafter, you can count on various state agencies relocating under one roof, more than likely in the northwest quadrant of the outlet facility formerly known as Jent. It is located on the west edge of Mt. Vernon, just off Interstates 57 and 64 on Potomac Boulevard.

It is the Rend Lake College MarketPlace, as named by RLC Retail Store Co-Manager Bobbi Miller in an on-campus contest.

By July 1 and an official grand opening somewhere around that date, expect to find limited college operations in the portion of the mall to the south of the breezeway in the front. Possibilities include some Center for Business functions, Culinary Arts and Therapeutic Massage programs, computer labs.

One thing is for certain, however. The Rend Lake College MarketPlace is a reality. Now.

And – P.S. please – continue to tell inquisitive friends and neighbors when they ask . . . The purchase was not made with taxpayers' monies . . . Our tax-exempt status does not apply to any of the retail store operations.

Everyone in Mt. Vernon, and the district as a whole, should benefit greatly from a thriving RLC MarketPlace.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 2001

Did you hear the one about the community college that went shopping and could not resist the bargain it found at the low, low sale (and renovation) price of between \$3.5 and \$4 million?

It is a true story.

Looking for additional, off-campus space

to consolidate some of its services in the largest community in the district, Rend Lake College officials were serious when they attracted national attention with their plans to purchase a factory outlet mall on the west edge of Mt. Vernon, about 12 miles north of the main campus in Ina.

The comprehensive two-year college has graduated over 12,500 district residents since its creation in 1967. It was one of the first three institutions to be recognized nationally for its "exemplary cooperation" with business and industry. Its graduates include a national "hero" honored by both the FBI and the Attorney General for his efforts in helping to nab the Oklahoma City bombing terrorist and a classmate who oversees a \$1 billion project involving over 2,000 scientists and engineers for the NASA space program.

But when RLC Trustees plunked down \$300,000 in earnest money toward the purchase of approximately 100,000 square feet in four buildings (and 300 parking spaces) near the intersection of Interstates 57 and 64, their action at the special July Board meeting merited attention in the *Chicago Tribune* and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, among other media.

The transaction involving Rend Lake College, the owners of the mall, the bank which financed the original project and the City of Mt. Vernon is now a done deal. Papers were signed Monday, September 10, according to RLC President Mark S. Kern and Dean for Finance and Administration Bob Carlock.

Taxpayer money will not be used to pay off the debt. Debt-reduction bonds to be sold will be paid off in 10-15 years by rental from other mall tenants.

Administrative rationale in July indicated college representatives "researched this project for over three months and have determined that Jent Factory Mall serves the future needs of the college in Mt. Vernon, the needs of the State of Illinois 'One-Stop



Campus Dedication (cont.)

Interior Designer:

D. Bernard Berg, NSID

General Contractors:

Lipps Construction Co.

Plumbing/HVAC Construction:

H & H Plumbing, Heating and Electric Company

Electrical Construction:

Harrison F. Blades, Inc.

DEDICATION SPEAKER – Dr. WILLIAM B. LENOIR

After receiving his Doctorate in 1965, Dr. Lenoir was appointed Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In addition to his university teaching and research, he has participated as an investigator in several Apollo Applications experiments. In 1967, Dr. Lenoir was appointed a member of the National Aeronautical Space Administration's (NASA) sixth group of scientist-astronauts.

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Conditional Acceptance by RLC Board -

ACADEMIC BUILDING
 Not complete; so furniture and equipment could be stored. / July 29, 1970

OASIS BUILDING (South) / August 12, 1970

SCIENCE BUILDING / August 18, 1970

GYMNASIUM / October 20, 1970

PHASE I CONSTRUCTION
 Completion - 99% / November 17, 1970

FACILITIES TIMELINE

BONNIE LEASE
 Board leases Bonnie campus to house Ag program for three years at \$6,000 per year / May 21, 1968

GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES - R.L.C. INA CAMPUS
 / March 27, 1969

CAMPUS DEDICATION AND OPEN HOUSE
 / September 26, 1971

MAINTENANCE FIRE
 Pipe joint gas leak in Physical Plant Director's Office blamed for fire that destroys Maintenance Bldg. / February 72





Facilities utilization study: weekdays extremely high

F.Y.I. APRIL 29, 1991

A recently completed space utilization report revealed what Rend Lake College officials already knew.

"We are approaching the point (on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.) where we can't schedule more classes. Space isn't available," Vice President Keith Lape told the Board of Trustees Tuesday (April 23).

Add Community Education classes, workshops and seminars and outside groups meeting on-campus and "the utilization of our facilities is extremely high," added Dr. Lape.

The major update of the facility file was the first since 1978, although some revisions were made in 1984. Its importance, noted Dr. Lape, is in relationship to the annual RAMP document and the college's chances for gaining state funding for major projects and renovation of capital projects.

Daytime usage of some classrooms is as high as 98 percent, compared to as little as 15-20 percent for some special lab rooms, according to the report. Evening usage is in the 20-40 percent range.

Some other facts and figures:

- There are 12 structures on campus, including the largest in terms of square footage, the Learning Resource Center (34,800), and the smallest, a greenhouse (706).

- The campus includes 392 classrooms, restrooms or areas to be designated as space for some use.

- There is 165,378 square feet of assignable space.

- Of the 61,581 non-assignable square footage, 605 is custodial-related, 22,822 is circulation, 18,344 is mechanical and 19,910 is structural.

Center' and provides a viable investment opportunity."

Tentative plans call for the college to consolidate its Times Square Campus facility, grant-funded Child Care Resource and Referral Center and some other Mt. Vernon-based operations in 16,000 square feet of the property; mandated State of Illinois services will come together and rent another 34,000 square feet, and eight present tenants are expected to remain in nearly 50,000 square feet of space which they will lease from their new landlords.

The college, in turn, will pay property taxes on space utilized by retailers and will use the remaining space to house offices, potential classrooms and computer labs.

Lone Star Steakhouse, the current anchor at the outdoor mall, is one of those businesses expressing a desire to remain. Other stores currently conducting business are BonWorth, Brass Werks, Capers, Dressbarn, Fannie May, Kountry Depot Krafts and Rack Room Shoes. An outlet golf store is likely to return.

Anticipated renters in the "one-stop comprehensive center" resulting from the Federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 include offices for the Illinois Department of Employment Security, the Illinois Department of Human Services and other nonprofit, service-based organizations.

"If we have the space, there are other things we'd like to do," Kern told a reporter.

College officials have even hinted at the possibility of opening small businesses of its own, which could serve as training tools for students in various programs.

Former Owner Darrell Jent listed the appraised valuation of the property - land, buildings, personal properties and rent receivables - at \$10 million.

College officials anticipate a total payout of \$4-\$4.5 million before they are through with renovation . . . or a little more than \$40 per square foot; Kern indicated he has been told a new facility similar in size might cost \$160 a square foot, with each parking space adding \$1,000.

"We feel we've done well for the college," Kern added. "We're excited about it. We've been wanting to come to Mt. Vernon for a long time."

The forerunner to Rend Lake College was Mt. Vernon Community College. Rend Lake College opened its doors for the first time in Fall 1967 and continued to use facilities around the campus of Mt. Vernon Township High School until moving to Ina in 1970.

INJURIES MINIMAL

No lie! No strings attached, Pinocchio! Bus of 4th-graders, Academic(s) collide

MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS NOVEMBER 9, 1992

Several children received bumps and bruises, but there were no serious injuries reported after a bus carrying fourth-graders from Mt. Vernon's Horace Mann School failed to clear an overpass Friday (November 8) at Rend Lake College, Mann Principal Jerry Clemens said Saturday morning.

"We probably had two kids with split lips and one girl had a bruise under her eye," Clemens said. "We checked all the kids out when they got back to school. There were some bumps and bruises, but nothing serious."

According to Clemens, the accident occurred around 1:45 p.m. Friday when the top of the bus struck the Academic Building overpass located on the Ina college's campus.

The bus, owned by Beck Bus Transportation, was carrying approximately 45 pupils and six adults who had gone to the college to attend a performance of "Pinocchio."

Over 1,700 area students attended the free performances by the National Marionette Theatre.

MINI-BUS MISHAP

RLC Academic Building plays role in week-long Softball Tournament

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. MAY 4-10, 1998

MT. VERNON-CARTERVILLE-INA-MARION - Lady Warrior Softball Coach Dave Ellingsworth indicated Tuesday night (April 28) at the annual Athletic Banquet that the next time he agreed to host a post-season tournament, he hoped somebody would just go ahead and shoot him instead.

(Note to any unstable individuals out there who might read this: Do NOT take him literally. The statement was made merely in jest.)

Earlier in the day, some RLC students in second-floor Academic Building classrooms may have felt as if they had been shot.

The mini-bus carrying the Belleville Area College Softball Team smashed into the overpass as approximately 12:20 p.m. on its way to the rain-delayed Region XXIV South Section Tournament being hosted by Ellingsworth & Friends.

The mini-bus, about 9 1/2-10 feet in height, failed to clear the eight-foot ceiling.

Four players required immediate atten-

tion for injuries sustained in the accident, along with one RLC student in the building above. Before all was said and done, all 16 players and both coaches, one of whom was driving, were transported by ambulances to Good Samaritan Regional Health Center in Mt. Vernon to be checked for precautionary reasons.

Everyone involved had been released by mid-afternoon.

Remaining tournament games, including the scheduled 1 p.m. game matching 2-0 BAC versus 2-0 RLC, were postponed for the rest of the day.

So a tournament that was supposed to have been played Thursday and Friday, April 30-May 1, was moved back yet another day, although not by rain and soggy conditions as had been the case each delay up to then.

With a midnight Wednesday deadline looming to determine two teams to advance to the Region XXIV Final Four this Friday and Saturday in Peoria, rain again was forecast for Wednesday.

That rain did hit Wednesday, but the tournament was able to be played starting an hour and a half later in Marion on a crushed-brick field.

All told, the eight-team, double-elimination South Section covered seven days, with games played at Quality Times Park on Mt. Vernon, as originally planned, on the John A. Logan campus, at Marion's Ray Fosse Park, on the host Lady Warriors' home field and then, finally, back at Marion.

The Lady Dutchwomen returned Wednesday to secure one of those Final Four berths with a 2-0 win over the Rend Lakers. Two of the individuals injured Tuesday were unable to play; one of those is still undergoing treatment.

Top-seeded Logan was then eliminated by RLC in the second game, also by a 2-0 score.

Advancing will be the No. 3 seed (26-18 Rend Lake College) and No. 4 seed (BAC),

while nationally ranked Logan (30-5-2) and No. 2 seed Wabash Valley (40-16) – which lost to both RLC and BAC in 1-0 decisions – stay home licking their wounds. North Section qualifiers Illinois Central, the host and perennial power, and Danville Area await the competition in the double-elimination finale.

Coach Ellingsworth, without a doubt, is elated to advance. A few more victories and his team could be returning to the NJCAA Fast-Pitch National Championships for the second time in three years.

But perhaps Section Tournament Director Ellingsworth is even more elated to have this year's South Section behind him.

BENTON EVENING NEWS APRIL 29, 1998
By BRETT AUTEN / AMERICAN NEWS SERVICE

A scheduled make-up game in the South Sectional Softball Tournament was postponed again Tuesday after a bus carrying out-of-town players crashed into a raised walkway located on the west end of Rend Lake's campus.

Female athletes on the Belleville Area College softball team were riding in a small bus when the accident occurred just before 1 p.m.

According to Illinois State Police reports, Catherine M. Bernal, 35, of Belleville was driving the bus east on the school's main roadway when the top of the vehicle hit the bottom of a raised walkway of the Academic Building.

All 18 passengers on the bus – 16 players and two coaches – were taken to Good Samaritan Regional Health Center, said a spokesman for the Jefferson County Fire Protection District.

Litton Ambulance Service was also at the scene.

Three of the students who were in the building at the time of the accident were taken in for precautionary reasons.

"We were fortunate that none of the coaches or athletes were severely injured," Rend Lake College Softball Coach Dave Ellingsworth said. "It's an unfortunate in-

* - * - *

What? Apparently once was not enough. Really.

A mini-bus carrying softball players from Southwestern Illinois Community College to a post-season tournament game on the Rend Lake College campus was the last to hit the Academic Building, which it was attempting to drive under.

That was the final straw . . . or at least the straw that stirred state legislators into action. A road around campus to the north – in the original plans – was finally added to alleviate vehicles having to drive through the middle of campus. It may have been the final "hit," but it certainly was not the first. The two-story structure was struck more often than you might think over the years.

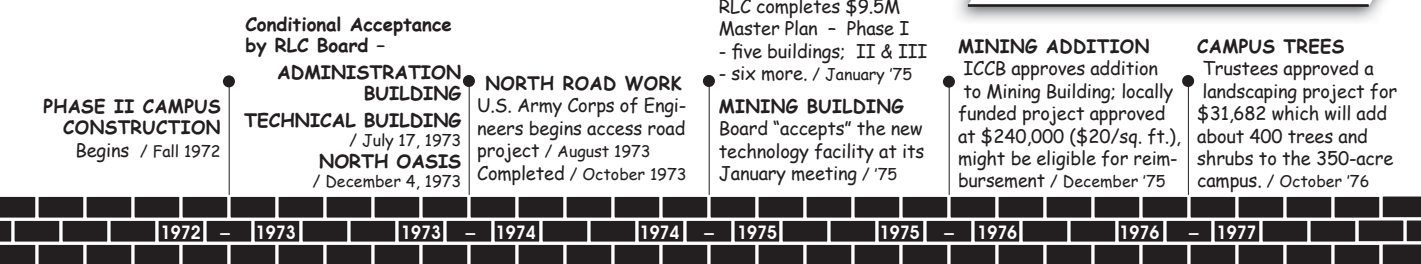
Would you believe? One coach/driver, who shall remain anonymous, from Wabash Valley College was behind the wheel twice when too-tall vehicles made roof-line contact and were stuck. Twice! Really.

* - * - *

Trees plantings in 1973 to grow with student body

APRIL 1973
Approximately 10,000 trees and shrubs were planted around campus by Science Instructors Dr. Eugene Estes and Dr. Julius Swayne, Physical Plant Director Bob Webb and staff, as well as volunteer students. Trees planted include oak, sweetgum, ash, tulip, poplar, sycamore, pine and walnut.

VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS ON-CAMPUS
With 3,000-sq. ft. expansion of Maintenance Building to house Automotive program, all Vocational programs now on campus except for Cosmetology / Fall 1973





Adult Ed Learning Center helps program continuity

REGISTER-NEWS FEBRUARY 26, 1994
BY MARK ALLEN

MT. VERNON – Adults continuing their education have a “comfortable, non-threatening place to learn” thanks to the people who helped make Rend Lake College’s Adult Learning Center a success, a college official says.

RLC held an appreciation event Friday (February 25) at the center which opened in September at 300 S. 19th St.

In the past, the college held its Adult Education courses in rooms at the Kenneth Martin Center and Horace Mann School, said Barbara Bauernfeind, Director of RLC’s Skills Center.

“It gives a lot of continuity to the program,” Bauernfeind said. “It’s important for adults to have a place that is not a typical school setting.”

For those adults who had bad experiences in school, a more homelike setting helps them loosen up, Bauernfeind said.

“It’s a comfortable, homey atmosphere,” said Lynettee Heppe, Basic Skills Teacher. “If students don’t feel comfortable, they tend to clam up and not express their feelings or share their learning experiences.”

Teresa Martin, GED Preparation Teacher, said the program has “never had a place just of our own.” It was squeezed into small places in the past, she said, but now has room for computers and testing.

Many of her students walk to class and enjoy the location, Martin said.

Bauernfeind said the building allows parents to bring children with them. The children are helped with their homework in a separate room by high school students.

cident, but it’s not the first time something like this has happened.”

A spokesman at Good Samaritan said all of the passengers were treated and released.

Though no serious injuries were reported, some members of the team received neck braces to wear for the day and full exams were given by paramedics who arrived on the scene for strictly precautionary reasons.

Denny Litton of Litton Ambulance said players were immobilized on stretchers as a precautionary measure before being taken to Good Samaritan.

None of the injuries was serious, amounting to simple bumps and bruises, authorities said.

Ellingsworth denied reports that the bus, which was lodged underneath the raised walkway for over an hour, was speeding at an excess of 40 miles per hour at the time of the impact.

“There is no way the driver could have been going that fast,” he said. “We have several signs posted and the big curve out there right when you come into the campus. It could have happened to anyone.”

No citations were issued in the accident. Bernal was wearing her seat belt at the time of the accident.

The game between Belleville and Rend Lake College was rescheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday.

OUTREACH CENTER Hamilton County residents to staff facility, provide answers to education

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. JULY 8-21, 1991

Rend Lake College is hoping to “reach out and touch someone” in the McLeansboro/Hamilton County area.

Someone, perhaps, who does not want to have to drive 30 miles just to inquire about a particular class or program. Or maybe someone who is a bit intimidated by the thought of a college campus or college lifestyle.

With tonight’s opening (July 8) of the first “Outreach Center” in McLeansboro, RLC officials are attempting to make a college education a reality for even more of the district.

The RLC-McLeansboro Outreach Center will be housed in the Chamber of Commerce Building on the east side of the square. It will be open from 4-7 p.m. Mondays, with full-time staff from Hamilton County available to provide information and answer questions.

Representing the college on a regular basis will be Jeannie Brockett, Secretary for Cooperative Education and Job Placement; Cathy Cross, Arts and Communications Department Secretary; Julie Drone, Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department and Athletics Secretary, and Ellen Kirsch, AAA Department and Literacy Program Secretary. Others may fill in when needed.

“The idea is to help people who may have been hesitant in the past to take the first step,” former RLC President Jon Astroth explained the reasoning behind establishment of the center. “Hopefully, through the Outreach Center, they will be dealing with people they know and trust.”

According to Dean of Student Services Pam Smith, the employees staffing the center “work year-round at the college, so they know how most everything is done. If they don’t know the answer to an individual’s question, they can take a name and number and make sure someone else gets back in touch with that person.

“We are hoping a lot of people take advantage of this opportunity to come in and ask questions about Rend Lake College. It is an effort to make college services more convenient,” Smith added.

The special off-campus registration conducted prior to the start of each semester in McLeansboro will be conducted July 29 at the Outreach Center for Fall ’91. Spring registration is slated December 2. Prospective students also will be able to take ASSET, the college’s assessment test for placement in English, reading and math courses, through the center on those dates.

Smith praised the cooperative efforts of the city of McLeansboro in making the Outreach Center a reality, in particular RLC Foundation Board Member Hunt Bonan and Chamber of Commerce Representative Deloris Hayes.

“The Chamber of Commerce has been extremely cooperative, and they are letting us have use of the building for free,” noted Smith. “It is a good service for the people of McLeansboro and Hamilton County.”

CLOCK TOWER DEDICATION Changing times/tunes: Staff builds campus showpiece brick-by-brick

SEPTEMBER 15, 2002

The program began with a Clock Tower Carillon selection, “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies,” and concluded with a Clock Tower

Carillon rendition of "Autumn Leaves."

Does that sound like it might have been something special, with the theme, "Changing with the Times . . . Celebrating 35 Years of Excellence?"

It was a gorgeous Sunday afternoon, and the official gathering on September 15, 2002 was an outdoor Dedication Ceremony for the newest campus showcase centerpiece, the Rend Lake College Staff Clock Tower.

The project instigated by the RLC Foundation was built entirely with designated bricks funded by donations and pledges from Rend Lake College faculty, staff, retirees and Trustees.

Brick "pavers," according to the program scorecard, included 149 representatives of the current faculty and staff, 24 retirees and five Trustees, as well as Architects Walton and Associates . . . 179 strong building blocks, including two donors who doubled-up with their generosity.

President Mark S. Kern welcomed honorees and guests to the 1:30 p.m. festivities.

Remarks were provided by two of the brick-builders – Jim Waugh, former faculty member, coach and Athletic Director (representing the retirees) and Allied Health Associate Professor Bonnie Tolbert (representing staff).

Recognition of Plaque Presentations was shared by Randall Shively, RLC Director of Physical Plant, and RLC Foundation Executive Director Pat Mitchell.

A campus Open House and refreshments prepared by Culinary Arts Instructor Diane Catalfamo were available following the formal program. Dean of Student Services Mary Roe explained tour procedures for those taking advantage of the Open House.

R.L.C. FOUNDATION 2001 ANNUAL DINNER PROGRAM

The Rend Lake College Clock Tower has a nice ring to it. That was the feeling of both RLC President Mark S. Kern and RLC Foundation Executive Director Pat Mitchell, who first proposed the idea to faculty and staff during Fall Semester 2001 In-Service in October. Their sales pitch: "By pledging or buying bricks, you will be supporting enhancement of our campus and building a lasting monument you or your family

will find very meaningful, especially in the future."

That apparently was the feeling of other college personnel as well. Less than a month after the idea was first pitched, all 146 bricks needed to fund the project – and then some, 170 in all, had been purchased. The project was a "Go," to be completed this spring. The proud owners will be 155 current administrators, faculty and staff, plus 15 former Rend Lake College employees. (A few of those individuals went from employee to retiree prior to the Dedication Ceremony the following fall.) Those numbers include 30 staff members who served as Clock Tower Captains soliciting support from colleagues.

How appropriate. While the towering monument will be the focal point of campus when finished, it will be named in recognition of an outstanding staff which has been central to the quality education available to Rend Lake College students for the past 35 years. Approximately 13,000 of those students have taken advantage of those building blocks to obtain degrees and/or certificates; countless others have taken classes for personal gain or other reasons, or they remain in pursuit of the same objective.

✳ The Clock Tower will provide a landmark located in the center of campus that will be at Rend Lake College for many years to come. The tower can be seen from Interstate 57.

✳ The carillons will have the ability to chime hourly and/or play music. For example, on September 11, had the clock tower existed, "America the Beautiful" could have been played; Commencement music can play at graduation and Christmas music during the holiday season.

✳ This 35-foot structure will be surrounded by four benches and two reflecting pools. The walkway under the tower will have RLC staff names engraved in 8-inch square paving bricks. The names of people who work at the college will be together for years to come.

✳ For the retirees, the Clock Tower will be a remembrance of their years at Rend Lake College . . . an everlasting monument for the retirees and future generations to visit.



First Bookstore in trailer, Library in former church

1967

- The first RLC Bookstore was in a 190-foot by 46-foot trailer located next to the Administration Building, a former house across the street from the Mt. Vernon Township High School campus.
- The first RLC Library was around the block and across the street in the former First Baptist Church. Some faculty offices were next door in the old Church Parsonage.
- The lease was extended at the November 1970 Board Meeting to allow Mechanical Technology classes to continue to be taught at the old Hotel Emerson building in downtown Mt. Vernon.



Trustees choose to take Campus Subway in 2003

BOARD MINUTES JUNE 20, 2003

Trustees entered into a lease with Subway to provide food service on-campus, replacing cafeteria-style operations of the past.

Administrators said it would "make better use of existing facilities and allow the college to enhance existing curriculum" in selling the idea, not to mention offering food options "which are more in line with students' wants and needs."

Subway will utilize remodeled space in the middle of the Student Center, formerly referred to as the Private Dining Area, with the former cafeteria and preparation facilities re-worked for an expanding Culinary Arts Management program.

FACILITIES TIMELINE

● **4-H LEASE APPROVED** with Jefferson Co. 4-H Foundation and Franklin Co. Extension Facilities, Inc. / March 19, '80

● **R.L.C. SIGN / I-57** Sign along Interstate 57 represents cooperative effort by Foundation and RLC Alumni Assn. / Fall '81

● **"NO" TO \$4M BOND Referendum fails for new Vocational Lab, additional classrooms** 8,980-7,191 / March 16, '82

1977 - 1978

1978 - 1979

1979 - 1980

1980 - 1981

1981 - 1982



Mt. Vernon Fitness Center moves to RLC MarketPlace

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE
JANUARY 31, 2013

Need a place to work out for the upcoming summer season? Want to have a quick run on the treadmill or a place for a short exercise video? Thanks to the growing Rend Lake College Fitness Centers – now with a new location and more exercise classes – students can do just that and more.

Conveniently located between the RLC Golf Outlet and Shoe Stop at the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon, the newest Fitness Center is ready for gym-goers to use. It has all the exercise equipment someone would need to stay in shape, including treadmills, Stairmasters, exercise bikes, weights and a second room where yoga classes and fitness mixes are held. If a member wants to try another exercise video or routine, a projector is available as well as a curtain to seclude the room for a private workout. Even with all of these changes in a new facility, Director Tony Etnier said there will be more.

“We are going to continue to make improvements,” he said. “We are looking at putting in another restroom, adding showers, changing rooms, maybe knocking out a wall and increasing the space we have.” In the near future, a Zumba class will be added to the schedule, as well as a possible spinning class.

For \$53 a semester, anyone can gain access to Fitness Centers on-campus and at the MarketPlace. And members can hop into any of the exercise classes at no extra charge.

The RLC MarketPlace Fitness Center is open seven days a week – 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

~ Brecca Mullinax

REND LAKE COLLEGE STAFF CLOCK TOWER BRICK CONTRIBUTORS

Boldface denotes fund-raisers who were Clock Tower Captains

STAFF

□ Michael Adamson □ Sharon Beasley □ **Trish Bennett-Minor** □ Deborah Bennis □ Rebecca Biggs □ Sarah Bildersbeck □ Ed Billingsley □ Nicki Gray Bowlin □ Mary Bornheimer □ Andrea Boucher □ Annette Braden □ Lynn Brand □ Tranae Brockhouse □ **Ann Bullock** □ Mike Burris □ Paul Burris □ **Cindy Caldwell** □ Wayne Caplinger □ **Bob Carlock** [In Memory of Jim Hinman] □ Doug Carlson □ Shari Carpenter □ Jerry Case □ Diane Catalfamo □ Dr. Homer Cissell □ Mark Clark □ Monica Clark □ Russell Clendenin □ **Cindy Corn** □ Linda Cox □ Cathy Cross □ Barbara Crouse □ Don Darnell □ Barb Davenport □ David Davis □ Kimberly Davis □ Peggy Davis □ **William Dill** □ Janice Dillon □ **Art Dobrzynski** □ Danyelle Douglass □ Rusty Downen □ Kelly Downes □ Kelly Eubanks □ Dorothy Feira □ **John Fisher** □ Mark Ford □ Michelle Garrett □ Brenda Garvin □ Nina Gaspar □ Dawn Gibson □ **Tina Grounds** □ Christy Hamilton □ Dennis Hamson □ Rita Harriss □ Kim Harvey □ Mary Hays □ Brenda Heinzmann □ Trinda Heitmeyer □ Traci Hempen □ **Ginger Hogan** □ Clay Holman □ Steve Holman □ Norman Hopkins □ **Therese Howard** □ Lori Ann Huffman □ Frank Hughey □ **Jean Huie** □ Celeste Hunt □ Terry Hutson □ D.J. Johnson [Dedicated to Dr. Elaine Johnson] □ Jody Johnson □ Bob Kelley [In Honor of Kathleen Kelley] □ Lana Kern □ Laura Kern □ **Mark Kern** [In Memory of Doug Leeck] □ Wilanna Kiefer □ Jeffrey Kindhart □ Angie Kistner □ Christina Kuberski □ Lynda Laningham □ Karla Lewis □ Mary Ann Lewis □ Jennifer Tarantino Linsin □ Sandra Lipe □ Donald Lynch □ Beth Mandrell □ Cary Marshall □ Glenna Maxwell □ Diane Metzger □ Tom Mikutis □ Donnie Millenbine □ **Bobbi Miller** □ **Pat Mitchell** □ Jeannie Mitchell-Collins □ Curt Mowrer □ Michael Mullen □ **Julie Mumbower** □ Paula Myers □ Chris Nielsen □ Linda Odle □ Gloria Oliver □ Gary Otey □ Julie Oxford □ **Lisa Payne** (2) □ **Lisa Price** (2) □ **Lori Ragland** □ Phyllis Rice □ Sharon Richardson □ Mary Roe □ Connie Ruffino □ Ed Ruffino □ **Cheri Rushing** □ Joseph Henry Rust □ Wayne Sampson □ Sue Scattone □ Mike Sevenski □ **Salah Shakir** □ **Randall Shively** □ Roy Simpkins □ Christopher Sink □ **Gilbert Sink** □ Peggy Slack □ Gloria Sloan-Reel □ David Smith [In Memory of John Fertaly] □ Wendy Smith □ Cindy Sniderwin □ Ron and Sherry Somers □ Heather Stanton □ Beth Mitchell Stevens □ Christie Stover □ Tammy Tadlock □ Hollie Taylor □ Stacy Tessone □ Larry Thuilliez □ Bonnie Tolbert □ **Dr. Sue Santoro Tomlin** □ Donnie Trogolo □ Robert Varis □ Gary Wade □ David Warner □ Barbara Waterbury □ Tracey Webb □ Sandra West □ Joe West □ Becky Williamson □ **Andrea Witthoft** □ Trudee Wynn □ Robin Yucus

TRUSTEES

□ Hunt Bonan □ Randall Crocker □ Dave Edmison □ Senator Bill and Norma O'Daniel □ Marvin W. Scott

RETIREES / FORMER EMPLOYEES

□ Imogene Kolkhorst Ansoorge □ **Wayne Arnold** □ Glenda Atkins □ **Barbara Bauernfeind** □ Sarah Capps □ Rosemary Carnes [In Memory of Dennis H. Carnes] □ **Terry Clark** □ Dr. Evelyn Claxton □ Dwight Dame □ Judson DeWitt □ Dr. Eugene Estes □ **Frank Fenton** □ E. Richard Heaton [In Memory] □ Dr. Barbara Luchsinger [In Memory of Dr. James M. Snyder] □ Wallace P. Mick [In Memory of Rose Ann Mick] □ Paul Ossig □ Dr. Howard Rawlinson [In Memory] □ Jerri Ruemmler □ David Scott □ Larry Sidwell [In Memory of Betty Ann Ward and Floyd Dressel] □ Jane Spencer □ Leroy Spotanski □ Sandra VanCleve □ Jim and Lila Waugh

ARCHITECTS

□ Don Walton and Associates

[] In Memory of / Dedicated to a former member of the RLC Staff or Board of Trustees

INDEPENDENCE DAY! ▶ One-room schoolhouse finds a new home in natural prairie grass setting

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. DECEMBER 11, 1995

Historians may want to take note: Rend Lake College officials made a move of historical significance on Wednesday, December 6, 1995.

That is when the college stepped back in time to prevent a piece of history for the benefit of future generations.

Independence School, previously located in Northern Township of Franklin County, made the 11-mile trek on a cold, gray day and settled into its new home on the natural prairie acreage of the Rend Lake College campus.

And it is here (in Ina) to stay, less than one month after it was within 24 hours of being demolished.

The one-room school is approximately 28 feet by 32 feet in size and includes the original 12-foot slate blackboard.

It is believed to be about 75 years old – built in the 1920s – and served as a school until consolidation took place around 1947-50. Since that time it has served as a polling place and as home for the Independence Indians and Maidens 4-H Clubs.

RLC Department Chair Terry Clark first learned of the school's plight on Election Night early last month, when he was informed by his mother that the polling site was scheduled to be torn down beginning the next day to make room for a new township fire station. Clark wasted no time getting on the telephone to his brother, Northern Township Supervisor David Clark, requesting the demolition be put on temporary hold until he could see if there was a better alternative.

Terry Clark and other members of the college community had been seeking just such a building to add to the prairie project, which features grasses and flowers native to Illinois.

Northern Township officials, as things turned out, were more than happy to donate the old schoolhouse to the college, and college officials were elated to accept the offer and take the required steps to make the move a reality.

Professional mover Jim Fisher, owner of

William Keene Inc. of Tamaroa, was responsible for the change in scenery. It took over six hours to make the journey, from just off the Ewing blacktop at the intersection of Thompsonville and Ewing roads, across the railroad tracks near Lee-J's Cafe, north briefly on Route 37 to the Big Muddy River Correctional Center parking lot, across the field back to the County Line Road, over the Interstate and around the campus to its final destination. The move through the Big Muddy River parking area was done to avoid major power lines.

The actual move was not completed until the following morning, when the schoolhouse was lowered onto its new block foundation.

It has been relocated on the southeast corner of a 25-acre natural prairie grass field just to the north of the main campus.

Although the original smokestack was beyond saving prior to the move, the building does come with a large, potbelly stove and a hand pump.

College officials hope to have the newest addition to campus ready for public viewing by next fall. It could serve as the showpiece for a natural educational setting for area school children and interested historical groups.

Restoration details in the months ahead will be taken under consideration by a Prairie Project Committee, which includes President Mark S. Kern, Vice President Steve Tietz, Department Chairs Clark and Larry Williams, Instructors Lisa Volk and Sue Trammell, Directors Randall Shively, Bob Ross and Jay Lewis and Groundskeeper Danny Broy.

Donations to assist in the restoration project will be accepted through the RLC Foundation, designated for the Prairie Schoolhouse. Authentic school desks and chairs are among the items needed most.

A small outdoor amphitheater already is under way near the prairie layout.

Trails through the natural prairie grass field have been established in recent months, and Volk and other committee members are planning on identifying the many grasses, plants and flowers in the near future.

Three utility companies – CIPS, South-eastern Illinois Co-op and Tri-County Electric Cooperative – all donated manpower to shut off power and raise electric lines along the route.

Instructor Lee Wilson volunteered his time in helping lay foundation blocks. Another area resident, upon learning of the project, has indicated he will donate an American flag which is believed to be the one hanging in the last one-room schoolhouse in the state at the time it closed its doors.

In addition, the eighth-grade class at Ewing Grade School has agreed to make Independence School its project for the year and will research the school's history. Most of the students who attended Independence School began attending Ewing at the time of consolidation, RLC officials have been led to believe, but some may have gone to Akin and a few to Macedonia.

Information regarding the schoolhouse is encouraged and should be directed to members of the RLC Prairie Project Committee.

LESSON IN THE 3 R's ▶ Restored, ready, raring to go... door opens to old-fashioned education

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 1996

Rend Lake College officials are hoping area residents share their interest and enthusiasm in the value of an old-fashioned education.

Pay attention, class. Remember the important date of Sunday, November 3, between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. You may be tested.

Today's lesson in the 3 R's will include: Restored. Ready. Raring.

Independence School, the one-room schoolhouse built in 1917 and moved from Northern Township in Franklin County to the RLC campus last winter, has been restored. Several individuals at the college are now ready to show off the new / old facility, and they are raring to go with educational tours for the general public, beginning Sunday afternoon.



Gas leak, fire destroy Maintenance Building

FEBRUARY 1972

A gas leak from a pipe joint in the Physical Plant Director's Office was blamed for the fire which destroyed the Maintenance Building on-campus.

According to reports, the gas hovered until it reached one of the facility's furnaces. At that instant, the pilot light ignited, causing an explosion.

The intense heat eventually melted solenoids in four furnaces, causing more gas to leak.

Everything was damaged or destroyed, Trustees were told, but the building and its contents were covered 100 percent by insurance, according to Business Manager Paul Fitch.

Dr. James M. Snyder said the insurance company will take care of removing the old building and replacing it. Restoration should be taken care of within a couple of months.



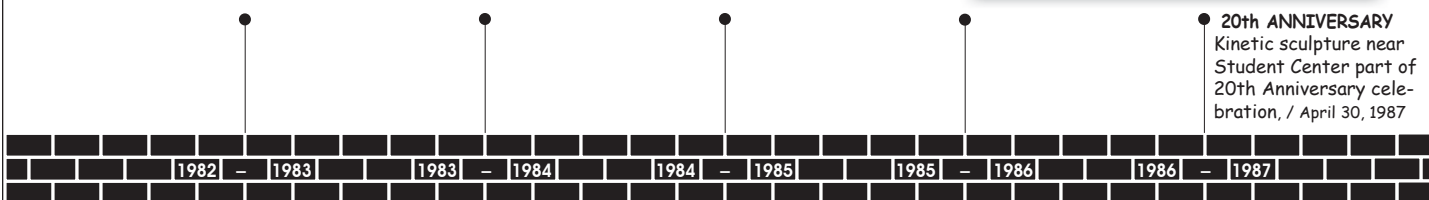
Sewage system project awarded for \$149,500

BOARD MEETINGS 1970

In February, the Rend Lake Conservancy District informed Rend Lake College officials it would provide the water system, but due to cutbacks in federal funding and grants would not provide both water and sewer service and suggested the college provide its own sewage disposal system.

Four months later, the lowest of four bids – \$149,500 – was awarded to Holtzman and Silverman of Southfield, MI.

FACILITIES TIMELINE





Renovated Welding Lab one of the best in nation?

R.L.C. QUARTERLY AUGUST 2011

A \$278,439 Welding Lab renovation, spanning two years in the Advanced Technology Center at Rend Lake College, is ready for students this semester.

According to Physical Plant Director Randall Shively, 100 percent of the renovation work was done by college staff. That means big savings over the long haul. Moreover, the project was completed nearly \$11,000 under budget with about 90 percent paid by a U.S. Department of Labor grant.

The three-phase renovation began in 2009 with 14 state-of-the-art welding booths. Thirteen more were added in the second phase and the last 11 were installed in the final phase this summer.

It is impossible to say for sure, but with the combined experience of faculty and staff dedicated to the project, it would not be a fool's bet that RLC now has one of the best college welding labs in the nation.

Thanks to good planning, the college was able to install 38 brand-new booths that offer students a foot more of space in which to work, without changing the amount of booths in the lab.

"Not only do we offer a quality working environment for the students, but the ventilation and lighting in the booths exceed everyone's expectations," Shively said.

An "Open House" for the general public is planned from 2-4 p.m. for the reborn Independence School, which has been completely refurbished in recent months and is located just west of the main campus, in the midst of natural grasslands.

The addition of the classroom structure, approximately 32 feet by 40 feet, and a newly constructed outdoor amphitheater in the nearby woods are just two of the attention-getters in a prairie area founded in the college's early beginnings by two former science instructors, Dr. Julius Swayne and Dr. Eugene Estes, and then-Agriculture Instructor Mark S. Kern, now the college President.

Visitors Sunday afternoon will have an opportunity to see the one-room schoolhouse that cost \$200 to build originally, view related memorabilia, take guided tours through the prairie (weather permitting) and learn more about local history. Guests are expected to include some students who remember attending Independence School, along with a surviving teacher.

French explorers first applied the word "prairie" to the natural grasslands of the Mississippi Valley nearly 300 years ago. Today, very little prairie of any kind remains.

"Artificial prairies are being planted in a number of restoration projects such as this one. These protected remnants and restorations are precious living museums of our prairie heritage and the last refuges where rare prairie plants can be seen and studied," commented current RLC Science Instructor Lisa Volk, a key member of the college's Prairie Restoration Committee.

The main purpose for the "Open House," added RLC Dean Terry Clark, another member of the committee, "is to acquaint people in the Southern Illinois community with the new location of the schoolhouse and the efforts that have been made to restore it, and to see what possibilities it may offer to classes, students and other organizations in the future."

Students quit attending Independence School in the mid-1940s when consolidation became a necessity due to declining enrollments. After that, the building served as the polling place for Northern Township residents for many years. It also was used as a meeting place for local 4-H Clubs and served the congregation of Liberty Baptist Church briefly after their building burned in 1955.

It was moved from its location just north

of where Thompsonville Road intersects with the Ewing Road (central to the two-mile square district it covered) to the college campus to make room for a new Ewing-Northern Fire Protection District station.

"Today," according to a local history prepared as a recent school project, "it serves as a reminder of one of the important ways our rural districts provided education for the citizens of tomorrow (our ancestors)."

The building, according to the history, "consisted of an indoor coal room, cloak rooms for boys and girls, a pitcher pump connected to the cistern (which gathered water from the roof) and rows of children's desks in the center, facing the teacher's desk which was in front of the slate backboard on the south. Large windows on the west, north and especially the east provided light and ventilation. There were, of course, no electric lights and no fans. (Electricity arrived in most of the area around 1940.)"

Prairie Restoration Committee members are still seeking artifacts to place in the schoolhouse. Items already donated include student desks (more are needed), piano, textbooks, maps, flag, bell and wood railing. The facility also contains an original slate blackboard along the wall and a furnace installed by Mt. Vernon-based Benoist Brothers.

Committee members, in addition to Kern, Clark and Volk, are Science Department Chair Larry Williams, Instructors Dr. Sue Trammell and Barbara Davenport and Physical Plant personnel Randall Shively (Director) and Danny Broy. Many others have contributed to the project as well.

EGYPTIAN TREASURES One-room schoolhouses a dying breed; Independence survives passage of time

SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN OCTOBER 3, 1997
COLUMN BY LINDA SICKLER

If there was an endangered species list for buildings, the one-room schoolhouse would certainly be on it.

Not too many years ago, the abandoned little buildings were a common sight along country roads and blacktops throughout Southern Illinois. But most have fallen victim to neglect or outright demolition.

There was a time when the little schools not only provided educational opportunities for rural children, they also were a center of social activity. There were box suppers, poetry readings and other events that drew neighbors together.

Often, the children attended school only in the winter. During the spring and summer months, they were needed to help out at home.

Life for the teachers was hard. They had to arrive early to build a fire in the stove to warm the building, teach all day, then clean the schoolhouse after the children had left.

Teachers got very little pay for all this hard work. And there was a time when they weren't allowed to be married.

Occasionally you'll find a former schoolhouse that has been turned into a residence. Some still stand to house machinery.

And a very few have been moved and turned into museums. Several years ago, Calvin and Jean Ibendahl moved the Roots School to the lawn of their historic house.

In 1983, the Purdy School was moved from Old DuQuoin to John A. Logan College at Carterville. Six weeks of classes taught by retired teachers who once taught in one-room schools are given there each year.

First- through sixth-graders from local schools attend these living history classes. The school also is open to visitors during an open house held in the spring and fall.

Now, another one-room school has been rescued. The Independence School, which was built in 1917 in Northern Township in Franklin County, was moved to Rend Lake College last winter and restored.

The old school cost just \$200 to build 80 years ago. It was used as a school until the 1940s, when the district was consolidated because of declining enrollment.

Then the school was used as a polling place, a 4-H Club meeting place and briefly as a church for the congregation of the Liberty Baptist Church. Now, the school is part of an interesting addition to Rend Lake College, which includes a 40-acre reconstructed prairie.

The prairie was started by two former Science Instructors at the college, Julius Swayne and Eugene Estes, and former Agriculture Instructor Mark Kern, who now happens to be the college President. Today, only tiny patches of genuine prairie remain, so artificial prairies are created by planting the types of plants found in the original,

including Indian grass, big bluestem and switch grass.

"The Independence School was the last one-room schoolhouse in the area," Pat Mitchell, the Rend Lake College Director of Resource Development, said. "It was moved to the west end of the college so it would be in a setting with trees and fields."

Rend Lake College's prairie features a wood-chip, 1.5-mile trail that winds through the prairie. "It is about a 15 to 20-minute walk," Mitchell said.

An outdoor amphitheater recently was constructed in the nearby woods. The entire area will be used for educational tours, but you can get a preview Saturday during the Heritage Festival, a one-day event that will capture that old-time school feeling.

The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is sponsored jointly by Rend Lake College and Rend Lake Resort, which will distribute discount coupons for its Windows Restaurant, and will feature fresh apple butter, carriage rides, craft demonstrations and an appearance by Mark Twain, as portrayed by Loren Taylor of Carbondale.

The school can be reached from Interstate 57 at Exit No. 83 or from Illinois 37. It is located behind the college on the Ken Gray Parkway.

Area schools, civic organizations and other groups are invited to arrange tour dates by calling the Rend Lake College President's Office at 437-5321, Ext. 243.

For another look at the early days of education, there is a photo exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution that is on display at the John A. Logan College Museum and Art Galleries in Carterville through October 27.

"The Prairie Schoolhouse" features 42 black-and-white photographs that comprise a photo essay by John Martin Campbell, an anthropologist and photographer. While none of the schools that are pictured are local, the entire display captures that nostalgic feeling for a way of life that is long gone.

These 30 schoolhouses were built between 1885 and 1940 by homesteaders in the American West. Campbell himself attended a two-room schoolhouse in Washington state.



Science/Computer wing has three rooms named

BOARD MEETING AUGUST 9, 2011

Approved the naming of three rooms at the RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus:

- Robert J. Crawford Science Lab
- Dr. Gene Stotlar Computer Classroom
- Rend Lake College Foundation Computer Center

The naming opportunities for the Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus were an intricate part of fund-raising efforts for the Science and Computer Center addition. These names represent individuals who reached major gift-giving levels.

Fall Semester begins August 15, and the Science Lab is ready for classes, with the exception of a couple of cosmetic items which will be completed over the next two weeks.

Chris Kuberski, Vice President of Academic Instruction, reported Science classes at the Pinckneyville Campus are full. The addition of the Science Lab means students can now obtain a complete Associate Degree in many disciplines at the Murphy-Wall Campus.

Vice Chair Ed Cunningham said the City of Pinckneyville should be commended for its efforts in raising money. "We should send a 'Thank you' to the whole city," he said.

(Board Chair) Bryan Drew applauded the efforts of the RLC Foundation for raising the money for the project. The project was funded entirely through Foundation efforts.

FACILITIES TIMELINE

CAMPUS CHANGES

Automotive wing added to Vocational Building and Technical Building renovated, / 1989

NEW NEIGHBOR

Groundbreaking ceremonies held for Big Muddy River Correctional Center, / May 11, 1990

CAMPUS RECYCLING

On-campus recycling program first started in 1990 by Student Senate with aluminum cans receives boost with \$20,749 Recycling Grant in '92 from IL Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources, / 1990-92

1987 - 1988

1988 - 1989

1989 - 1990

1990 - 1991

1991 - 1992



RLC/ICCB construction projects since 1990

ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

- Accessibility Alterations \$91,138
- ADA Elevator Repairs and Renovations (2) \$223,368
- Allied Health Dept. Renovations \$125,921
- Aquatics Rehab Center \$2,609,702
- Bleacher Repairs / Replacements \$104,135
- Boiler Plant Improvements \$235,238
- Boiler Room Controls \$37,755
- Building Locks / Security Devices \$35,317
- Career and Applied Tech Ctr. Addition \$2,385,202
- Chilled Water Loop System \$487,600
- Code Compliance / Corrections (2) \$333,111
- Computer Class Remodeling \$33,600
- Cooling Tower Replacement \$133,403
- Culinary Kitchen Renovation \$356,313
- Draining Alterations / Repairs \$349,912
- Draining Improvements / Parking \$426,000
- Early Notification Warning System \$221,336
- Emergency Generator / Power (3) \$282,549
- Energy Conservation Projects (2) \$826,516
- Fire Alarm / Safety Alterations (2) \$153,063
- Generator Improvements / Modification (2) \$409,610
- Hazardous Sidewalk Replacement (2) \$93,192
- HVAC Equipment Upgrades (2) \$589,116
- Ind. Training Center / Pinckneyville \$764,736
- Intake Center Remodeling \$1,311,554
- Lighting Improvements / Upgrades (4) \$490,105

(Continued at far right on next page)

Campbell drove through 14 states, taking photographs of more than 60 schoolhouses that still stand. They were built following the Homestead Act of 1862, which induced thousands of homesteaders to go west.

Although many homesteaders flourished until the 1930s, the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression caused the abandonment of many houses, churches and one-room schools. Once the pride of the community, the one-room schoolhouse has become for the most of us just a dim, distant memory.

CHANGING WITH THE TIMES Aquatics Center, Children's Center, Administration renovation in '97-98

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 1998

Community colleges, more than any other type of higher education, are known for their ability to be flexible . . . change.

For Rend Lake College, that has been true for thirtysomething years since its inception in 1967. Never more true, perhaps, than in the past year or so.

The comprehensive community college in rural Southern Illinois is located in the center of an eight-county district that draws primarily from Mt. Vernon and Jefferson County to the north, Benton and Franklin County to the south, McLeansboro/Hamilton County to the east and Pinckneyville/Perry County to the west, as well as Wayne and White counties.

It was the first community college in the state to complete its original facilities Master Plan in 1975; the first of three nationwide to be recognized as a Business/Industry Award-winner for "exemplary cooperation" with local coal mining companies during the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges 1982 Annual Convention in St. Louis; winner of the inaugural "Academic Olympics" state title in College Bowl competition in 1993; the only two-year institution in the state to administer two AmeriCorps projects and house three such programs.

But Rend Lake College is not one to rest on its laurels, considering such recent physical changes as . . .

• A new \$2.6 million Aquatics Center opened on-campus in February. The complex adjacent to James "Hummer" Waugh Gymnasium, which now shares a common foyer, includes a six-lane, 45-foot-by-75-foot pool, a 10-by-20 hydrotherapy pool and whirlpool and modern locker room facilities.

A ramp leading into the main pool, the therapy pool and whirlpool and a family changing area for those who may need special assistance from a spouse or parent of the opposite sex make the RLC Aquatics Center especially attractive to those individuals who are physically challenged but can take advantage of its many therapeutic benefits.

The beautiful, state-of-the-art addition was funded almost entirely through the state Capital Development Board, with individual and company contributions through the RLC Foundation accounting for the local contribution of \$400,000 required.

• The RLC Foundation Children's Center, which celebrated ground-breaking ceremonies April 9, is expected to be open Fall Semester 1998.

The child care center and training lab was made possible thanks to the efforts of the Rend Lake College Foundation membership and major contributions from two other individuals.

The RLC foundation Children's Center will accommodate 40 children at any one time, with the potential of serving 150-200 children on a part-time basis during the week while students attend classes and employees work at the college. It will include separate classrooms for infants six weeks and older, toddlers and preschoolers, an adult observation classroom and a natural outdoor play environment.

The center will be located on the northwest edge of campus, nestled in a wooded setting near the Outdoor Amphitheater and Prairie Restoration Project featuring a one-room schoolhouse and native tall-grasses and wildflowers. In keeping with that theme, natural lighting, natural wood, plants and a variety of music and art will surround the young children; the outdoor learning center will feature art, woodworking, sand, watering trough, vegetable/perennial garden and small animals.

It will provide accessible, affordable, quality child care for many who might not otherwise be able to continue their education; serve as a learning lab for students in the certificate and two-year Child Development degree programs, and establish a model center to promote quality care for young children throughout the district.

• Renovation to the Dr. Allen Y. Baker Administration Building is expected to more than double its size and create a one-stop Intake Center that will house most Student Services, including Admissions and

Records, the Business Office, Counseling Center, Financial Aid Office, Nontraditional Student programs, JTPA Client Service Center and Title IV Grant. The President's Office, Deans offices and RLC Foundation will be relocated within the remodeled facility as well.

College administrators can point with pride to this facility, also, as a third recent addition requiring no local tax increases. It will be funded through unique financing from interest off of an insurance reserve bond.

- A new Career Center, located in the Academic Building, has been established in conjunction with the Illinois Employment Training Center. This federally funded satellite center provides career and employment information and assistance to all RLC students and district residents.

- A fountain commemorating the college's 30th anniversary and featuring a three-foot, molded bronze replica of the official college seal was dedicated October 1, 1997, and is now the centerpiece of the Learning Resource Center front lawn. Included are brick and concrete benches among the overall landscaping.

On hand for dedication ceremonies was the individual who, as a Rend Lake College student in the Freshman Class of 1967-68 designed the seal that includes a lamp of learning and a compass (representing vocational programs), imposed over an outline of the body of water from which the college gets its name.

"I have always liked the seal, because I really think that it depicts what Rend Lake College is all about," said RLC President Mark S. Kern, a native of nearby Ewing who joined the faculty a year after the college was created by an overwhelming, 8-to-1 vote of district-wide residents, replacing forerunner Mt. Vernon Community College.

Change in programs and curricula are ongoing, also, as Rend Lake College continues to meet the needs of the people it serves.

- The RLC High School Honors Credit Program makes it possible for academically talented prep students who would like to accelerate their college education to do so

starting with the summer between their junior and senior year.

- Computer Repair Technician, Fire Science and Horticulture have joined a long list of Associate in Applied Science Degree programs for inclusion in the 1998-2000 College Catalog.

- RLC's Automotive Technology program recently received ASE Master Certification and is the only community college program in the state south of Champaign (and one of only three programs in all of downstate) to be recognized as such.

- Educational Guarantees in all degree programs . . . distance learning classrooms on-campus and in area high schools in Benton, Mt. Vernon, Pinckneyville, McLeansboro and Sesser-Valier . . . availability of Internet classes . . .

Truly, thirtysomething or not, Rend Lake College is open to change as it looks forward to moving into the next millennium . . . "Lifelong learning" for the one-in-eight district residents it serves annually.

NOVEMBER 2003 ► Governor releases \$1.7M to complete Career/Applied Technology Center

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 2003

Rend Lake College officials were granted a long-awaited wish October 12 as Governor Rod Blagojevich released \$1.7 million for the completion of the Career and Applied Technology Center.

Current plans call for an 18,100-square-foot facility which will allow Rend Lake College to expand its Heavy Equipment Technology, Diesel Technology, Agricultural Business, Agricultural Mechanics and Horticulture programs.

RLC President Mark S. Kern said the college has had a very successful Agriculture program since 1968. He said college officials have known the program could expand, but it was limited by space.

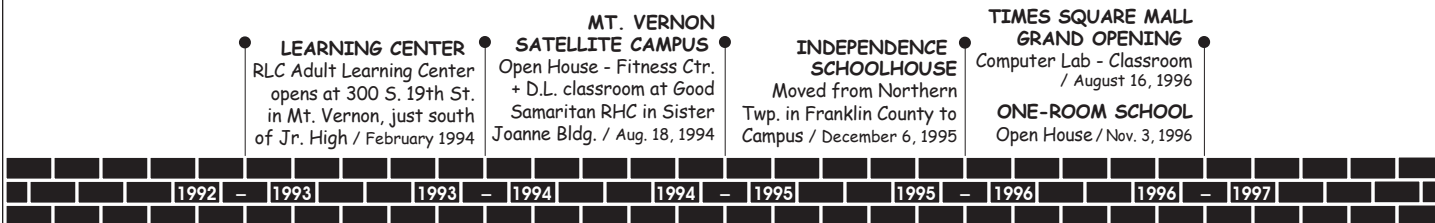
"This is really a tremendous boost," Kern said. "He added that while Blagojevich did not indicate exactly when the money will be



RLC projects (cont.)

• LRC Elevator Renovation	\$31,765
• Maintenance Lot Drainage	\$76,953
• Mining Building Remodeling	\$50,000
• Natural Gas Line Replacement	\$76,910
• North Chiller Replacement	\$227,500
• Paint Booth Ventilation	\$36,862
• Plumbing Renovations / Repairs (3)	\$2,124,480
• Renovate Lecture Classrooms	\$94,810
• Replace Interior Finishes	\$50,395
• RLC MarketPlace / One-Stop Ctr.	\$4,002,634
• Roadway Improvements	\$104,441
• Roof Replacements / Repairs (7)	\$975,845
• RLCF Children's Center	\$400,000
• Sewer Connection	\$96,690
• Sidewalk / Masonry Repairs (2)	\$128,862
• Soil Remediation	\$20,797
• Stage Curtain Replacement	\$16,420
• Structural Repairs	\$95,165
• Theatre Stage Floor Replacement	\$42,616
• Underground Storage Tank Alt.	\$26,445
• Ventilation Alterations	\$163,429
• Vo-Tech Building Additions (3)	\$1,350,000
• Water System Upgrade / Student Ctr.	\$34,450

FACILITIES TIMELINE





College address changed to Ina, Illinois in June '70

BOARD MINUTES JUNE 16, 1970

At the last regular Board meeting, the matter of changing the college address was tabled for further discussion. Since that time, the Board has made the decision to move to the new campus for the fall opening of classes.

Paul Fitch explained if there is to be a change of address, it should be made soon for the purpose of including the new address on purchase orders written for furnishings and supplies for the coming year.

He indicated that the administration recommended the new college address as Ina, Illinois.

Dr. Curt Parker made several points in favor of keeping the Mt. Vernon address for the college. First, there would be 24-hour service on mail at the Mt. Vernon address, whereas items mailed after the evening dispatch at Ina will stay in the box overnight until the dispatch schedule is resumed the following day. Secondly, the geographic location of the college will not be as easily recognized by the Ina address. Thirdly, for the most part it was Mt. Vernon people who were instrumental in starting an area junior college and were willing that it would not necessarily have to be located in Mt. Vernon proper. Lastly, when the junior college district was established, the county seat of Mt. Vernon was used as the address. Parker stated he saw no reason why the legal address of the college should be changed.

Following the discussion, Huel Cross moved the college address be changed to Ina, Illinois. The motion carried, 5-1, with Parker casting the dissenting vote. Melvin Farlow was not present.

"put in the pipeline," as soon as the money becomes available the work can begin.

"Our old shop was only about 7,000 square feet," Kern said. Now, RLC students will have the opportunity to work on equipment such as bulldozers and heavy trucks thanks to the new building.

Ed Billingsley, Applied Science Division Chair, said expanded facilities are sorely needed. "We are overcrowded and enrollment is extremely high," Billingsley said.

"We will be the regional school for Agriculture," he added. "We're very excited about this."

Rend Lake College is required to match one quarter of the cost of the project – about \$500,000 – which is in place. According to Kern, the college received permission from the state to use a portion of that local match to begin doing earthwork at the building site, located on the southwest side of campus.

The project will be bid with two alternates, one for a 4,416-square-foot addition to the building and the other for a paved parking lot to be used by the Career and Applied Technology Center and the Advanced Technology Center.

Depending upon whether the alternate bids are accepted, the total cost of the project could range from \$2 million to \$2.7 million, Kern said.

News of the funding came October 12 from Blagojevich as he launched the third of 10 regional economic development plans – an initiative package called "Opportunity Returns" – at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

"If there is any single way we can make people's lives better, it is by creating opportunity so people can work," he said.

"Rend Lake College's Agricultural Mechanics program has been a valuable and important program to the entire Southern Illinois region for the past three decades," according to information from the Governor's office. "It has been a training program not only for agriculture dealers, but also for construction and trucking equipment companies.

"Expanding the Career and Applied Technology Center will provide adequate space for a new Agriculture Technology course and Heavy Truck Repair program, which has been recommended by the local Agriculture Business Advisory Committee."

Students from 100 miles in nearly all directions attend the Ag Mechanics pro-

gram and placement of these students upon graduation is equally far-reaching.

RLC has been approached by the trucking industry in the region to train entry-level technicians. While some students training on ag equipment can transfer those skills to heavy truck technology, the college needs to expand the program to include training specific to the trucking industry. Current space at the college cannot accommodate vehicles of that size.

The strand-steel building will feature a brick front to match other buildings on campus. It will include a 14,000-square-foot shop area, office space, five classrooms (some featuring glass walls for demonstrations) and a service pit which will allow students to work underneath heavy trucks.

The college will be able to host annual Future Farmers of America District and Section contests in the new facility, as it has for many years. More than 400 students participate in these contests annually. Classrooms also can be used to host agriculture meetings for the public in conjunction with the University of Illinois Extension Service.

JULY 12, 2004 ▶ **'Significant day' when ground broken for larger Applied Science Building**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 2004

A "very significant day in the history of Rend Lake College" was enjoyed by a gathering estimated around 200 July 12 when dignitaries broke ground for an Applied Science Building [name changed from Career and Applied Technology Center] to be constructed during the next 12 months on the southeast corner of campus.

By the fall of 2005, Rend Lake College officials hope to see the 22,300-square-foot facility filled with students and offering a full schedule of classes. The new building will grant much-needed expansion room for the college's Agriculture, Heavy Equipment and Diesel programs, among others.

RLC President Mark S. Kern admitted it was not as important as that day in 1966 when voters went to the polls and showed their support for an area-wide college by an 8:1 ratio. It may not have ranked as high as that first ground-breaking ceremony just a few years later in a muddy field prior to construction of Phase I in the middle of an Ina cornfield.

"But this is a significant day," Kern reiterated, "and there are a lot of people who need to be thanked."

Kern's list began with the Governor's Office and worked its way down to include U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D) and Peter Fitzgerald (R), U.S. Representative John M. Shimkus (R-19) and the in-district Illinois Congressmen; Rep. Kurt Granberg (D-107) was singled out from that group.

He also recognized the efforts of former State Senator Larry Woolard, now the Director for Southern Illinois Economic Development with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

"Our Ag Mechanics program definitely is one of the top five in the state," Kern added. "It may even be No. 1, but of course I am prejudiced. But the program's growth in recent years has been held back by space. This facility certainly is needed if we are to continue to grow."

Officials said the project should be completed in 10 to 12 months after construction commences. The State of Illinois is providing \$1.7 million for the project. Rend Lake College has issued bonds to bring in \$500,000 and is committed to another \$580,000 if money from other sources does not become available.

"We were pleased this project was singled out as one of the most important in Southern Illinois," Kern said of the state funding. Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich announced during a November 2003 Carbondale press conference the money would be released.

The building will allow the college to expand its Agricultural Business, Agricultural Production and Management, Agricultural Mechanics, Heavy Equipment Technology, Diesel Technology and Horticulture programs. The completed facility will encompass 22,300 square feet; an adjacent parking lot will contain 274 spaces.

In addition to providing room for the expansion of these programs, there is almost unlimited room for expansion of the new facility itself, if needed.

News of the funding came from Blago-

jevich as he launched the third of 10 regional economic development plans, an initiative package called "Opportunity Returns," at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

"Rend Lake College's Agricultural Mechanics program has been a valuable and important program to the entire Southern Illinois region for the past three decades," according to information from Blagojevich's office. "It has been a training program not only for agriculture dealers, but also for construction and trucking equipment companies."

RLC has been approached by the trucking industry in the region to train entry-level technicians. While some students training on ag equipment can transfer those skills to heavy truck technology, the college needs to expand the program to include training specific to the trucking industry. The new Applied Science Center will accommodate vehicles of that size.

The strand-steel building will feature a brick front to match other buildings on campus. It will include a shop area, office space, five classrooms (some featuring glass walls for demonstrations) and a service pit which will allow students to work underneath heavy trucks.

Participating in the actual groundbreaking ceremonies with shovels in hand were: Woolard; Kappy Scates, representing Durbin; Gloria Freels of Granberg's Office; Matt Pickett, representing Shimkus; Sarah Daniels of Fitzgerald's Office; Ross Zeidler, Project Manager with the Capital Development Board; Sarah Helmers, Applied Science Division Chair at RLC; Randall Crocker, Chairman of the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees, and Kern.

FACILITY OPENS FALL '05

Ag, Heavy Equipment, Diesel programs now boast more room to breathe, grow

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 27, 2005

Students studying agriculture, diesels

* - * - *

Open House celebration for RLC MarketPlace, 12

NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 7, 2013

Twelve years after Rend Lake College acquired the MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon, an Open House will be held at the venue to mark the significant addition to the RLC community. The event is set for 4-7 p.m. Thursday, September 12.

Participants will include the Cosmetology program, Studio RLC; RLC Fitness Center; Child Care Resource and Referral program, Project CHILD, and Adult Education and Literacy program, all of which call the MarketPlace home.

MarketPlace retailers such as Shoe Stop and the RLC Golf Outlet also will take part.

The MarketPlace is home to an expanding array of educational opportunities for students attending RLC, Southern Illinois University and McKendree. Partnerships with four-year institutions allow students to pursue Bachelor and Master's Degrees on-site.

In addition to classroom space, computer facilities and the Cosmetology program, the MarketPlace now houses the CNA, EMT-Paramedic and American Heart Association training centers, several retail stores and a steakhouse.

Also housed here are the Illinois Departments of Human Services and Employment Security, Office of Rehabilitation Services, Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Man-Tra-Con Corp. and Crosswalk.

FACILITIES TIMELINE

<p>R.L.C. FOUNDATION CHILDREN'S CENTER Groundbreaking / April 9, '98 Open House / October 14, '98</p>	<p>JIMMY J. FULKS AQUATICS CENTER Opens / February 9, 1998 Dedication / Oct. 30, 1998</p>	<p>ROAD CLOSED UNDER ACADEMIC BUILDING to auto traffic / April '99</p>	<p>DR. ALLEN Y. BAKER ADMINISTRATION BLDG Renovation which doubled size of new intake center completed / June 2000</p>	<p>R.L.C. MARKETPLACE IN MT. VERNON Assumed ownership / September 2001</p>	<p>ALLIED HEALTH CLASSROOM / LAB Science Bldg. Renovation Completed / January 2002</p>
<p>L.R.C. FOUNTAIN DEDICATION Bronze mold of official College Seal on LRC lawn Dedication / October 1, 1997</p>	<p>OUTDOOR SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS / 1998</p>	<p>ADDITIONAL PARKING - Learning Resource Center - Baseball/Softball Fields - Truck Driver Training / '99</p>	<p>ON-CAMPUS NORTH ROAD / April 2000</p> <p>BICYCLE / WALKING TRAIL / 2000</p>	<p>OUTDOOR LIGHTING (LAMP POSTS) Campus-wide / Summer 2001</p> <p>A.D.A. PARKING Aquatics Center / Fall 2001</p>	<p>OUTDOOR SECURITY EMERGENCY SYSTEM Communications Upgrade / Spring 2002</p>





**CAUTION:
Watch that last step!**

R.L.C. F.Y.I. AUGUST 22, 1994

Friday afternoons on campus will never be quite the same, thanks to a recent visitor who made her summer excursion to Rend Lake College very memorable for everyone around.

The 70-year-old driver, who shall remain anonymous, was literally driving around on-campus (sidewalks) when she decided to make the Academic Building steps a "down" ramp. As she soon discovered, they don't work well for that purpose.

[The accompanying photograph showed a simple solution to the dilemma . . . a tow truck got her out of the traffic "jam" and a story to tell. She told onlookers she could not wait to get home and call her daughter to tell her what had happened. Or maybe not; after time to think about it, perhaps she came to realize some stories are better left untold, if you want to drive again anytime soon.]



**BUILDING THE FUTURE
Pinckneyville Campus
Campaign Contributors**

OPEN HOUSE AUGUST 14, 2002

- Dr. Allen Y. Baker
- City of Pinckneyville
- Harrisonville Telephone Co.
- State Sen. David Luechtefeld
- Lloyd & Florence Middleton
- Murphy-Wall State Bank
- State Sen. Bill O'Daniel
- Pinckneyville Community Hospital
- Dr. Bill & Mary Roe
- E.T. Simonds Construction
- Dr. Gene Stotlar
- Mike & Dixie Travelstead
- Anonymous Friend of Murphy-Wall State Bank

and heavy equipment now have plenty of elbow room for study and practice in the Applied Science Center, which began hosting classes this fall at Rend Lake College.

The building allows for the expansion of RLC's Agricultural Business, Agricultural Production, Agricultural Mechanics, Heavy Equipment and Diesel Technology programs and some Horticulture study also will be conducted there. The new building is 22,300 square feet and features five classrooms, five offices, a heavy equipment bay and a truck and trailer bay. The latter features a service pit which allows students to get under a truck and work.

The facility is located on the southwest corner of campus, with a parking lot constructed directly south of it. This building will allow students to gain experience working on a variety of equipment, such as backhoes, bulldozers, semis and other machines ranging from light-duty agricultural equipment to heavy-duty construction equipment.

"The Applied Science Center gives us more space and the ability to expand programs and enrollment," said Dr. Jim Hull, Vice President of Instruction. "This is really the first opportunity we have had to focus on medium- and heavy-duty trucks and construction equipment."

RLC President Mark S. Kern said there has been more than enough student interest and demand for these programs to justify the center's construction.

Rend Lake College has had an Agriculture program since 1968, and it has been one of the strongest programs in the state, but it was being housed in a facility that was built in 1972, said Kern.

"Student and faculty response across the board has been extremely positive," said Dr. Sarah Ochs, Applied Science and Technology Division Chair. "Many have offered suggestions and ideas for future growth. Everything has gone remarkably well and we look forward to growing and expanding. The possibilities truly are limitless with this building."

A unique aspect of the building is contained in two classrooms which have observation windows to allow instructors to tie their lectures in with visible projects going on in the service bays. It also features a five-ton hoist which runs the length and width of the building.

The new facility also allows the college to host business, industry and orga-

nizational meetings, as well as educational groups and contests, such as Future Farmers of America and Advisory Councils.

Another development in the Applied Science Center is the establishment of a NAPA Inc. Parts Store, which is now in operation. Students, staff and the general public will be able to purchase parts and supplies there, and in the future, the possibility of students learning about inventory management and the business aspects of a parts store will be explored.

Dean of Instruction Lisa Payne noted Rend Lake College is one of the few community colleges in Illinois to offer Heavy Equipment/ Truck Repair programs.

"Rend Lake College's Agricultural Mechanics program has been a valuable and important program to the entire Southern Illinois region for the past three decades," according to information from Gov. Rod Blagojevich's office. "It has been a training program not only for agriculture dealers, but also for construction and trucking equipment companies."

Students from 100 miles in nearly all directions attend the Ag Mechanics program and placement of these students upon graduation is equally far-ranging.

According to information supplied by Resource Development Specialist Trudee Wynn, there is a projected 528 percent increase in new and replacement jobs through 2009 for bus and truck mechanics/diesel engine specialists, auto service technicians and mechanics, auto body repairers, farm equipment mechanics and mobile heavy equipment mechanics throughout the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Southern Economic Region of Illinois.

RLC has been approached by the trucking industry in the region to train entry-level technicians. While some students training on ag equipment can transfer those skills to heavy truck technology, the college needed to expand the program to include training specific to the trucking industry. The new Applied Science Center will accommodate vehicles of that size.

Physical Plant Director Randall Shively said the color scheme and exterior of the Applied Science Center are consistent with the appearance of other campus buildings.

The State of Illinois provided \$1.5 million for the project and Rend Lake College issued bonds to bring in \$500,000.

UNSUNG HEROES

Physical Plant Mission: Continual improvements and enhancements

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 2004

Rend Lake College has continued to expand and improve its offerings to students over the years. New programs and new facilities have been created and the existing facilities are constantly being upgraded and renovated, ensuring a better learning environment for students.

None of this is possible without the dedication of the Rend Lake College Physical Plant staff. They are the people behind the scenes, quietly keeping RLC's facilities pristine, functional and up-to-date.

"There have been tremendous improvements in the last eight or nine years," Physical Plant Director Randall Shively said. All of these improvements are consistent with the Physical Plant's mission statement: "The Physical Plant Department strives to improve the physical condition of the college, to enhance the learning and working environment for the students, staff and public for the purpose of building pride and strength in Rend Lake College."

Shively said the Physical Plant is about one year away from improving every building on campus once. The goal is to start that process over again beginning in 2005.

For example, the South Oasis, a building which houses offices and serves as a recreational area for students, has been upgraded with new floor covering and all 42 offices received new carpet and new coats of paint. New student entertainment, including a pool table, big-screen television and arcade games also were installed.

The Student Center, which houses several offices, the RLC Retail Store, Textbook Store and food service facilities, also has undergone extensive renovation. Most notably, a Subway restaurant has been installed.

On the south side of campus, a new driving range has been created and has undergone continuous improvements since it was

built two years ago. It features a 180-foot by 60-foot tee box with Bermuda grass and a sprinkler system.

In addition to the construction of The Hitting Zone, a baseball/softball practice facility, the Warrior baseball field has received a sprinkler system and Bermuda grass. The softball field also has seen recent improvements for the primary benefit of the spectators.

Shively said the maintenance staff presently is making improvements to 9,000 square feet in the Advanced Technology Center, including the installation of ceramic tile to match that installed in the Student Center. The ATC offices are receiving the same treatment given to those in the recent renovation of the South Oasis, and new signage is being installed to help students better locate offices and classrooms.

The Physical Plant is not resting on its laurels, however. At present, local contractors are installing six new external emergency call boxes to improve the security aspect of campus. These new phones are being installed around the perimeter of campus and should be completed by May.

In the last four years, major improvements have occurred in the area of sidewalk lighting. A local contractor is now installing additional lighting near the Advanced Technology Center and the Maintenance Building. All lighting in the parking lots and campus roadways has been upgraded to provide brighter illumination for students.

Rend Lake College now has a severe weather siren which will be tested on the first Tuesday of each month. All students and staff need to be aware of where safer areas are within their buildings, Shively said.

"We've completed several projects in the last few years," he said. "We have a frame of mind focused on a continuous state of improvement."

Among future projects is an upgrade to the One-Room Independence Schoolhouse on the north side of campus. Shively said



By Spring '04, 252 take 706 hours thru MWPC

NEWS RELEASE MARCH 2004

Pinckneyville native Vickie Goldman is taking advantage of Rend Lake College's offerings in an effort to upgrade her position at the Pinckneyville Correctional Center, something she said she would not be able to do without the RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus.

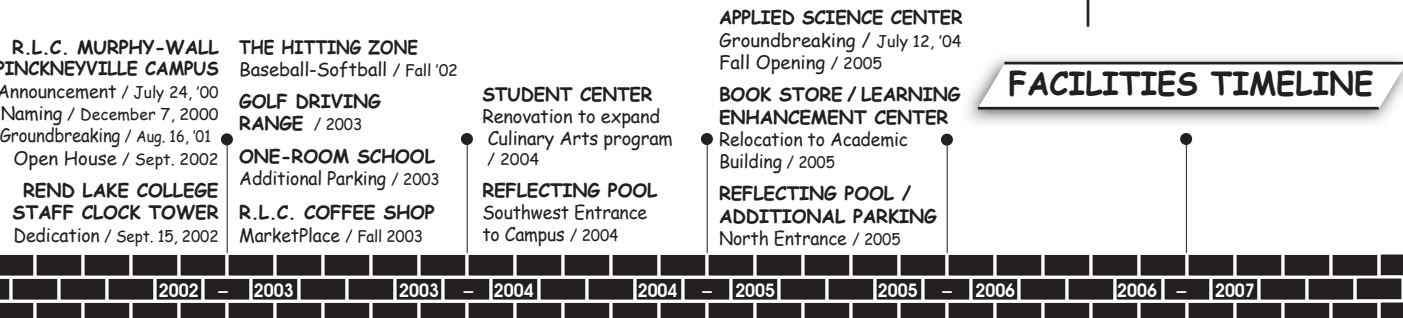
Goldman is one of a growing number of people who are reaping the benefits of the Perry County facility, continuing to raise its enrollment to record heights.

In Fall Semester 2002, the Pinckneyville campus served 212 students for a total of 316 credit hours, not including off-campus offerings and noncredit classes. For Spring 2003, the number of students declined to 169 but the number of credit hours jumped to 479.5.

The number of students again climbed to 200 Fall 2003 and credit hours continued to rise, reaching 514. This semester, 252 students are using the RLC Murphy-Wall facility for a total of 706.5 credit hours.

When off-campus and non-credit offerings are included, the Pinckneyville Campus is now serving more than 300 students per semester.

"We are doing better than we hoped. The response has been better than we expected," said RLC President Mark S. Kern.





Bravo for Breve ... New RLC Coffee Shop opens

RLC F.Y.I. NOVEMBER 6, 2003

Everyone is invited to relax with a steaming cup of gourmet coffee at the recently opened RLC Coffee Shop at the Rend Lake College MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon.

Coffee for the new establishment is provided by The Breve Espresso Company.

Among the varieties of coffee percolating at the shop are Bourbon Pecan, Irish Creme, Kenya-Tanzania Pea Berry Blend and Vanilla. For those who favor a simpler taste, house and house decaffeinated styles are available.

When you are ready to relax with a gourmet coffee, step inside the shop, where customers are welcomed with food treats and other drinks as well as a big-screen television. Plans for the near future call for a free, wireless Internet bar featuring desktop and laptop computers.

Other menu offerings include espresso, cappuccino, latte, soft drinks, shakes, hand-dipped ice cream, bagels, muffins, biscotti, pretzels, cheesecakes and cookies.

Operating hours for the RLC Coffee Shop are 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

this building will be made more user-friendly with the installation of improved parking, sidewalks and restrooms.

In the next two-to-three years, landscaping work will be done to improve the north and west areas of the Vocational Building near the north entrance to campus and around the Administration Building at the south entrance. This will improve the aesthetics of the main entrances to campus, Shively said.

Plans also call for a putting green to be installed for use by the golf teams, students and staff.

In addition, plans are in place for a new Career and Applied Technology Center which will allow Rend Lake College to expand its Heavy Equipment Technology, Diesel Technology, Agricultural Business and Agricultural Mechanics programs. Earthwork already has begun at the site, located on the southwest side of campus. This new facility will encompass 22,300 square feet and will include a parking lot with 274 spaces.

The Physical Plant also takes care of routine maintenance, including lawn care, landscaping and custodial work.

Shively said he believes a strength of the department includes employees with experience in a variety of fields who strive to maintain quality workmanship. He said the Physical Plant has solid leadership and benefits from a positive attitude from the administration of the college on funding new projects and purchasing equipment and supplies.

"This has all been done for the benefit of the students. That is our top priority," said Shively.

HUGE SAVINGS Behind scenes, Physical Plant staff amazing, keeps most work in-house

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 21, 2014

They work behind the scenes, keeping everything running and maintained on all Rend Lake College campuses. Since May 2013, employees at the Rend Lake College Physical Plant have completed many large projects, but that number is not close to the work put in by the 60 employees.

A few of the biggest projects completed in the last year include the new Massage Therapy and Nail Technology labs, the final aspects of the Music Department renovations, the new Cherry Creek Driving Range, the additional weight room in the Hitting

Zone, the new HVAC controls system at the MarketPlace and the pistol shooting range behind the Coal Mine Training Center.

The Massage Therapy Lab moved from the MarketPlace to the Ina campus last summer to make room for the Nail Technology Lab at Studio RLC. Maintenance Technicians Rusty Downen and Chris Maxwell were two individuals of many who worked on the projects at both locations.

"We tore out the walls where massage therapy had been and built all new," said Downen.

Added Maxwell, "We consulted a lot with Daphne Mitchell, Studio RLC Director. She wanted a classroom set-up, but we had a lot more to do, like putting in an exhaust fan and dispensary. We had to meet state regulations as well. It was a big project."

Also at the MarketPlace, Grounds Supervisor Donnie Millenbine said it was two weeks of mowing before work on the new golf driving range could begin. The driving range opened last fall and is just part of the 100 acres the Grounds Department keeps up in all three locations.

On the main campus, work was still finishing up on the Music Department renovations in the form of new risers in the music classroom, Learning Resource Center 107. The classroom was open for student use at the start of Fall Semester 2013.

"The music renovations were a big project last year, as was the second floor of the library where we built the mock hospital rooms. They were both pretty rewarding to be a part of," said Electrician Charlie Massie.

More recently, Physical Plant employees put up the new Pistol Shooting Range to accommodate RLC's new Concealed Carry classes. A temporary range was constructed in one week to accommodate students who had already registered.

"The college had planned to build one, but when we needed to have one done quickly, we put up a temporary one in a few days," said Maintenance Supervisor Dave Mathis. "Later, we built the permanent range, which took about six weeks. We worked around the classes, but also made sure no one would miss classes. It was a good job done by everyone involved."

Employees also built a Weight Room for RLC athletes in the Hitting Zone, starting with putting up walls to rewiring to moving equipment across campus.

"We didn't just come in and paint walls and leave. We put in walls, gutting, wiring,

the whole works. Then we moved some equipment from the Fitness Center," said Mathis. "We don't start anything that we aren't going to finish. We have a lot of skilled tradespeople who take pride in their work."

For the most part, projects on campus are done in-house, helping the college save money from contracting out work.

"Eighty percent of everything we do is in-house. The savings of that is huge," said Mathis. "It's like having a home team of people to go to. I hope the college continues to support us so we can have a positive impact on the students and the learning environment every day."

One of the goals for the Physical Plant employees, as graduates or current students at RLC, is to complete projects, maintenance and work orders around the students.

"It's a juggling act, but we take care of what needs to be taken care of," said Mathis. "Our primary concern is maintaining the campus for the good of the students, which is why we get in and try to do it right the first time. It makes it easier for us in the future. All this has to be done without disturbing the students, so we try to get it done when they aren't present. That means working on nights and weekends to be out of the way."

Despite constant work requests and projects lasting anywhere from days to months, the workers all agree on one thing: the Physical Plant is a great place to work on the RLC campus.

"It's a pretty great work environment," said Pat Peto, a carpenter. "It's a pleasure to work for RLC and Randall Shively, Director of the Physical Plant."

Massie agreed, stating, "Randall does a good job of making it nice to come to work."

Maxwell added, "It's not monotonous. The variety of our responsibilities makes for a great place to work. I've always thought I had the best job, because I know everyone, and there are a lot of great people. Outside of the college, the retail and state people at the MarketPlace are a good group to work with. It's like my home and my family."

After a day of maintenance work, it's

the Physical Plant's custodial team who comes in to make sure the space is clean for students the following day and prepare for work in subsequent days.

"Most of the projects were completed by the Maintenance Department on day-shifts; however, each custodian has a part one way or another cleaning up after each day," said Custodial Supervisor Curtis Caldwell. "We clean the messes up each day the project is going on. Each custodian does an outstanding job keeping everything clean and ready for the next day."

Overall, Mathis said he's looking forward to seeing what the Physical Plant can accomplish in the next year.

"We've got an extremely strong department. I've never worked with a more positive group of people who look forward to being here and seeing the college prosper," said Mathis. "I hope I keep them all for a long time. They're self-disciplined with a good skill level. RLC is a great place to work, and it's good work. It's nice to be able to do this work for the students and the taxpayers. I am really proud of the work and we all take pride in it."

Other projects completed since May 2013 include:

- Installed and painted new LED light fixtures in Ina campus parking lots and roadways;
- Installed a new countertop and shelving at the switchboard in the Administration Building; new countertops for 11 computers in Advanced Technology Center, Coal Mine Training Center and Applied Science Center; a new Machine Shop Lab in the Vocational Building, and portable ramps for the graduation platform;
- Moved UPS into Administration;
- Built new offices in CMT, the Coffee Shop at the MarketPlace and LRC 143;
- Upgraded offices at LRC 130 and 131, South Oasis 146 and 147 and the Student Center;
- Upgraded the restrooms in CMT;
- Sealed and striped the Ina campus and MarketPlace parking lots;



Coffee Shop 'open' to teas, Internet, chocolate, books

NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 2004

The Rend Lake College Coffee Shop is more than just a place to relax and enjoy a cup of joe. Everyone is invited to come and see what this new facility has to offer during an Open House Friday, February 27, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

The RLC Coffee Shop is located at the Rend Lake College MarketPlace on Potomac Boulevard in Mt. Vernon. There will be pizza compliments of Bobo's, appetizers by Lone Star Steakhouse and Saloon, coffee and desserts.

According to Coffee Shop Manager Cindy Hoard, attendees will have the chance to take tours of the MarketPlace. A diverse array of establishments will be showcased – Studio RLC, the salon associated with RLC's Paul Mitchell Partner School Cosmetology program, the RLC Golf Outlet, other retail stores, state offices and college classrooms, including Massage Therapy.

The RLC Coffee Shop features free wireless Internet access as well as a big-screen television, comfortable furniture and a wide selection of magazines. A book exchange program, which has become quite popular, is new. No money changes hands in this effort for readers to share books. Book clubs are encouraged to use the facility as a meeting place.

Also available: flavored and bottled teas from Nashville, IL-based The Republic of Tea and an array of fine chocolates.

FACILITIES TIMELINE

PRE-K OPENING
Ribbon-cutting ceremonies will be held for the RLC MarketPlace Pre-K facilities, / Sept. 13, 2007

TRAINING CENTER
The 20,000 sq. ft. Coal Mine Training Center opens on-campus, / Fall 2009

MINE RESCUE - FIRE SAFETY TRAINING

Facility completed / 2010
WELDING RENOVATION
Phase I Lab with 38 stations completed / '09-11
Phase II started / 2012

OFF-CAMPUS EXPANSION
RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus expands to include Science and Computer Ctr., / Fall 2011

ALLIED HEALTH FACILITIES UPGRADE

Relocation to LRC 2nd Floor / Summer 2012
MUSIC ROOM RENOVATIONS
/ 2012

2007 - 2008

2008 - 2009

2009 - 2010

2010 - 2011

2011 - 2012



LRC renovation bringing changes for Art, Theatre

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE
APRIL 17, 2014

If you have ventured to the north side of campus lately, you probably noticed the ongoing construction outside the Learning Resource Center. About 2,000 additional square feet of art space will be ready for students Fall Semester, according to Henry "Buster" Leeck, Dean of Liberal Arts.

"This new addition will house stained glass, metal-smithing, ceramics, sculpture and life drawing," said Leeck. "The existing space also will undergo extensive renovation over the summer. When classes resume in the fall, Drawing I and II and Painting I and II will be the primary classes housed in the current room. Our hope is this new space and all of the new equipment and furnishings will make the Art program even more appealing to students."

The Art program isn't the only one benefiting from the renovation. The added space will relieve cramped conditions for Theatre students.

"This addition will free up existing space that was, by design, meant for theater. The current ceramics and sculpture room is really the scene shop for the theatre. For several years, we have been forced to perform most set construction on the stage, leading to issues with dirt and dust getting into the auditorium of the theatre, the lighting system and sensitive equipment like the Steinway Grand Piano. This addition will allow us to relocate ceramics and sculpture to an art space."

The project is funded by the Capital Development Board, in conjunction with RLC.

- SHELBY PATTERSON

- Installed a new shingle roof on the RLC Foundation Children's Center;
- Built new locker rooms on second floor of the Sports Center;
- Completed the Children's Center work list August 12-16, which was the Children's Center staff's in-service week, the only week of the year the facility is closed;
- Installed several new lights in the RLC Theatre;
- Cleaned above the ceiling in ATC;
- Installed two new severe weather sirens in ATC and North Oasis;
- Upgraded ATC 163, ASC 104 and VOC 109 classrooms;
- Created the Academic Building 202 classroom for lecture and the new RLC Fitness Center at the MarketPlace;
- Upgraded classroom ACA 215 for the new computer lab to move Spring 2014;
- And constructed and installed the Learning Enhancement Center Lab and the Math and Writing Lab in the North Oasis.

NATIONAL PUBLICATION ▸ Retail, social services and college coexist in bustling 'One-Stop' hub

COMMUNITY COLLEGE TIMES MAY 25, 2004

Sub-head of the official American Association of Community Colleges publication: *Illinois' Rend Lake College leads successful effort to rewrite hard-luck retail story into moneymaker*

Move over mall rats. Administrators at the Rend Lake College in Ina, IL, are giving the phrase, "one-stop shopping" a whole new meaning at the RLC MarketPlace in Mount Vernon, IL.

While it's no Mall of America, the MarketPlace, situated on 2 1/2 acres, is an exciting example of what can happen when the goals of educators, business and community and economic developers align. The college has paired retail shops such as a golf outlet and shoe store with consumer services including an Internet cafe, hair studio and restaurant, and added classrooms, conference space and a job training and social services center to create this community hub.

The mall employs some 120 workers, and college administrators can be seen there frequently, not just spending cash, but overseeing the various college-related programs that provide students with education and real-world experience.

It is not unusual to find President Mark S. Kern stopping by the RLC Small Business Development Center to see how things are

going, enjoying lunch at Lone Star Steakhouse with other community leaders or welcoming the Governor to the State of Illinois One-Stop Business and Employment Center.

Looking for Vice President of Finance Bob Carlock? Don't be surprised to discover him doing weekend duty at his pride and joy, the college-owned and operated RLC Golf Outlet; checking in with the managers of eight other retail stores, or enjoying the ambience of the RLC Coffee Shop, with its free Internet service, big-screen television and reading materials.

Vice President of Instruction Jim Hull is likely to be there overseeing state-of-the-art lab facilities for Rend Lake College Cosmetology and Massage Therapy programs, which cater to the public while training students.

Vice President Salah Shakir may be on the premises with members of the Information Technology staff making sure computer lab and distance learning classrooms are upgraded.

Randall Shively, Director of the Physical Plant, stops by regularly to make sure everything is working.

Curt Mowrer, Small Business Development Center Executive Director, oversees the day-to-day operation of the Rend Lake College MarketPlace.

Among the mall's attractions are:

- The Shoe Stop, with more than 15,000 choices, the area's largest store of its kind;
- Studio RLC, the only Paul Mitchell Partner School in the nation affiliated with a public community college;
- RLC Golf Outlet, which did almost \$1 million in business in its first year of operation, using knowledgeable student help;
- Offices for the departments of Human Services and Employment Security, Rehabilitation Services, Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Man-Tra-Con Corp. and Crosswalk;
- Classrooms and conference space that bring educational and meeting opportunities closer to home for local residents.

Leasing to government agencies for a 10-year period helped convince the college's Board that the mall was a viable arrangement. But it has taken just over two years for the college to save a bankrupt facility with very few outlet stores from becoming an eyesore in the largest community within the college district.

Instead, the RLC MarketPlace is today a thriving community of its own, which

weekly attracts thousands of Interstate travelers and puts tax dollars into state and local government coffers. No longer a white elephant, the facility now operates at 100 percent capacity.

GROUNDBREAKING IN 2008 ▶ Proposed Coal Mining Training Center would prepare replacements, novices

GROUNDBREAKING PROGRAM AUGUST 7, 2008

At this time last year, Rend Lake College proposed the construction of a 20,000-square-foot training facility on its Ina campus. This facility will provide new miner and miner refresher training.

The project's primary goal is to meet the employment training needs of the coal companies so they have qualified individuals available to them when they are ready to hire. The secondary goal is to enhance the safety of the coal mining industry by providing a facility to train qualified individuals to replace the massive number of coal miners who will be reaching retirement age in the next five-to-10 years.

Justification

Research conducted for RLC's competitive grant proposal showed that at least 2,080 coal miners will need to be replaced at 22 Illinois surface and underground coal mines within the next 10 years. The figure comes as 70 percent of the state's approximately 3,200 miners expected to retire within that time.

Additionally, there are numerous coal mines and/or power plant projects already operating or on the horizon for Southern Illinois. Facilities, located in towns from Akin to Zeigler, are expected to need a minimum of 2,500 production coal miners. This number does not include specialty maintenance workers, office personnel or spin-off jobs created when a new facility opens.

Current information from the Office of Coal Development at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shows that 2,000 new positions, 2,000 replacement positions and approximately 4,200 indirect jobs will be created in the next five-to-10 years.

Rend Lake College has revitalized its coal miner training program which once trained miners seven days a week in three separate shifts to meet the industry's demand for a highly skilled workforce. At that time, a quarter of the college's faculty were instructors in Coal Mining Training and the program enjoyed a 97 percent job placement rate for graduates.

Location and Description of Proposed Facility

Located just north of the Mark S. Kern Applied Science Center, the Rend Lake College Coal Mining Training Center will be a 100-foot by 200-foot (20,000 square feet) steel building for the purpose of coal mining training. Designed with Sierra Tan brick to match the buildings on campus, the facility will include classroom and office space, operational coal mining equipment and a mock mine. The project will be funded primarily through an Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant of \$1.07 million.

The facility will include three offices, a traditional classroom and a large, open space where the majority of equipment training will occur. It will feature operational coal mining equipment, such as continuous miners, roof bolters and shuttle cars.

The north half of this facility is designed to resemble an underground coal mine for a variety of training purposes. It will feature removable walls and other components, such as a pitch-black interior to simulate actual mining conditions, and a smoke machine will be used for practice mine rescue drills. This feature, in which the Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals has shown much interest, could be used to train mine rescue teams, not just RLC students.

There also will be an outside area where fire safety training will be performed. If the college can acquire adequate machinery through donations, it could provide outdoor training on coal equipment.



Stay safe and informed! WENS protects campus

JUNE 4, 2008

Rend Lake College introduces our latest method of emergency notification. The Wireless Emergency Notification System (WENS) allows RLC students, family, friends, as well as faculty and staff to receive emergency text and email notifications.

The WENS system allows an "RLC Alert" to be sent to your cell phone as a text-message and an e-mail if you choose.

WENS is meant to be used only for emergency and significant event notification . . . Emergencies that threaten life, safety or property and/or severely impacts normal campus / college operations. The message may alert you to an emergency situation such as weather warnings including flash flood, severe thunderstorm, winter storm and tornado warnings, as well as school closings and campus emergencies. The messages are short and meant only as an initial notification. For more detailed information, RLC uses redundant systems such as message notification via telephone, RLC Webpage, e-mail, radio and person-to person contact to distribute news and instructions.

Although RLC also utilizes other means such as sirens, in-classroom phones, telephone alerts and use of local media, using WENS could save you critical time depending upon your location. RLC Alerts will be short and are available at no cost.

R.L.C. MURPHY-WALL PINCKNEYVILLE CAMPUS
Science/Computer Center
\$500,000 Expansion
Open House / October 2012

MT. VERNON FITNESS
The RLC Fitness Center in Mt. Vernon moves into the MarketPlace, next to Golf Outlet / January 2013

R.L.C.F. CHILDREN'S CENTER EXPANSION
Accepted \$225,800 low bid for Children's Center addition. / December 2015

FACILITIES TIMELINE

2012 - 2013 2013 - 2014 2014 - 2015 2015 - 2016 2016 - 2017

REND LAKE COLLEGE FACILITIES AND PHYSICAL PLANT INA CAMPUS, MT. VERNON MARKETPLACE, MURPHY-WALL PINCKNEYVILLE CAMPUS AND MORE

1967-68

■ CAMPUS SITE COSTS \$252,000

According to a regular feature in the *Mt. Vernon Register-News* which appeared October 17, 1997 . . .

30 YEARS AGO – The Rend Lake College Board plans to acquire the 350-acre Byford Jones farm, south of Ina, at a cost of \$252,000, as the site of the new \$9.5 million college campus. / October '67

1970-71

■ NEW GYMNASIUM SEATS 1,500

The new, 1,500 seat RLC Gymnasium on the Ina campus is scheduled to open October 1. The Standing Room Only capacity could add another 200-300 spectators. / October '70

1971-72

■ COLLEGE SELLS U.S.A. 90.26 ACRES

Wayne Ward of the Corps of Engineers first approached the Board of Trustees at its January meeting regarding the need for a little over 90 acres owned by Rend Lake College. The Corps would like to obtain a deed to this land, Ward indicated, and suggested it would be willing to pay \$43,000.

It was decided at the February 15 meeting Trustees would have to reject the initial offer, because the purchase price had been \$554.41 per acre. However, sale of the 90.26 acres at \$554.41 per acre for a total cost of \$50,041.05 was approved.

As a point of information, Dr. Allen Baker indicated when college representatives appeared before the Junior College Board several years ago, they did agree to sell this land later because it is within the take-line of the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Board members learned in April their offer had been accepted and in June were informed the Warranty Deed conversion to the United States of America for 90.26 acres of land for the sum of \$50,041.05 had been executed and the check received. / January-June '72

■ PHASE II BIDS TOTAL \$3.3 MILLION

Contractual bids totaling \$3,311,175 were approved by Trustees March 21 for the construction of Phase II facilities. Low bidders were S.M. Wilson and Co., G.L. Sweazy Company, France Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning and Ideal Plumbing and Electricity. / March '72

■ CONSERVATION DEPT. DIGS TREES

On May 9, the Conservation Department provided 4,000-5,000 trees, a tree planter and two men to help establish 35 acres on the west part of campus, which also will include native prairie grasses.

Plans call for additional trees to be planted in the next year or two. / May '72

1972-73

■ TORNADO STRIKES BONNIE

Bonnie building damaged by tornado. / June '72

■ COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT. SHARES

The last 1,000 feet (approximate) of the North Road will cost \$27,2384.20 to complete. That expense will be shared equally by Rend Lake College and the Jefferson County Highway Department. / August '72

■ UMBRELLA COVERAGE: \$3 MILLION

The Board of Trustees voted at its January 16 Meeting to increase the college's umbrella liability insurance coverage from \$1 million to \$3 million. / January '73

1973-74

■ TWO MORE BUILDINGS ACCEPTED

At their July 17, 1973 meeting, Board members conditionally accepted two new campus buildings – a Technical Building and the Administration Building. / July '73

■ NORTH ROAD USABLE AGAIN

Board members learned at their October 16, 1973 meeting the recently restructured North Road is now usable. It is to be blacktopped as soon as possible, weather permitting. / October '73

■ NORTH OASIS ACCEPTANCE

Conditional acceptance of the North Oasis was given at the December 4, 1973 Special Meeting / December '73

■ FROM BOULEVARD TO PARKWAY

Trustees agreed with one critic who said Ken Gray Boulevard "sounds too much like something metropolitan," and changed the official name of the entrance roadway to Ken Gray Parkway during the June 18 meeting. / June '74

1974-75

■ MINING TECH BUILDING ACCEPTED

Acceptance of the Mining Technology Building – an addition to the Maintenance Building – was approved at the January 21, 1975 by Trustees. / January '75

1975-76

■ MINING BUILDING ADDITION APPROVED

The Illinois Community College Board approved an addition to the RLC Mining Building at an estimated cost of \$240,000, at a rate of \$20 per square foot.

The following month, on January 27, 1976, the Board engaged the engineering firm of Givenrod-Lipe, Inc. of Benton to develop plans for the Mining expansion.

The original structure was built at an approximate cost of \$112,000 for 6,700

square feet. The addition is expected to increase the facility's size by another 5,300 square feet.

The third-year program has experienced rapid growth. It is one of only three in the state, along with Wabash Valley College in Mt. Carmel and Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg. / December '75 and January '76

■ S.M. WILSON GENERAL CONTRACTOR

The Board of Trustees selected S.M. Wilson of Granite City as Phase II General Contractor with a bid of \$2,131,894, which was approximately \$620,000 below the estimated cost. / April '76

1976-77

■ COST OF BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Bids were awarded February 15, 1977, for a new Maintenance Building on-campus – \$46,474 in general construction to Brieseacher Construction of Mt. Vernon for the 60-foot x 200-foot pole-type structure; \$16,952 for electrical work to Paschal Electric Co., Marion, and \$3,991 for plumbing work to Huston Plumbing, Mt. Vernon. / February '77

1978-79

■ FOUR-DAY WORK WEEK SAVINGS

An Energy Savings Report to Trustees at the October 17 Board Meeting indicated the college saved \$4,314.02 by going to the four-day summer work week. / October '78

■ 'PLANT OF YEAR' NOMINATION

The RLC Sewer Treatment Plant operated by the Physical Plant staff was one of five nominated for the "Plant of the Year" Award presented by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. / March '79

■ TREATMENT PLANT TROPHY

Director of the Physical Plant Bob Webb appeared at the April 23 Board of Trustees Special Meeting and brought with him the traveling trophy that had been awarded to the college in recognition of winning the "Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year" Award at a conference in Springfield.

The Board made it official by passing a motion to commend Webb and his staff for the distinction. / April '79

1979-80

■ WELDING LAB EXPANSION

Plans were presented at the May 20 Board Meeting for a 40-foot by 60-foot expansion of the Mining Building for a Welding Lab. / May '80

1980-81

■ PHASE IV MASTER PLANNING

Dr. Harry Braun provided the Board

with the preliminary recommendation on "Phase IV Master Planning - Renovation and New Construction" from FGM, Inc.

He reported FGM's Jack Goldman had met with Deans, Department Chairs and appropriate faculty, staff and students. Consideration was given to current facility needs not presently satisfied as well as those identified for the next 5-10 years.

According to the findings, new construction will be needed in the areas of automotive and agriculture, mining, art and administration. This new construction will include approximately 63,000 square feet. Renovation will involve almost every area of the college and will include approximately 42,500 square feet.

Braun stated the information provided was preliminary and he recommended a workshop be held with the Board to discuss the plan in depth. After discussion, it was decided December 2 would be the date for the workshop. / November '80

■ GOVERNOR SIGNS OFF ON \$1.2M

Gov. Thompson signs a bill which will provide \$1.2 million needed to correct construction deficiencies in the college's heating/chilled system.

Even though efforts to attain the funding began in earnest more than two years before through the Capital Development Board, problems with Phase II and Phase III buildings began shortly after their construction, as early as November 1972. / March '81

1981-82

■ REPAIRS TO TAKE SEVEN MONTHS

Trustees learned at their July 21 meeting Heating/Chilled repair work is expected to start July 30 and could continue through February 1982. / July '81

■ \$5M BOND REFERENDUM PROPOSED

The Board of Trustees approved a \$5 million Bond Referendum for Phase IV Construction and Renovation Work to be presented to district voters March 16, 1982.

The project would be funded entirely by local funds. Under the proposal, district residents would be levied a tax of 15 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, or approximately the same amount they had been paying until the college's original bonds were paid off in February. The tax levy is figured on a 15-year payback plan.

Additional space is needed because the original campus was not built with as many vocational needs as there are now and those projected for the near future. / August '81

■ A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Hank Hannah, representing the RLC Foundation, was on hand for the December 7 Board of Trustees Meeting to

officially "present" the Rend Lake College sign, visible from Interstate 57, to the college. / December '81

1982-83

■ TRAP SHOOT FACILITY TOUR

Trustees toured the Rend Lake Conservancy Trap Shoot facility prior to their August 17 meeting. College officials are considering overseeing operation of the building in order to be able to utilize some space as meeting room options. / August '82

■ HEATING/CHILLED REPAIRS O.K.

Trustees approved the Certificate of Final Acceptance for Heating/Chilled Repairs at the February 15 Board Meeting. / February '83

1987-88

■ WASTEWATER PLANT

The Rend Lake College Wastewater Plant is one of only five nominated from 387 Group II facilities for "Best Operated Wastewater Treatment Works" by the Division of Water Pollution Control, Field Operations Section of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. / October '87

■ RENOVATION PROJECTS APPROVED

Dr. Harry Braun informed Trustees the college had received approval for the facilities renovation projects from the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board as well as approval to issue \$950,000 in bonds under the Protection, Health and Safety law. / October '87

■ VOCATIONAL BUILDING ADDITION

Brieseacher Construction was the low bidder for the Vocational Building addition, estimated at \$938,414. / December '87

■ TRAP FIELD LEASE EXTENDED

Rend Lake College's lease to use the nearby Trap Field building facilities (from the Rend Lake Conservancy District) was extended for two years. In turn, about one-third of it is leased to the Soil Conservation District for 4 1/2 years. / April '88

1989-90

■ INDUSTRIAL TECH JOINS PACT

The Interruptible Service Agreement RLC has with Tri-County Electric Cooperative now includes the Industrial Technology Building. To keep this building available during potential shutdowns, Trustees approved seeking bids for a generator which would maintain power in that facility. / December '89

1990-91

■ FACILITY USAGE REPORT

According to the Facility Usage Report, which is part of the ICCB Resource Allocation Management Plan, Rend Lake College has 392 classrooms, restrooms and other areas on its Ina campus. Out

of nearly 227,000 square feet in total, the college boasts 165,387 square feet of space that is usable as assignable square footage; the remainder is utilized as custodial, circulation, mechanical and structural areas. / April '91

1991-92

■ INTERRUPTIBLE ELECTRICITY

In a letter to administrators, Tri-County Electric Cooperative indicated Rend Lake College saved \$172,646 during 1991 as a result of being on the interruptible electric service rate. / March '92

■ ADMINISTRATION REMODELING

Trustees granted permission during a Special Meeting March 31 to remodel the Administration Building and to bid carpeting, modular walls and furniture. The administrative request was driven by the need for space for computers and printers for a new Management Information System and space for a full-time Resource Development Director and Office beginning in October. Both activities are part of a Title III "Strengthening Institutions" Federal Grant.

Board members were reminded a bank in Marion had donated some walls and fixtures that would be used in the Business Office area.

The original estimate of the complete project was \$48,000, but because the expenditure would be from the fund balance, it had been scaled back to \$30,000 at the present time. / March '92

1992-93

■ DID YOU KNOW?

According to Anthropology/Sociology Instructor Sue Tomlin, the Rend Lake College District (1,985 square miles) is larger than the entire state of Rhode Island (1,217 square miles). / February '93

■ 'ADOPT-A-TREE' CAMPUS PROJECT

Faculty and staff were encouraged to purchase trees to be planted around campus. Purchase prices ranged from \$10-\$23, depending on the type selected. Name tags accompanied each tree identifying the donor or someone else being honored or recognized.

The "Adopt-A-Tree" project helped beautify the campus with Bradford pear trees, flowering crabs and dogwoods, golden rain trees, tulip trees, red maples, sweet gum, ash and cypress trees. / April '93

[NOTE: The Earth Day promotion resulted in 89 trees being planted on campus in honor or memory of staff and others.]

■ MORE ELECTRIC THAN EVER

For the sixth year in a row, Rend Lake College agreed to an interruptible electricity agreement with Tri-County Electric Cooperative. By agreeing to shut down,

if deemed necessary by the supplier, on high-demand very hot summer or very-cold winter days, the college was able to save \$193,350 last year even though it had to shut down operations just one time.
/ June '93

1993-94

■ MT. VERNON ADULT LEARNING CTR.

Rend Lake College opened an Adult Learning Center in Mt. Vernon on September 20. The former house is located at 300 S. 19th St., directly south of Casey Junior High.

The facility will offer GED classes; literacy tutor classes; offices for the Jefferson County Family Literacy Coordinator and the Mt. Vernon City Schools District 80 "Project Success"; a new readers class funded through United Way of Jefferson County, and a computer lab accessible to students, including "Project First Class" students under the tutelage of Camille Jones. / September '93

■ GOOD SAM ATTENDANCE CENTER

College officials were granted permission at the February 15 Board meeting to pursue an agreement with Good Samaritan Regional Health Center regarding the establishment of a Rend Lake College Attendance Center in the Sister Joanne Building.

A Fitness Center estimated to cost \$71,500 will be the centerpiece; classrooms will include a dedicated Distance Learning facility. Tentative plans also call for additional parking for 50. / February '94

[A revised agreement with GSRHC was approved at the June 21 Board meeting.]

■ 'NO SMOKING'

"No Smoking" signs will go up across campus following the vote of Trustees February 15. Exceptions: the television lounge in the Student Center and outdoors. / February '94

1994-95

■ MT. VERNON CENTER

Rend Lake College opens a Mt. Vernon Satellite Center in the Good Samaritan Regional Health Center Sister Joanne Building. / Fall '94

■ CHRISTOPHER ADULT LEARNING

A new Adult Learning Center opens in Christopher in the Franklin County Housing Authority. / September '94

■ TRUSTEES TOUR CAMPUS

Trustees unofficially began their November 15 meeting with a tour of the recently renovated Learning Resource Center classrooms, including two Distance Learning classrooms and new computer classrooms dedicated to Architecture and Agriculture; remodeled Allied Health

classrooms, and remodeled gymnasium featuring modern, safer bleachers.

/ November '94

■ AQUATICS CENTER ARCHITECTS

The Board of Trustees conducted special meetings November 28 and December 5... first to narrow 16 design submissions by architectural firms (down to three) for the swimming and aquatic rehabilitation center project and then to eventually choose the local firm of Wilson, Hodge and Groh, subject of course to Capital Development Board approval. / November-December '94

■ NO DAY CARE: ONE OF TWO

A report to Trustees indicated Rend Lake College is one of only two community colleges in the state that does not have a day care facility on-campus. / May '95

1995-96

■ SEWER HOOKUP PROJECT

Trustees recommended the capital project submission to the Illinois Community College Board for sewer hookup with the Rend Lake Conservancy District. There is \$96,690 available from excess funds in Protection, Health and Safety projects.

Projected sewage bills for services provided by RLCD are approximately \$16,000 per year based on average usage. Administrators indicated the cost of operating our own plant would be about the same, but this move would eliminate the need for pending Environmental Protection Agency compliance and investment in future plants. / July '95

■ ON-CAMPUS SECURITY 24/7

The Rend Lake College campus is now under security protection 24/7 – 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the first time. / August '95

■ BUS SERVICE DISCONTINUED

Bus service from Mt. Vernon to the Ina campus has been discontinued. / August '95

■ TIMES SQUARE LEASE

The RLC Board approved a three-year lease with Diversified Developers of Morehead Hills, OH, for space in the Times Square Mall in Mt. Vernon. The space adjacent to JC Penney is expected to be renovated into room for one computer classroom, one regular classroom and an office. / January '96

■ 'NO SMOKING,' NO EXCEPTIONS

"No Smoking" signs will be posted in all buildings on-campus, no exceptions, following action by Trustees at their March Board Meeting. / March '96

■ MANUFACTURING TECH HOME

Trustees approved a two-year agreement to lease a 32x64-foot building in Whittington to house a potential new

program in Manufacturing Technology. The skills involved in gelcoat application and lamination is required by a local boat manufacturer, Fiberglass Reinforced Plastics Technicians. / March '96

[Within a few weeks, Rend Lake College was hosting an Open House at the Fiberglass Reinforced Plastics Technology Learning Center.]

■ BOARD COMMITMENT TO AQUATICS

At their Special Meeting April 29, Trustees approved \$203,000 toward the building of the Aquatics Center, with \$1.8 million anticipated from the Capital Development Board. / April '96

■ C.C.R.R. FACILITY

A lease agreement was approved June 11 by the Board of Trustees with Rock Creek Center for office space located at 1100B Veterans Drive in Mt. Vernon. The college's grant-funded Child Care Resource and Referral Center will be housed in the facility. / June '96

1996-97

■ ONE-STOP SHOP AT JOB SERVICES

Rend Lake College will open a One-Stop Shop July 3 in the Job Services Office on West Broadway in Mt. Vernon. Available will be counseling and most other services necessary for prospective students to obtain information and eventually enroll in college classes. / July '96

■ CAMPUS PARKING LOTS

Trustees approved Protection, Health and Safety projects August 6 to resurface on-campus parking lots at a cost of \$426,000. / August '96

■ COMMUNITY SERVICE GOES SHOPPING

The Community Service operation is moving to space in Times Square Mall in Mt. Vernon shared with a storefront Computer Lab and college classroom. / August '96

■ ADULT ED / EVEN START SITE

Rend Lake College purchased a portable building at its September 17 Board Meeting to house its Adult Education/Even Start program at the Head Start site on property owned by District 80 Schools in Mt. Vernon. / September '96

■ SCHOOLHOUSE OPEN HOUSE

An Open House for the refurbished One-Room Independence Schoolhouse now relocated on-campus will be held for the public Sunday afternoon, November 3. / November '96

■ TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING BUILDING

Board members approved renovation of the South 4-H Building on the Ina campus in order to house the Truck Driver Training program. The space will be converted to two classrooms. / February '97

1997-98

■ REGIONAL BIKE TRAIL PLAN

A Regional Bike Trail Plan is in progress as the result of a planning grant funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Office of Economic and Regional Development at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

The bike trail is scheduled to be built on land managed by Wayne Fitzgerrell State Park, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rend Lake Conservancy District and Rend Lake College. / September '97

■ CHILD CARE FACILITY PROPOSAL

A presentation was made to the Board regarding a Child Care facility, estimated at between \$275,000-\$305,000, by Bob Ross, Randall Shively and Tina Grounds.

The proposed addition to campus would meet three objectives: 1) Provide child care services for students and staff; 2) Develop a learning lab for the Child Development program; 3) Develop a model center to promote quality care for young children in the district.

An added benefit would be an increase in overall enrollment, with a higher graduation rate as well. / October '97

■ BUS TRANSPORTATION RETURNS

South Central Transit to and from the Ina campus is back. / February '98

■ CHILD CARE CENTER APPROVAL

A Special Meeting was held February 3 to enable the Board of Trustees to submit to both the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Board of Higher Education an Application for Approval of a Locally Funded Construction Project . . . a Child Care Center. / February '98

■ BUS SETS ROAD IN MOTION

When a mini-bus carrying the Belleville Area Softball Team to the Region XXIV South Section Tournament hosted by the Lady Warriors failed to clear the 8-foot ceiling under the Academic Building, injuring four players enough to require medical attention (and everyone on-board to be taken for medical clearance), it was the last time any tall vehicle – this one estimated at almost 10 feet – struck the underside of the second floor and set into motion the political clout necessary to build a road around campus on the north side and forever close the roadway through the center of campus for safety reasons. / May '98

■ GO . . . INTAKE, CHILDREN'S CENTERS

Two major construction projects on-campus will move forward thanks to action taken by the RLC Board of Trustees at its May 12 meeting . . .

• Walton and Associates was appointed Architect/Engineer of the \$1.3 million

Intake Center expansion project, which will double the size of the Administration Building to 15,000 square feet.

The project will be funded by a \$1.85 million insurance reserve bond at no cost to district taxpayers.

• The bid by Brieseacher Construction of Mt. Vernon was accepted for construction of a Children's Center at a cost of \$437,300. / May '98

1998-99

■ WATERFURNACE HEATING/COOLING

WaterFurnace International donated an underground heating/cooling system for installation in the new RLC Foundation Children's Center. / September '98

■ BETTER LATE THAN NEVER . . .

The Aquatics Center Grand Opening was celebrated October 26 . . . nine months after it first opened. Acknowledged along with major RLCF donor Jimmy Fulks of Mariah Boats were other contributors Bank of Illinois in Mt. Vernon, Peoples National Bank, Withers Broadcasting and Farrar Oil Company. / October '98

■ NORTH ROAD LOW BIDS ACCEPTED

The low bid of \$244,985.43 for construction of the new North Road was submitted by Southern Illinois Asphalt of Mt. Vernon as General Contractor and approved by the RLC Board of Trustees as its April Meeting. Also accepted was a \$62,372 bid by Brown Electric of Goreville. / April '99

■ TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC SAVINGS

Tri-County Electric Cooperative General Manager Marcia Scott informed Trustees the college saved \$82,028 during the 1998 calendar year by selecting the interruptible service rate. RLC President Mark S. Kern assured the Board interruptible service had not been a major factor in the operation of the college. / June '99

1999-2000

■ SPORTS HALL OF FAME APPROVED

The Constitution and By-Laws for a Rend Lake College Sports Hall of Fame gained approval at the September 14 Board of Trustees meeting. / September '99

■ BOARD MEETS IN PINCKNEYVILLE

Rend Lake College Trustees and administrators spent the evening of December 14 in Pinckneyville, beginning with dinner and a tour at the new Pinckneyville Correctional Center.

That was followed by a regularly scheduled monthly meeting, open to the public, at Matsushita Universal Media Services (MUMS) LLC of America.

Part of the meeting involved MUMS Chief Operating Officer Gary Vaughn and RLC Executive Director of Community Development Elaine Johnson describing

the relationship between their two entities, including . . .

• Employee training and assessment provided by WorkKeys job profiling;

• Prospective employee testing, which requires a minimum score (at least) to be attained before applicants can hope for an interview;

• School-to-Work summer internships for high school students, plus additional training at the college. / December '99

2001-02

■ PINCKNEYVILLE GROUNDBREAKING

Groundbreaking festivities were held Thursday, August 16, at the site of the soon-to-be RLC Pinckneyville Campus. / August '01

■ MARKETPLACE REMODELING

Bids were accepted at a special meeting of the Board of Trustees March 20, 2002, for remodeling of the RLC Marketplace. Approved – General Contractor, ECI Construction of Wadesville, IN (\$784,000); Electrical Contractor, R. Newton Electric of Marion (\$542,900); HVAC, Quality Sheet Metal of Carbondale (\$392,053); Fire Protection, Western Kentucky Sprinkler of Paducah (\$29,400), and Plumbing, D Mechanical of Salem (\$215,491). / March '02

■ GOLF OUTLET GRAND OPENING

The Grand Opening for the RLC Golf Outlet at the Marketplace in Mt. Vernon is scheduled April 19-21. / April '02

2002-03

■ PINCKNEYVILLE OPEN HOUSE

An Open House for the 5,915-square-foot RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus was held Wednesday, August 14.

Hosts for the 2-6 p.m. event were Mark S. Kern, RLC President; Mary Roe, RLC Dean of Student Services; Pat Mitchell, RLC Foundation Executive Director, and Heather Stanton, RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus Coordinator.

Other RLC personnel on hand to explain programs and answer questions area residents might have included Director of Counseling Ann Bullock, Director of Student Records Kim Harvey and Recruitment Specialist Jerry Case, Registration and Student Advising; Foundation Assistant Director Lori Ragland, Scholarships and Retirement Education; Community Ed Director Dawn Gibson, and Advisor Cheri Rushing, Financial Aid.

Also, Director of Center for Business Ed Ruffino and Computer Workshops Coordinator Laura Kern, Center for Business Services; Network Specialist Don Darnell, Computer Lab; Distance Learning/Media Technology Specialist Karla Lewis, Distance Learning and Telecourses, and Educational Technology Specialist Robin Yucus, PowerPoint Presentation. / August '02

■ CLOCK TOWER DEDICATION

The Staff Clock Tower Dedication Ceremonies are scheduled Sunday afternoon, September 15. It will include a reception prepared by Instructor Diane Catalfamo and the Culinary Arts program and a campus-wide Open House to follow.

/ September '02

■ HITTING ZONE OPENS

The Hitting Zone opened for business (and practice) October 7. / October '02

2003-04

■ MARKETPLACE UPDATE

Director of Physical Plant Randall Shively provided a two-page handout to Trustees consisting of a map of the Rend Lake College Marketplace and a schedule of recent improvements.

The RLC Marketplace was purchased on September 10, 2001. Relocation and renovation of the 11 retail stores began in December and completed in May 2003.

Demolition for classrooms and offices for both RLC and the State of Illinois One-Stop offices also began December 2001 and was completed in Fall 2002. The east side parking lot was asphalted in September 2002, and landscaping improvements were done on the east end in Spring 2003.

RLC's Cosmetology/Massage Therapy areas represent the final phase of Marketplace renovation; they started in May 2003 and should be completed this month.

Total estimated renovation improvements as of August 5 are \$3,327,263. With the mall purchase and all renovations, the cost per square foot is \$70. Shively stated this figure is very reasonable; it cost \$160 per square foot to build the RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus.

President Mark S. Kern indicated the managers of the Marketplace Coffee Shop wanted out of their lease, and Rend Lake College approved it as of August 1. The college will now operate the Coffee Shop.

The RLC Marketplace, added Kern, will be cash flow positive next year. / August '03

■ NEW SMOKING POLICY

The Board approved a new Smoking Policy – Outdoors Only. / April '04

2005-06

■ MARKETPLACE EXPANSION?

Property (2.43 acres) owned by former Mall Owner Darrell Jent directly south of the RLC Marketplace in Mt. Vernon was purchased for \$200,000 to allow for possible future expansion. Rend Lake College and the RLC Foundation now owns slightly more than 15 contiguous acres at the Marketplace site immediately west of Interstate 57. / August '05

■ FUNDING PROJECT BONDS

The Board of Trustees at its October 11

meeting granted approval to issue funding bonds for the purchase of The Hitting Zone from the RLC Foundation (\$300,000), the purchase of land next to the RLC Marketplace (\$200,000) (see August '05) and construction of an all-weather running track (\$600,000). / October '05

■ ADVERTISING A TALL ORDER

Purchased an existing, giant electronic sign (5 feet by 50 feet) to advertise classes, sales and other activities at the nearby RLC Marketplace in Mt. Vernon. The sign, which is visible to traffic just off Interstates 57 and 64, is on Mt. Vernon Travel Center of America property. / May '06

■ KUMON MATH/READING CENTER

The Kumon Math and Reading Center opened in the Mt. Vernon Marketplace in June 2006. / June '06

■ RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY LAB

Space was remodeled in the Advanced Technology Center to house a Radiologic Technology Lab on-campus. / June '06

2006-07

■ 4-H LEASE EXTENSION THRU 2055

Trustees approved extension of a lease with the Rend Lake Conservancy District through December 31, 2055, regarding land shared by Franklin and Jefferson County 4-H facilities. It extends the lease to its original 50-year coverage.

The college agrees to lease five acres along its northern boundary to RLCD in return for the 10-acre plot utilized by the 4-H programs.

The arrangement with the Jefferson County 4-H Foundation and the Franklin County Extension Facilities, Inc. was signed March 19, 1980. / December '06

■ ON-CAMPUS DRIVING RANGE

An on-campus driving range is now open and a new short-range chipping attraction should get the green light around mid-August. Tokens for range balls are available by showing a college I.D. in the Aquatics Center Office.

A putting green is scheduled for installation just south of the Aquatics Center patio in September. / June '07

2007-08

■ CAMPUS-WIDE CHANGES

- Renovation of the Culinary Arts facilities to make way for a new, state-of-the-art culinary lab is underway in the south end of the Student Center. As part of this project, the Maintenance staff will create a new dining room to seat 70-80 guests.

- The second floor of the Learning Resource Center has been gutted and geared for three extra-large classrooms. A bid for new computer desks for the classrooms was approved at the July Board meeting. And the LRC first floor has a new look.

- Maintenance Technician Rusty Downen has been busy clearing trees and growth from the lake area along I-57. The improvement will enhance the view of campus for passing motorists.

- All carpet and tile floor covering are anticipated to be in place at the Marketplace Pre-K Center by the end of this week. Plumbing fixtures and cabinets will be installed with a finish date set for August 15. The center opens August 20. The playground located in the center of the Marketplace breezeway is 95 percent finished. Still to be installed are a playhouse and sandbox. The tricycle raceway and turf are already in place and five-foot fence for children's safety has been put in. Staff will paint and make ceiling and lighting improvements at Shoe Stop.

- Major renovations to the RLC Theatre will begin around mid-November and last into January. Once completed, the Theatre will be better than ever – complete with brand-new seats, new carpet, a center isle, acoustic wall treatments, a new stage curtain and a fully-operational thrust stage.

- The new 100-yard chipping range is growing roots as you read this. Designed as a practice facility for the golf teams, this range is state-of-the-art with two types of grass for practice. Players should be able to begin using it in early- to mid-September. Plus, a putting green will be installed just south of the Aquatics Patio. Ground is expected to be moved on this project in September.

- The Radiologic Technology Lab is nearly finished and will be ready for the first day of Fall Semester. More than \$60,000 in equipment will soon be at students' fingertips. / August '07

2008-09

■ KERN APPLIED SCIENCE BUILDING

Trustees approved naming of the newest facility on-campus, the Mark S. Kern Applied Science Building. The retiring President is the only full-time employee who has devoted 40 years to the Illinois Community College System. / July '08

■ BOARD ROOM MOVING ON UP . . .

Construction is underway on a new Executive Board Room in the Student Center. Second floor offices are being reassembled to form a place where the Board of Trustees can conduct meetings in executive session.

The project will eliminate two offices on the second floor – those of Kathy Craig and Dave Warner. AmeriCorps has moved back to the Advanced Technology Center, Lori Ragland and Community Education will move into Paula Myers' former office (Myers and WIA/Truck Driver Training has moved to the

office at the west end) and Ragland's yet-to-be-named Assistant Director will move in with Director Chad Copple, Assistant Director Nathan Wheeler and Student-Worker Erin Morris in Marketing and Public Information.

Director Craig and the Center for Business Services has occupied the large office at the west end of the second floor.

The Curtis Parker Executive Board Room space, previously located on the first floor across from Security in the Student Center, was used in the Culinary Arts expansion. / July '08

■ MINING TRAINING CENTER BID

Board members accepted the bid of \$1,159,000, plus a \$90,000 alternate bid, from Lipps Construction Co. for the new Mining Training Center. / July '08

■ MINING CENTER GROUNDBREAKING

A Groundbreaking Ceremony for the on-campus RLC Coal Mining Training Center was conducted Thursday, August 7. Featured speakers, in addition to RLC President Charley Holstein, were Warren Ribley, Director of Operations for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity; State Representative Kurt Granberg (D-107), and State Senator Gary Forby (D-59). / August '08

2009-10

■ COAL MINING CENTER OPEN HOUSE

An Open House for the RLC Coal Mining Training Center on the Ina campus was held Tuesday, August 11, 10 a.m.-noon. In addition to class registration opportunities, the event included demonstrations, tours and refreshments.

The date of the Open House was one year and four days after groundbreaking for the facility. / August '09

2010-11

■ PINCKNEYVILLE GROUNDBREAKING

Groundbreaking Ceremonies for the RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus Science and Computer Center addition were conducted March 30. / March '11

2011-12

■ SCIENCE/COMPUTER CENTER OPENS

Seven months after ceremonial shovels first broke ground, the RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus had its new Science and Computer Center wing and welcomed everyone for a Thursday, September 29, Open House, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The total cost was \$547,588.40, including equipment, for the Robert J. Crawford Science Lab, the Dr. Gene Stotlar Computer Classroom and the RLC Foundation Computer Center. / September '11

2012-13

■ FITNESS CENTER GOES TO MARKET

Rend Lake College will open a new Fit-

ness Center December 26 at the Rend Lake College MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon. The new facility is next door to the RLC Golf Outlet. It will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays, and 1-4 p.m. on Sundays.

The new facility will be equipped with Universal machines, free-weight stations, treadmills with dedicated television screens, elliptical trainers and an aerobic/group exercise room. Aerobic dance classes, led by qualified instructors, also will be available. For those who like to go at their own pace, the Fitness Center will offer a variety of fitness DVDs that can be used in the exercise room. / December '12

2013-14

■ TUTORING UNDER ONE ROOF

Most tutoring sessions for General Education courses are now under one roof: the North Oasis (Room 101). The Math Lab, formerly in the Academic Building, and the Writing Center, formerly in NO 138, are officially located in one room.

The Writing Center, a new feature this year, is open 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday, with extended hours Tuesday (until 7), Wednesday (8) and Thursday (5), and 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1-2:30 p.m. Fridays.

The Math Lab will continue to have its same hours at the new location – 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. weekdays – with a couple of exceptions (Tuesday 9 a.m. and Thursday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.).

The Communications Lab will remain in NO 125 and operate with the same hours.

Students are encouraged to utilize these options and are welcome to attend any of the tutoring sessions. Students needing tutoring at a time not available should contact Sue Cunningham, LEC Specialist and Tutoring and Disability Services Coordinator. / November '13

■ SCHOOL SECURITY GRANT FUNDS

Rend Lake College will soon be enhancing security features across campus with the help of \$102,738 from the Illinois School Security Grant Program and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

Announcements were made Tuesday, May 6, of grants totaling \$25 millions in funds to public K-12 and community colleges across the state. Jo Ann Dick, Coordinator of Special Projects, said the college will use the money to install 127 new locks on the inside of doors and to place an additional 29 more security cameras across campus.

Door locks are for all buildings as well as in classrooms, offices and restrooms. New cameras will be placed inside some buildings and on exterior locations.

The security server also will be replaced

to improve picture quality and reviewing abilities; key card entry will be added to some buildings, and security blinds may be installed in some classrooms. / May '14

2014-15

■ RLC RECREATIONAL CENTER

The Hitting Zone was renamed as the Rend Lake College Recreational Center at the August 12 Board of Trustees Meeting, and the facility will be re-purposed to maximize the athletic offerings provided by the college. This includes individualized lessons, athletic camps, intramural sports and the Wayne Arnold Fitness Center. / August '14

■ CAMPUS WALKING PATH

Take a lap around Rend Lake College's campus on the new American Heart Association (AHA) Walking Path. RLC and the AHA partnered up Friday morning, April 17, during the first Health and Wellness Fair on the Ina campus to celebrate a new location for locals to commit to becoming healthier.

The AHA has designated Walking Paths across the country, labeling them with metal signs and listing them on their website – www.startwalkingnow.org – which provides details on location, distance and terrain of the path.

The goal is to help individuals find a pathway near their home or workplace that is convenient for walking.

"On RLC's campus, we host weekly 'Walk and Talks' during the lunch hour on Wednesdays as part of our Worksite Wellness program. The AHA Walking Path will enhance these walks by providing indicators and encouragement along the way," said Lori Ragland, Dean of Community and Corporate Education. / April '15

2015-16

■ CHILDREN'S CENTER EXPANSION

The low bid of \$225,800 from Ron Gobin Enterprises Inc. of Murphysboro was accepted for the expansion of the Rend Lake College Foundation Children's Center, according to a news release following the December 8, 2015 Board of Trustees meeting. The project will be funded by the RLC Foundation.

The 1,526-square-foot addition will include a large open floor space for gross motor skill activities, a children's library with half-height walls for monitoring the children, a restroom, two storage closets and a water cooler.

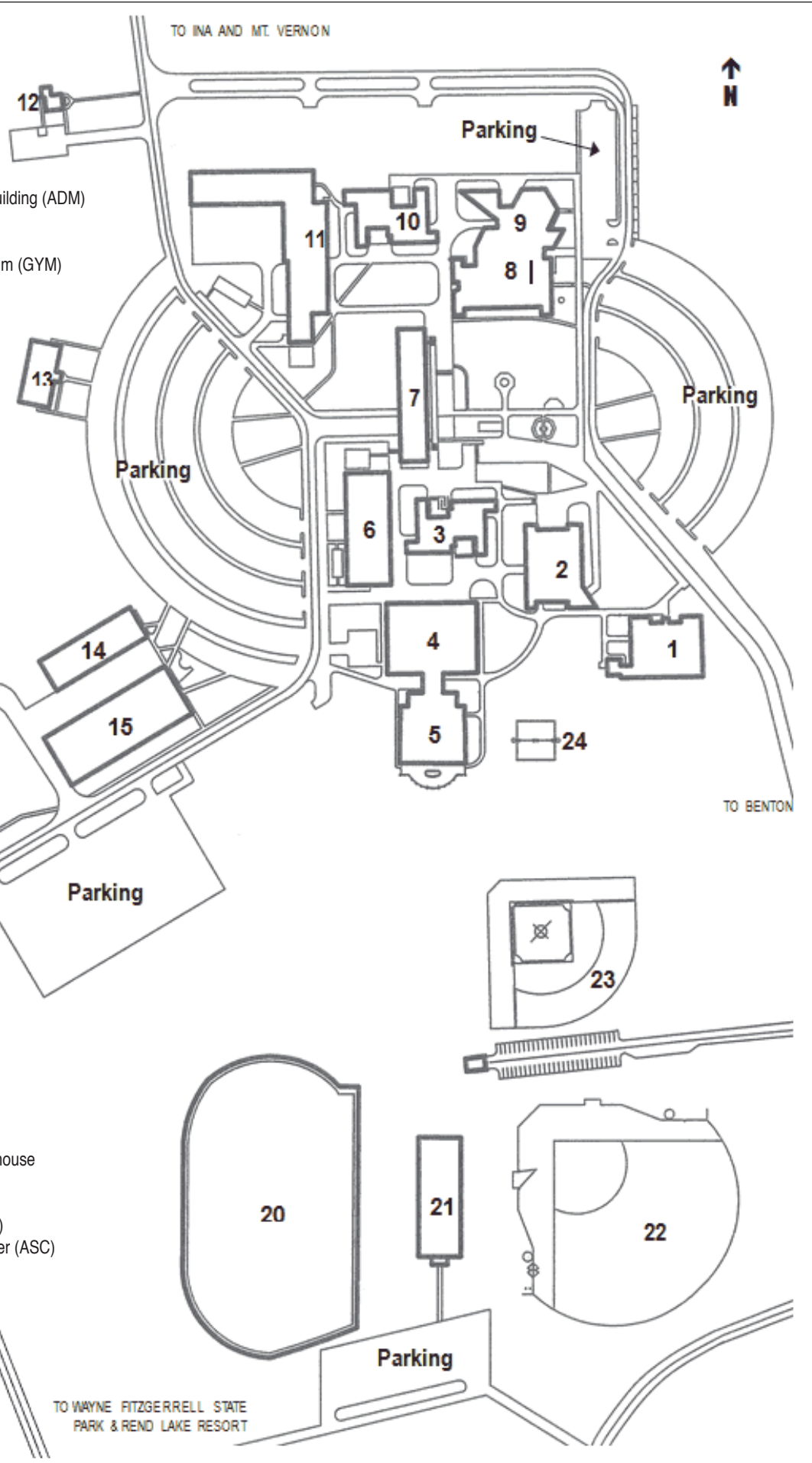
The addition will be connected to the existing building via a small vestibule/corridor with direct access to the playground. / December '15

**REND LAKE COLLEGE
CAMPUS / Ina, IL**

- 1 - Dr. Allen Y. Baker Administration Building (ADM)
- 2 - Student Center (STC)
- 3 - South Oasis (SO)
- 4 - James "Hummer" Waugh Gymnasium (GYM)
- 5 - Aquatics Center (AQU)
- 6 - Science Building (SCI)
- 7 - Academic Building (ACA)
- 8 - Learning Resource Center (LRC)
- 9 - Theatre (THEA)
- 10 - North Oasis (NO)
- 11 - Vocational Building (VOC)

RLC CAMPUS

- 12 - One-Room "Independence" Schoolhouse
- 13 - RLC Foundation Children's Center
- 14 - Maintenance Building
- 15 - Advanced Technology Center (ATC)
- 16 - Mark S. Kern Applied Science Center (ASC)
- 17 - Coal Mine Training Center (CMTC)
- 18 - Mine Rescue / Fire Training Facility
- 19 - Aquaculture Pond
- 20 - Track / Soccer Field
- 21 - The Rec
- 22 - Baseball Field
- 23 - Softball Field
- 24 - Volleyball Court



Issues and concerns

ON- AND OFF-CAMPUS FACTORS THAT HAD AN EFFECT ON COLLEGE LIFE

AT ODDS, OUSTED ▶

Grave differences of opinion between President Martin, Academic Council

MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS MARCH 16, 1977

The Academic Council at Rend Lake College formally requested at Tuesday night's meeting (March 15) of the Board of Trustees that Dr. W. Travis Martin, college president, be censured and removed from office before the beginning of the 1977-78 academic year.

The written request was accompanied by a list of 10 charges that have been leveled against the college president. The Academic Council adopted the 10 charges and the written request for censure and removal from office at a March 2 council meeting.

Early last week, the censure and removal request were put to the entire faculty. Fifty-four favored the action, four opposed and three abstained.

Members of the college board, who described the charges against Dr. Martin as "serious" and "grave," had board attorney Don Musick present to question members of the Academic Council about the specifics of the council's charges, but council chairman Carroll Turner told board members and Musick he could not act as the spokesman for the council.

He told the trustees that if they had specific questions, "we'll be glad to cover them as a group," and suggested a later meeting.

The trustees, after repeated attempts to get Turner to give specifics on the charges, finally voted to meet with the Academic Council and its counsel at 7:30 p.m. next Tuesday. They stipulated that they want all the specifics about the 10 charges in writing.

The council has charged Martin with promoting the mismanagement of the college finances; with refusing to comply with board policy No. 1.3 and, therefore, stifled the faculty from bringing problems and concerns to the board; with promoting discriminatory hiring and promotional practices, and with being unsympathetic to minority groups.

They also charge he has used his office to disrupt the faculty, faculty offices and faculty personal property; has not demonstrated leadership in providing qualified instructors to the students when qualified

personnel were available, and has not provided qualified leadership to assist the Agriculture, Automotive and Architecture Department.

Finally, they charge Dr. Martin has, through his office, promoted mismanagement of the college finances to preserve his position; has verbally and mentally abused faculty members, and has changed board policies.

The trustees said they were anxious to air the charges in public, at last night's meeting, because the charges had been made public Saturday after they had been released to some of the area news media.

"There was no intent on the part of the Academic Council to release the information," Turner answered after the meeting when he was asked if the council had made a specific decision to release the information to the media.

However, a member of the Academic Council, Max Brandon, did release a copy of the council's March 2 minutes, which contained the 10 charges, to WMIX Radio late last week.

One faculty member, William Young-husband, told the trustees Dr. Martin had been an effective leader and made reference to "lying, conniving, political individuals whose desire it has been to undermine the administration."

Dr. Martin was hired in July 1975 to replace Dr. James M. Snyder and is in the second year of his three-year contract.

Discussion of the board's proposed policy statement on the privacy of faculty offices also drew response from the faculty.

The statement provides that each faculty member have a private office and a desk with a lockable compartment, and stipulates that the compartment will not be entered by college personnel except after notice.

Faculty members said they were unsure, by the wording of the document, what constitutes "notice." They referred to the moving of faculty offices just before the opening of school last fall, when belongings were taken from faculty offices and moved to other offices, in many cases without the knowledge of faculty members.

Musick said the policy statement was drafted in a spirit of good faith and that the

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Cosmetology conflict with School of Beauty Culture

BOARD MINUTES AUGUST 19, 1969

Mr. and Mrs. George Hill, owners of the Mt. Vernon School of Beauty Culture, presented their concerns over the establishment of the Cosmetology program. They referred to it as "a definite threat to their business" and asked Trustees to "give consideration to possible modifications of the program so it was not in direct competition with their business."

A report later in the meeting indicated the maximum 25 students were enrolled in the first-year Cosmetology program, with six others on a stand-by basis.

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Fitness operators complain re: competitive advantage

BOARD MINUTES APRIL 19, 1994

Rex Vaught and his father, Charles Vaught, went before the Board of Trustees to express their concerns regarding Rend Lake College's proposed Fitness Center as part of the new attendance center at Good Samaritan Regional Health Center Sister Joanne Building in Mt. Vernon.

The Vaughts own/operate a free-weight fitness operation in Mt. Vernon and do not believe the competition for business from a tax-supported college is fair.

The Vaughts and their supporters also waged a small Letters to the Editor newspaper campaign against the college and its Fitness Center.



Student Senate's 'Boxes' create own controversy

FALL 1975

A mini-controversy of sorts developed when "Bitch Boxes" proposed by the RLC Student Senate were not hung by the Physical Plant staff under the direction of Bob Webb, with support from the administration.

Those opposing their installation at various spots on campus did not like what the suggestion boxes were called, as well as what their presence depicted to outside visitors and many older students.

The Student Senate agreed to change the name to "The Box," repaint them and have them hung only in the Student Center, North Oasis and South Oasis.



LRC missing books return could amount to \$3,864

SUMMER 1975

HELP WANTED -

Employees in the Learning Resource Center are hoping for the return of 276 missing books during the 1975-76 academic year.

At an average replacement cost of \$14 per book, the loss amounts to \$3,864.

board and administration had no intention of violating that spirit.

Faculty members said the policy was not being adhered to currently, because not every faculty member has a private office with a desk with a lockable compartment.

After the discussion, the trustees decided to table the measure.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS MARCH 30, 1977

INA, Ill. (AP) - The Rend Lake College Board of Trustees has "specifically reprimanded" the college Academic Council for accusations it made against President W. Travis Martin Jr.

"The request to censure and remove Dr. Martin is rejected," the board said Tuesday night.

"The board has not received any evidence to support the charges warranting censure or dismissal," the board added.

Members of the council had accused Martin of promoting mismanagement of college finances, engaging in discriminatory hiring and promotion practices and being unsympathetic to minority groups. The 10-member council also contended that the president verbally and mentally abused faculty members.

In a statement, the board expressed "strong disapproval of the resolution of the Academic Council. The allegations were generally over-stated, intemperate and unprofessional."

However, the board also admonished Martin "that it acknowledges widespread feeling of professional dissatisfaction" in the faculty "and a general feeling of . . . antagonism between the faculty and Dr. Martin."

The board said "both sides have engaged in harassment and petty antagonisms toward each other which have been destructive of harmony."

The trustees accused the president of failing "to properly communicate with the faculty in a prompt and courteous manner."

It said the president and the faculty "share responsibility for problems existing and the board must recognize its own share of responsibility."

Members said they expect professional respect and courtesy by all college employees to each other.

They said failure to be respectful and courteous could be viewed as misconduct "sufficient to justify dismissal, denial of tenure or other appropriate action."

Martin and the Academic Council said

they would have comments on the board decision Thursday.

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN MAY 1977
BY KAREN ROTHE

W. Travis Martin Jr., the president of Rend Lake College, Friday filed a \$10 million suit for defamation of character against 10 members of the school's Academic Council.

The suit, filed in Jefferson County Circuit Court in Mt. Vernon, accuses the 10 faculty members of making "false and defamatory charges" against Martin in a censure resolution passed by the Academic Council on March 2, and printed and distributed March 3 as part of the minutes of the Academic Council meeting.

The faculty members "maliciously and wrongfully" distributed minutes of the meeting, detailing the charges, to members of the faculty, administrative employees and others, Martin alleges in the suit.

Martin is asking for \$500,000 in actual damages and \$500,000 in punitive damages from each of the 10 faculty members.

They are Carroll Turner, then head of the Academic Council, Max Brandon, Keith Drayton, Susan Murphy Kolojeski, Henry Douglas Leeck, Francis Lentz, Shirley Rae McHaney, Barbara Lou Tomek, Gary Wade and Shirley Frances Yeargin.

In the suit, Martin alleges that the charges by the Academic Council are false, and that the faculty members failed to exercise reasonable care to determine their truth or falsity. This indicates "malice, spite or ill will," the basis for punitive damages, the suit alleges.

The charges made by the council jeopardize the present and future employment and his personal and professional reputation, Martin says in the suit.

The charges in the suit criticize Martin's management, leadership and administrative abilities.

The resolution, which passed by a 54-4 vote of the faculty, came before the Board of Trustees March 15.

The board met in executive session with Academic Council members and later with Martin.

On March 29, the board presented a resolution rejecting the Academic Council request to censure Martin and remove him from his position. The resolution said the board had not received evidence supporting the charges or warranting further investigation by the board.

The board expressed "strong disap-

proval" of the Academic Council resolution, saying it was "overstated, intemperate and unprofessional." The board also reprimanded the 10 Academic Council members for publicly circulating the charges.

Martin and the faculty have "engaged in harassment and petty antagonisms toward each other . . ." the board said.

"Dr. Martin has failed to properly communicate with the faculty in a prompt and courteous manner," the board resolution said, adding its opinion that both Martin and the faculty were to blame for antagonisms at the school.

Martin declined comment on the suit Saturday, referring questions to his attorney, Joseph W. Hickman of Benton.

Hickman said the suit is "purely a personal matter. The college is not involved in any way.

"Dr. Martin would not want to do anything to jeopardize the welfare of the college," he said.

After the board released its March 29 statement, Martin issued a statement saying he was renewing efforts to "establish and promote harmony."

Martin and teachers named in the suit could not be reached.

THE PRESSING TIMES SEPTEMBER 8, 1977

A recent poll of the administrators of Rend Lake College, conducted by *The Pressing Times*, shows six out of 13 of them are in favor of the dismissal of Dr. W. Travis Martin Jr., President of Rend Lake College. Five administrators indicated they were willing for Martin to stay, one abstained and one did not return the polling ballot.

The 6-5 vote against Martin calls attention to what is an apparent administrative unrest.

Martin, who came to Rend Lake from Hawkeye Institute of Technology in Iowa in 1975, had previously been the subject of a 54-4 vote of censure and dismissal by the Rend faculty.

On March 15, 1977, the Rend Lake College Academic Council asked the Board of Trustees to oust Martin. The 13-member council, representing the college's faculty, presented the results of a March 3 "no confidence" vote showed 54 votes of "no confidence," four votes of confidence and three abstentions.

The result of the vote made public, and distributed to the faculty and press along with a resolution, attracted extensive local, state and area-wide coverage.

The council, with its written resolution in hand, signed by 10 of its members went before the Board of Trustees. The resolution suggested the censure of Dr. Martin by the Board of Trustees and requested his removal as President. It contained 10 "broad and extremely serious accusations of misconduct by Dr. Martin," said a later statement by the Board.

The resolution passed by the council said Martin "has promoted mismanagement of college finances" . . . "promotes discriminatory hiring and promotional practices" . . . "has been unsympathetic to minority groups" . . . "has verbally and mentally abused faculty members" . . . "has changed Board policies" . . .

Turner, in a March interview with Reporter Merrill Perlman of *The Southern Illinoisian*, said, "There have been differences of opinion between the faculty and President for quite some time. We don't feel we've been adequately represented to the Board by the President . . ."

. . . The opinion poll was taken to sample administrative feelings on the problem. The vote was completely voluntary. Each administrator had the option of not voting. Two of the 13 chose that option.

Those polled were: Robert Graham, Dean of Student Services; Ken LaSalle, Dean of Instruction; Mark Kern, Dean of Community Services; Ardell Kimmel, Dean of Vocational-Technical Education; B.J. "Skip" Witunski, Business Manager and Treasurer; Scott Mones, Public Information Officer; Dave Patton, Director of Audio Visual Aids Department; Larry Phifer, Chairman of the Arts and Communications Department; Bill Hudson, Chairman of Agriculture, Automotive and Architecture Department; Dale Mason, Mining Department Chairman; Ed Kownacki, Health and Science Department Chairman; Myron Foley, Business, Math and Social Science Department Chairman, and Imogene Book, Learning Resource Center Director.

The poll contained a statement which the administrator could approve or disapprove. It was explained in the poll that an unmarked ballot would be considered an abstention.

The polling ballot read, "In my opinion, the Board of Trustees of Rend Lake College should act immediately to terminate the contract of Dr. W. Travis Martin Jr., President. This action is necessary to assure smooth running of the college."



Saga of Comedian Champ not very funny after all

R.L.C. F.Y.I. JANUARY 1995

Comedian Vince Champ will bring his unique brand of humor to the Rend Lake College campus for a free noon performance Monday, January 23, 1995, in the South Oasis.

His appearance is sponsored by the RLC Student Senate.

The comedian has made appearances on MTV, "Star Search," "America's Funniest People," Showtime, A & E and "The Joan Rivers Show."

Champ, 33, has opened for Joe Cocker, Chuck Mangione, Melissa Manchester, Jay Leno and Gary Shandling.

"His 'clean' and unique brand of humor appeals to audiences of all ages," according to the promotional material provided.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE MAY 19, 1997

From Chicago to Los Angeles, those in the business of making others laugh were surprised recently when one of their own, Vinson "Vince" Champ, was identified as a suspect in at least eight sexual assaults on college campuses in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska and California.

"I'm totally shocked because the people who had him perform always had nice things to say about him," said Ross Ario of Ario Professional Artists in Chicago, the firm that has booked Champ on the Midwest college circuit for the last four years, usually for about two months each year.

. . . Another of the comedian's booking agents in Chicago noted, however, Champ's schedule, which took him to nine states in three months, resembled "a road map of where these rapes occurred."

The 35-year-old comic was arrested last week on a warrant charging him with rape on a

(Continued on next page)



Comedian Champ (cont.)

Nebraska campus. He also faces charges in California for an alleged sexual assault on the Pasadena City College campus. As news of his arrest and widespread travels spread last week, other law enforcement agencies began to examine their unsolved cases to see if they might be linked to Champ. Even as police studied Champ's travel itinerary and activities, those who had caught his act generally described him as unusually reserved and polite. Most noted his routine was rarely "raunchy" as described in some media reports. "Nothing about his act strikes me as raunchy," Ario said. "He did a classic stand-up act. No props, no gimmicks, no hooks." Carlita Scott, Student Activities Coordinator at Illinois State University, has seen Champ perform several times the last eight years in auditions. "He was never raunchy or offensive at all. His humor was geared toward college students. One agent told me he was so popular and personable some schools invited him back three or four times," said Scott. A darker image of the comedian began to emerge as it was revealed last year Champ was placed on probation in Hollywood for lewd conduct and destroying a woman's stereo. He was ordered to attend domestic violence counseling. It also was reported he had filed for bankruptcy last year although he was earning \$800 to \$1,000 for each performance, according to booking agents. While Champ spent a good deal of time in recent years performing on the road on campuses, cruise ships and comedy clubs, he is known and respected in some of the top comedy clubs in L.A.

(Continued at far right on next page)

The two choices were given: "I agree with this statement" or "I do not agree with this statement." Administrators were asked to mark an "X" beside their choice.

Although the polling process was secret, and conducted in the offices of each of the administrators, the opening of the ballots and results of the poll were tabulated and announced in an opening meeting to which those who were polled were invited.

Martin, when contacted, said he knew of the poll and of the results, but had "no comment." — Mitch Fulford

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN MARCH 22, 1978
BY MERRILL PERLMAN

Rend Lake College President W. Travis Martin Jr. was relieved of his duties and placed on a leave of absence by the college Board Tuesday (March 21).

The Board Chairman later said Martin had the opportunity to request a leave of absence, but refused it.

The Board then named H.J. Haberaecker, retired President of Belleville Area College, to serve as Acting President.

The move effectively ends Martin's three-year tenure as President. In a meeting in December, the Board voted not to renew Martin's contract, saying he did not want to be considered after the contract expired in June.

A resolution read by Board Chairman, the Rev. Dr. Clyde Funkhouser of Mt. Vernon, said,

"RESOLVED, that it is in the public interest and for the good of this College that President Travis Martin be, and he is hereby, relieved of all duties as President of this College, and placed upon leave of absence until further action by this Board, provided that he shall continue as an employee of this College at the salary and with the insurance and welfare benefits heretofore paid him in accordance with his contract of employment . . ."

The resolution passed by a vote of 4-2, with Dr. Allen Baker of Pinckneyville and Carleton Apple of Enfield opposing the motion. Those two are the only remaining members of the board that hired Martin in 1975.

Funkhouser, Joe McClure of Mt. Vernon, Everett Thompson of Sesser and Dr. Richard Simpson of Benton voted in favor of the resolution. B.B. Connaway of McLeansboro was absent [due to illness].

When the resolution was read, Martin

asked Funkhouser if the Board would state any more reasons for the action. Funkhouser said the resolution stated the reasons as "in the public interest and for the good of this college." Martin asked if any specific reasons would be given and Funkhouser replied, "No sir."

Martin then asked when the resolution would go into effect and Funkhouser said as soon as it was passed.

Immediately after the vote Martin and his wife, who attended the meeting, left and could not be reached. He has declined comment in the past on other Board actions affecting him.

Following the meeting, Funkhouser said the Board has been considering the action for several months. "It is not a hasty action at all," he said.

He said Martin was "given the opportunity to ask for a leave of absence, and he rejected it." Martin was told before the meeting that the resolution would be presented, Funkhouser said . . .

OTHER SOURCES

The action during the Special Board Meeting came after Trustees returned from an executive session which lasted approximately 50 minutes.

According to a report in *The Pressing Times* by Staff Writer Don Crider in its April 10, 1978, publication, Martin "proceeded to gather his belongings and left his position at the Board table" after being informed the resolution went into effect immediately.

"Dr. Martin," Crider noted, "was asked on his way from the building for a comment for the P.T. His response was, 'Well, the Board has a right to be wrong. The citizens of the community have given them that prerogative.'"

The second part of the Tuesday night resolution dismissing Martin requested him to remove his personal effects and vacate his office, as well as return the college automobile used by him, by that Friday.

"That would be Good Friday; seems an appropriate day," Crider quoted Martin.

MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS

A \$10 million suit charging defamation of character ended with a directed verdict here yesterday because W. Travis Martin's attorney failed to prove all of the basic elements required for such a libel suit, according to the judge who presided over the trial.

Martin, the former president of Rend Lake College, filed the suit in April 1977

charging that 10 faculty members at the school made "false and defamatory charges or accusations" against him.

Judge Robert Whitmer explained today that a judge could direct a verdict for the jury if all the evidence presented was weighed in the plaintiff's favor and some "basic element" still remained unproven. In this case, a jury would be unable to find in favor of the plaintiff, so the judge has the authority to direct a verdict, he said.

The 10 defendants in the case moved for a directed verdict in circuit court on Monday. The trial began on August 15.

Martin was found to be a public official in the suit, Judge Whitmer said, and therefore was subject to a certain amount of criticism within the law.

Martin's attorneys needed to prove publication, that the faculty's statements were directed to him, that those statements were false and that the defendants made the statements with malice, he said.

Since all of the four requirements were not proven in light of the evidence, Judge Whitmer said, he granted the defendants a directed verdict.

Those defendants were Max Edgar Brandon, Keith Eugene Drayton, Susan Murphy Kolojeski, Henry Douglas Leeck, Francis Leroy Lentz, Shirley Rae McHaney, Barbara Tomek, Carroll Rhea Turner, Gary Lee Wade and Shirley Frances Yeargin.

Martin had claimed that the 10 resolved to censure him in a meeting of the school's Academic Council on March 2, 1977, and that they asked the college's Board of Trustees to remove him from office.

Also, the 10 made 10 charges against him which included discrimination, financial mismanagement of the school, abuse of faculty members and refusal to comply with the board's policies.

Martin was seeking \$500,000 in actual damages and \$500,000 in punitive damages.

Martin's attorney, Joseph Hickman (Benton), could not be reached this morning to see if an appeal would be filed.

PROFESSIONALISM CITED ▶ 'Blue Flu' strikes 10 in AAA Dept.; others upset with 'double standard'

THE PRESSING TIMES SEPTEMBER 1977

Sick calls, telegrams and memos marked a week of deliberation over an alleged "blue flu" in the Triple A (Agricultural, Automotive and Architectural) Department of Rend Lake College.

Ten instructors reported in sick to either Bill Hudson, Chairman of Triple A, or to Dean (Kenneth) LaSalle prior to 8 a.m. on Monday, August 29, 1977. Only one other instructor was absent that day, and had made arrangements the week before.

Monday afternoon, Hudson contacted Triple A faculty to see if they were able to come in on Tuesday. Some said yes, others maybe if better and some "he was not able to contact," Hudson said.

On Monday evening, a telegram was received by those instructors absent from the college. It stated, "Your absence on Monday, August 29, 1977, is considered by the college to be concerted activity in violation of your duties as an instructor as well as your professional responsibilities to your students accordingly. You will not be entitled to pay for this absence unless you present a doctor's statement or medical evidence satisfactory to the college to explain your absence. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken by the college in the event this concerted activity continues."

The telegram was signed by Dr. W. Travis Martin, President of the college. Martin, in an interview Thursday, commented on the issue but would not be quoted.

The policy adopted by the Board of Trustees explains sick leave. "Sick leave shall be interpreted to mean personal illness, quarantine at home or serious illness in the immediate family or household. Husband, wife, son, daughter, mother, father, brother, sister and in-laws. The college has the right to require a physical examination of an individual who is on sick leave."

On Tuesday, Martin sent a retraction of the telegram to the 10. The memo read: "This is to advise you that the Vice Chairman of the Board, Dr. Simpson, has indicated that the sick leave that you took on August 29, 1977, will be honored and no requirement will be made of you to provide a doctor's certificate.

"Further, Dr. Funkhouser, Dr. Simpson and Mr. Carleton Apple have indicated that they would be willing to meet with you sometime this week; but they do not want to call a special meeting of the Board.

... The apparent problem which set off the mass "Blue Flu" centered on an approximate \$9,000 raise granted, cumulatively, to the three instructors in the RLC Mining Technology program. Those three instructors, Charles Foster, John Mitchell and Allen Silkwood, were given raises following an

* - * - *

Comedian Champ (cont.)

"There are a lot of violent comics out there you might think would do something like this, but Vince was not one of them," said comedy dean Bud Friedman, owner of The Improv Comedy Clubs in Hollywood and across the country. "Everybody I have spoken to is shocked. He is a very nice guy, very polite."

Champ noted he was out of the country when he learned of the charges against him and voluntarily returned.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A former "Star Search" comedian accused of a string of rapes at colleges throughout the Midwest has been sentenced to up to 40 years in prison.

Vinson Horace Champ, 38, was found guilty in April of raping a woman in 1997 at Union College, a small Seventh-day Adventist school in Lincoln.

The victim, attacked while playing the piano alone in a campus building, was unable to identify Champ. The case mainly hinged on DNA evidence.

Before sentencing, Champ told Lancaster County District Judge Paul Merritt Jr. he was innocent and was convicted only because of media coverage.

Champ, who earned almost \$100,000 a year, opened for Diana Ross, Sinbad, Arsenio Hall and other stars.

Champ still faces sentencing in the rape of a faculty member at U. of Nebraska-Omaha and could face similar charges for rapes at Iowa, St. Ambrose (IA) and attempted assault at Pasadena (CA) City College. Reports also were reported at Knox College in Galesburg, IL, Carthage College in Kenosha, WS, and Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. No charges have been brought in those.



'Model' ex-student-worker discovered murdered at 19

PRESSING TIMES MARCH 17, 1978

Former Rend Lake College student Debra S. Smith, 19, McLeansboro was found dead at Lake Moses, near Benton, on the morning of March 12. According to Franklin County Coroner Charles "Chuck" Seagle, death was due to ligature-type strangulation.

Seagle said Miss Smith was last seen by friends the night before when they took her to a Benton restaurant. She then unlocked and entered her own car. There are no other confirmed contacts with her.

According to investigators, the victim's car was parked and locked about 100 feet off Route 14 on the Sam Pyle road. Her purse was later found about a half mile back toward Benton. Her nude body was discovered about 30 feet south of the Sam Pyle bridge near the lake shore by a fisherman. Investigators feel that evidence tentatively reveals that Miss Smith was killed and then her body was dropped at the lake shore.

Before withdrawing from school, Miss Smith worked in RLC's Business Office. B.J. "Skip" Witunski, Business Manager, spoke very highly of Miss Smith. "She was a real good worker, very efficient, a more or less model student-worker. It's a shame life had to end for her," Witunski said.

A graduate of McLeansboro High School, she was the daughter of George and Katherine Smith.

executive session of the Board at a regular meeting on August 16.

... The \$9,000 cumulative raise has stirred much campus controversy among members of the faculty and administration alike. Observers feel the Board action may trigger a walkout by the faculty. The Monday sick call indicates those speculations may be true.

Two days after the board meeting, Martin met with the Triple A Department at the direction of Dr. Clyde Funkhouser, Chairman of the Board. At that meeting, one of the Triple A instructors indicated the men in that department want "equal pay for equal work because the miners are getting paid at a different rate."

... In the meeting, an instructor indicated they were not upset with the three individuals or the Mining Department and the Board's decision on their salaries. He indicated they did not want off the salary schedule, they just wanted the same equated base or treatment that the Mining instructors had been given.

One instructor said he felt the college has a "double standard" that "allows people who have no experience or degrees to get more money." One thought a \$2,000 increase per instructor in Triple A might be in line.

"We want to be reasonable," one instructor said. "If there are reasons experience and education are not important factors, we want to know why. It is hard to take."

One instructor in the department said Thursday, "The school definitely has some problems." — Melissa Outland

TEACHER STRIKE AHEAD? ▶ Board refuses request to recognize faculty collective bargaining agent

THE PRESSING TIMES OCTOBER 6, 1978

The possibility of a teachers strike was mentioned during an informational picket comprised of a small group of Rend Lake College faculty and held prior to the September 26 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The purpose of the informational picket was to demonstrate to the college administration the need for official action on a year-old request by faculty for a collective bargaining agent election.

At the recommendation of Dr. Harry J. Braun, RLC President, the Board will render a decision on the issue at the October 17 Board meeting.

During the picket, Ed Heischmidt, RLC Law Enforcement Instructor and Vice

President of the Rend Lake College Federation of Teachers (RLCFT), exclaimed, "All we want is a free and clear election." Heischmidt explained the establishment of collective bargaining would allow input by faculty members on issues concerning hours, wages, benefits and working conditions. The RLCFT Vice President added the faculty is now in a "dictatorial setting" and there needs to be a democratic process for resolving faculty-administration conflicts.

President Braun feels several personal policies must be revised to provide a firm foundation from which to work. Only then, he said, may collective bargaining be seriously considered. Braun added that such policy revisions will require time and careful planning and the administration needs this time to exercise its leadership in solving this problem.

When asked about the possibility of a teachers strike at RLC, Braun replied there is that possibility. If a strike does occur, he believes the administration's response will be "very low-key" and foresees no faculty dismissals. — Pam McMahan

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN OCTOBER 18, 1978
BY JEAN NESS

The Rend Lake College Federation of Teachers (RLCFT) Tuesday (October 17) again confronted the college's Board of Trustees with the teachers' year-old request for recognition of a collective bargaining agent.

But the Board again deferred the question, this time at the request of the college's new president.

About 20 members of RLCFT, an Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT) affiliate, attended the Board meeting Tuesday in support of Ed Heischmidt, Vice President of RLCFT and a Law Enforcement Instructor, who petitioned the Board for a decision on the matter within 30 days.

The teachers are requesting that the Board hold an election under the supervision of the Illinois Department of Labor to determine a bargaining agent.

The request stipulated that the Board should be bound to recognize the winner of such an election.

Scott Mones, Public Information Officer at Rend Lake College, said the Board delayed formal action on the teachers' petition at the request of Harry Braun, the new President of the college.

Braun, who was hired in August, said he had not had time to give the Board members

his ideas in the short time he has been in office, Mones said.

THE MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS OCTOBER 18, 1978

Seventeen of Rend Lake College's 63-person full-time faculty called in sick this morning in the wake of the Board of Trustees' decision at last night's meeting to deny recognition of a faculty union.

Available instructors were being shuffled in their assignments to maintain class schedules, but a few classes had to be canceled, according to Scott Mones, Public Information Officer.

Several members of the Rend Lake College Federation of Teachers walked out of last night's Board meeting after the Trustees turned down the RLCFT's request for recognition as the faculty bargaining agent and for the Board to authorize an election among the faculty. The vote to deny the RLCFT recognition was 5-1 with Rich Herrin, a teacher, coach and athletic director at Benton High School, casting the dissenting vote.

Members of the RLCFT met later last night for two hours. Edward Geppert, district representative of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, issued a statement following the meeting. He said, "The RLCFT had considered strike action, but voted against it. We express disappointment at not being recognized but would like to commend Rich Herrin for his vote to get the union recognition. We have rededicated ourselves to getting recognition."

Last night's action was another chapter in a long battle by the RLCFT for recognition, which was first requested at the September 1977 Board meeting and has been postponed on numerous occasions.

For the second consecutive meeting, Board members were met by informational picket lines from RLCFT members.

Reuben Hawkins, President of the RLCFT, told *The Register-News* this morning, "We discussed last night what we would do next. We are highly unhappy the Board did not grant an election.

"Several ideas were kicked around and we've got some plans in the

works, but they are not for the public at this time."

Hawkins had no comment concerning the 17 faculty members calling in sick this morning.

Prior to the Board's voting on the RLCFT recognition, Board Chairman Richard Simpson of Benton read a statement saying his personal feelings were that the faculty requests in the areas of salary, position on the salary scale and working conditions could be met without the need of a union and that the faculty should give new college President Dr. Harry J. Braun more time to work out the differences.

"If we can't work out a resolution in a matter of time - a few months - then I would not be opposed to a union on campus," Simpson said.

MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS FEBRUARY 21, 1979

The Rend Lake College Federation of Teachers says it will now turn to the court system to seek redress of its grievances with the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees.

Gary Tucker, President of the RLCFT, made the announcement Tuesday after the Board refused to act on a request by Fran Lentz, Academic Council representative, to recognize the federation as the faculty's representative in negotiating salary and welfare matters.

The Board went a step further and voted to approve a clarification of its policy on negotiating faculty salaries and general welfare items that virtually eliminates the possibility of negotiating those matters with a union representative.

The policy in question states that "in matters of salary and general welfare a chosen representative of the faculty shall meet with the President of the college or a designated representative of the President" to work out proposals for Board approval.

An election was held on-campus February 13, Lentz said, and the RLCFT was chosen over the Academic Council's Welfare Committee (30-22) to represent the faculty.

Lentz said after the election the RLCFT contacted Dr. Harry J. Braun, College President, but Braun refused to meet with the group's representative.

The clarification adopted by the Board limits the "chosen representative" to full-time faculty members. The resolution containing the change stated the wording was never meant to mean anyone but a full-time faculty member (not a union negotiator). The Board passed the resolution on Dr. Braun's recommendation.

Richard Simpson, Board President, commented it was the RLCFT's "prerogative" to take the matter to court and added the Board's action was recommended by its attorney.

Tucker said he expected to contact the federation's lawyer today and the specifics of the case might include charges of breach of contract or a mandate ordering the Board to adhere to its original policy.

"It is unfortunate the children and future of the people of the Rend Lake College District must suffer because a group of duly elected Board members refuse to comply with college policy," Tucker said. He also charged the college Board members are using tax dollars to fight for their "personal opinions concerning unions."

The RLCFT has been seeking recognition from the Board as a collective bargaining agent since September 1977.

After the resolution was passed, Dr. Braun pointed to several things that had been done for the faculty's benefit during the past few months. They included: adopting a salary schedule that includes rewards for exceptional work; adopting a travel reimbursement policy for off-campus classes; adopting a policy waiving tuition for faculty dependents; instituting a faculty development in-service program which helps instructors attend courses and workshops; conducting a study of faculty course loads to keep them in line with other community colleges, and establishing a special faculty staff and administrative focus group to study problems at the school.

Simpson added at a previous meeting he had said if things "weren't going well" with faculty negotiations, he would support recognizing the union. He pointed to the achievements Dr. Braun named and said that was not

the case. Simpson added he felt there was a good chance the Board would be able to offer the faculty a greater salary increase than the faculty expect, when negotiations begin in a few months.

"I'm asking the faculty to go along with me and see if it will come to pass," he said.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 1, 1979

The lawsuit brought against Rend Lake College and its Board of Trustees by the RLC Federation of Teachers seeking recognition has been dismissed by the Jefferson County Circuit Court, Attorney Don Musick informed the Board at a special meeting Tuesday night (July 31).

The court's decision agreed with the opinion issued by the official Board Policy Manual in February which stated: "The faculty shall choose representatives among the full-time faculty and only the full-time faculty (for purposes of discussing matters regarding salary and general welfare) and that it was never intended to mean individuals not employed full-time by Rend Lake College."

According to Musick, the court cited two recent rulings which demonstrated public employers have no enforceable duty to recognize a union or collective bargaining agent.

"It was not the intention of the Board Policy Manual to mandate outside," Musick said, calling the negotiations "an in-house matter" involving only members of the faculty and not an outsider.

The Rend Lake College Federation of Teachers had requested in September 1978 that the Board either approve the American Federation of Teachers as its collective bargaining agent or approve a collective bargaining election.

A month later, the Board voted 5-1 against granting recognition to the RLCFT or authorizing an election.

A similar appeal was made in February following an unauthorized vote of the faculty in favor of the RLCFT as their representative.

Dr. Harry J. Braun, College President, once again recommended the administration not deviate from its

regular procedure for discussing salary and welfare matters with the Welfare Committee of the Academic Council. The RLCFT then filed its suit against the college.

The Federation of Teachers has the right to appeal the court's latest decision, Musick noted, "but for all practical purposes, I believe this terminates this suit at the circuit court level."

Board Chair Dr. Richard Simpson thanked Musick and Special Counsel Ted Clark for their work on the litigation and commented, "We're very happy with the outcome. It's something we're not happy had to come up, but we're happy with the outcome."

Added Dr. Braun: "Obviously, the Board and administration are pleased with the outcome. We are looking forward to a productive year . . . one we believe will be characterized by growth and working with as a college community to meet the needs of our students and communities."

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 12, 1980

The Fifth District Appellate Court of Illinois has upheld the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees in its decision not to recognize a teachers' union as the sole bargaining agent in matters of salary and general welfare, according to a ruling filed May 8.

An appeal had been made following a similar decision July 19, 1979, by the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, which decided in favor of the college's Board of Trustees because of a failure on the plaintiff's part to state a cause of action.

The Rend Lake College Federation of Teachers, local 3708, originally had sought the writ of injunction against the Board of Community College District 521 prohibiting the Board's refusal to recognize the union as the chosen representative of the faculty for purposes of collective bargaining.

Justice Harrison of the Fifth District Appellate Court, in his decision, agreed, "The District has never been under any legal compulsion to recognize the union or any single representative of all faculty members as a body."

Likewise, he ruled the Board's interpretation of its own policy

regulation in this regard, and of a later resolution clarifying such, is not plainly erroneous. The law states that reviewing courts may interfere with the construction and application of such regulations only when administrative interpretation is plainly erroneous.

". . . It must be remembered that the prerogative of power that rests with the District and that prerogative is the sole basis of the appellant's petition for relief," the Judge noted.

"The circuit court dismissed this action on the basis of the pleadings for failure to state a cause of action pursuant to which relief could be granted. A complaint may be dismissed for failure to state a cause of action where it clearly appears that no set of facts is capable of proof under the pleadings which would allow the plaintiff the relief sought. The instant litigation presents such a situation and accordingly we affirm the decision of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County," he concluded.

The original complaint was filed April 16, 1979, slightly over two months after the full-time college faculty named Local 3708 as its official representative for the purpose of collective bargaining in an election (which was not authorized by the college) strictly limited to its numbers.

Since then, the plaintiff has unsuccessfully sought recognition by the Board.

Rend Lake College, a governmental corporation, is operated in accordance with legislation adopted under the Public Community College Act of 1965.

SUCCESSFUL RETURNS ▶ **Administrator steps down in '87, forced out by health years later**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 30, 1987

A letter of resignation from College Dean Mark S. Kern was accepted by the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees at a special meeting Tuesday night (September 29).

Following a closed session of nearly 2 1/2 hours, the Board approved by a 5-2 vote a motion to accept Kern's resignation as College Dean, effective September 30, "with regret."

The entire Board was represented at the special meeting. Voting with the majority were Trustees Mark Ballard, Dr. Kirby Browning, Dr. Allan Patton, Chairman Marvin Scott and Everett Thompson. Casting "No" votes were Joe Scrivner and Dr. Richard Simpson.

According to Board minutes: "... however, in accepting Mr. Kern's resignation as College Dean, the Board is not taking any definitive action with respect to Mr. Kern's statement that his resignation as College Dean does not affect his status as a tenured faculty member.

"The Board reserves the right to consider Mr. Kern for a faculty or administrative position effective Fall 1988, depending upon circumstances at that time."

No reasons for the resignation were cited.

Kern, 43, came to Rend Lake College as an instructor in the Agriculture program in July 1968. In December 1978, he was named Dean of Instruction, the position he held at the time of his resignation with expanded duties and a title change.

College administrators will begin their search for Kern's successor immediately.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Kern returned as a member of the Agriculture faculty in Fall 1988, served as Interim President March through June 1989 between the resignation of Dr. Harry J. Braun and the full-time appointment of Dr. Jonathan Astroth and added AAA Department Chair duties for 1990-91 prior to his selection as President in 1991.]

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. NOVEMBER 4-11, 1996

Following a 1 1/2-hour executive (closed) session, the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees approved a request from President Mark S. Kern for sick leave and appointed Dr. Steve Tietz, Vice President, "to supervise all operations" for a period of not less than 30 days.

The action came during a specially called meeting Friday (November 1) at noon on the Ina campus. All Board members were present, with the motion to accept his request approved by a 6-1 vote.

The job description for the Vice President indicates he will fulfill functions of the President in his absence. The motion to appoint Dr. Tietz to supervise all operations was approved unanimously.

Dr. Richard Simpson, Chairman of the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees, told reporters after the 1-hour 36-minute meeting, "It is my understanding Mark Kern is going to undergo treatment in Paducah, KY, at Charter Hospital."

According to a published report in the *Benton Evening News* on Thursday, October 31, "Benton police Wednesday night arrested Rend Lake College President Mark Kern for driving under the influence of alcohol."

Simpson, in response to a question, added, "If he is successful with this treatment, he is still the President of Rend Lake College. Yes."

"At this point, he has not been charged with anything, as far as I know." Nor "does his current position have any stipulations whatsoever."

"Officially, what we are primarily concerned with is that the school continues to function and run smoothly in Mr. Kern's absence. Secondly, we want Mr. Kern to regain his health completely and return to his position as soon as he is able. The college will do whatever it can to help speed this process."

Kern, 53, was named the fifth full-time President of Rend Lake College in August 1991. A lifelong resident of Franklin County, he has spent over 27 years at the community college, including previous positions as Dean of Instruction, Dean of Community Service, Department Chair of Agriculture, Automotive and Architecture and Agriculture Instructor. He was hired a year after the college was founded and helped start the Agriculture program.

The Board Chair indicated he had talked to Kern following the incident and "Mr. Kern had expressed his regret and apologized to (Simpson), the Board of Trustees and the college."

Simpson expressed his opinion "that if Mr. Kern successfully completed the program at Charter Hospital

and was willing to accept whatever stipulations the Board of Trustees might put on him in the future, Mr. Kern would remain as President."

[Kern was back on the job December 11 following the medical leave.]

'FRAUDULENT ACT' ▶ Probation for Men's Basketball precedes move to D-II status

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. DECEMBER 9-15, 1991

Two Rend Lake College basketball players have been ruled ineligible to play after their admission to having committed a fraudulent act in regard to the GED test.

College administrators have been informed verbally by the National Junior College Athletic Association Sophomore Antoine Teague and Freshman Mike King, both of Chicago, are ineligible. The college is awaiting official confirmation of that ruling.

RLC officials have taken disciplinary action in regard to the student-athletes involved, according to Dr. Keith R. Lape, Vice President. Appeals on their readmittance to the college as students will be heard by a Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee Monday, Lape said.

The "fraudulent act" entails a switch in identity at the time the General Education Development test was taken. The Franklin County Regional Superintendent of Schools Office administered the test in question and initiated the investigation, which in turn is handled through the State's Attorney Office and Sheriff's Department.

The 6-foot-10 Teague, from Lane Tech High School, played for the Warriors last season and recently signed a letter-of-intent to play next season for Murray (KY) State University. King, 6-6, is from Hyde Park.

REND LAKE COLLEGE BOARD MINUTES JANUARY 21, 1992

The National Junior College Athletic Association has placed the Rend Lake College Men's Basketball program on NJCAA probation for the remainder of the 1991-92 academic year as a result of a violation of its by-laws.

The NJCAA Executive Committee

will review the probationary period, if requested to do so by Rend Lake College, no earlier than June 1, and determine whether to lift the probation or continue the penalty for the 1992-93 academic year.

Teams on probation do not qualify for post-season tournament play.

Former players Mike King and Antoine Teague were ruled ineligible for future participation at NJCAA member colleges at any time, according to the letter from Assistant Executive Director W. Wayne Baker.

President Mark S. Kern informed Trustees he "felt the college's actions so far had been appropriate and expected the probation would be lifted (if requested by Rend Lake College after June 1)."

[Ed. Note: Trustees were informed at the July 28 Board meeting the NJCAA had lifted the Warriors' probationary period, as requested.]

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MARCH 5, 1992

In an attempt to reduce expenditures and emphasize recruitment of local student-athletes even more, the Rend Lake College Men's Basketball program will move to Division II status following action Wednesday in a special session of the Board of Trustees.

Permission also was given to advertise to fill the position of either Men's Basketball Head Coach or full-time Instructor/Coach. The search for a coach will concentrate in a four-state Midwest region, with the deadline for applications March 23.

RLC Board members agreed with administrative recommendations to maintain the program but no longer award scholarships which cover the cost of room and board, permissible under National Junior College Athletic Association Division I standards.

Teams competing at the NJCAA Division II level may provide a maximum of 10 tuition and fee waivers only in Men's Basketball, although there is a movement for change to add fees and/or books.

Information provided to Trustees at their February meeting estimated a potential net savings of \$37,000 if the move to Division II were made, with all other sports programs retained at the present level.

RLC President Mark S. Kern indicated the recommendation was made "after a tremendous amount of discussion" at the administrative level and after a request for staff input resulted in about 35 written opinions.

"What happened here (Division II) pretty much echoed a high percentage" of those staff suggestions, Athletic Director Jim Waugh said.

"The No. 1 reason (for the move), definitely, was finances," added Kern. "The No. 2 reason was to put more emphasis on our coaching staff to look locally for players." Kern added such a move would not prevent coaches from recruiting outside the district.

Advertisements to fill the coaching vacancy will give administrators flexibility.

A qualified individual could be found to oversee the Men's Basketball program and paid on a stipend-basis, commensurate with experience. Other employment areas could be considered dependent upon qualifications of applicants. Or the coaching duties could be included as part of the responsibilities of a full-time instructor in such desirable academic areas as English, Social Sciences, Math or Science.

"We feel, more than likely, we will have to have an instructor position and coach combined to get the kind of person we want," Kern explained. "But if the right person came in with the right qualifications (and was not a faculty member), we want the opportunity to be able to look at that person."

Kern alluded to the philosophy of the college's founding President, Dr. James M. Snyder, when he commented, "We can't be all things to all people . . . but what we are going to do, we are going to do well."

Direction of the college's athletic program has been an issue since two basketball players admitted to an identity switch in a GED test-taking scandal off-campus last fall.

The Warriors had begun the season ranked No. 6 nationally by *Sports Illustrated*, No. 10 in the Pre-Season NJCAA poll.

But several players left the program for various reasons and the team

was forced to forfeit two early season victories for using ineligible players, was placed on NJCAA probation and finished the season 4-26.

Only seven of the nine players around for the season finale were on the roster at the beginning. The Warriors were not allowed to enter post-season tournament play.

The roster wasn't the only place where turnover occurred. Department Chair / Athletic Director / Head Coach J. Mitch Haskins left the program in December.

Longtime RLC Coach / Instructor Jim Waugh was named Interim A.D. in December. Retired Instructor Wayne Arnold was appointed Interim Chair of Health and Physical Education, and Assistant Mike "Butch" McClintock was elevated to Lead Basketball Coach for the second semester.

Haskins cited health reasons at the time he agreed to a "Memorandum of Understanding" with the Board and relinquished his duties. Under terms of the agreement, he could return in the fall as a nontenured, full-time faculty member.

No admission of guilt was connected with the departure of Haskins, Kern indicated at the time.

According to the "Memorandum of Understanding" signed following a Board meeting December 17, 1991, "The parties agree and acknowledge that this agreement does not constitute, is not intended to be and shall not be construed, interpreted or treated in any respect as an admission of liability or wrongdoing by Haskins or the Board."

Haskins, a 27-year coaching veteran, celebrated his 500th career win during a record-setting 29-6 campaign in 1988-89 and twice led the Warriors to within one victory of a berth in the NJCAA Final 16 Tournament. He was in the midst of his 11th season with a 208-134 record at Rend Lake College, 547-222 overall including high school ranks in Indiana and Missouri.

He was named Great Rivers Athletic Conference "Coach of the Year" two of the last four seasons after guiding his teams to league championships and was the Illinois Basketball

Coaches Association Junior College Division I "Coach of the Year" in 1989.

Total expenditures on athletics for FY92 are projected to be \$187,361; however, it was estimated 80 percent of those student-athletes on campus Spring Semester (54 of 67) would not be attending RLC if athletics were not offered, resulting in a reduction in revenue from state funding of \$103,680.

Stipends for the Men's Basketball Head Coach and Athletic Director were established at \$3,500 and \$5,000, respectively.

The NJCAA Executive Committee will review the college's probationary status, but only if requested to do so by Rend Lake College officials after June 1.

The official move into Division II ranks would follow once the probation status is lifted.

TENURED FACULTY ▶ **Nine years after fact, Petitt wins lawsuit after 4-3 termination vote**

PRESSING TIMES MARCH 29, 1974

On Thursday, March 21, the Board of Trustees of Rend Lake College passed a motion and resolution by which the employment contracts of William T. Brammeier and Robert Jones will not be renewed and the employment contract of Rebecca Petitt will be terminated at the end of the 1973-74 academic year.

This resolution was moved by Carleton Apple and seconded by Marie Simmons. The vote was as follows: Yes - Apple, Baker, Connaway, Simmons; No - Gulley, Moore, Skorch. This voting took place after the hearings for Jones and Ms. Petitt were held.

On Tuesday, March 19, the second session of hearings concerning the dismissal of these teachers was held. The hearing for Ms. Petitt was continued from Monday, with Jones' hearing following. Brammeier did not request a hearing.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Physical Education Instructor Petitt, who joined the faculty in 1967, was tenured. History Instructor Jones and English Instructor Brammeier, both of whom joined the staff in 1969, were nontenured.]

Dr. Allen Baker, President of the Board, called the hearings to order at 5:30 p.m. These were recessed at 7:25 p.m. and continued at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Philip Ward, Dean of RLC, was called as a witness. He was questioned by Mr. R.W. Deffenbaugh concerning the RLC enrollment.

It was then brought out that reductions in faculty were being made in the Physical Education, Social Science and Communications departments because of the decreasing number of students enrolled in the college transfer area.

At approximately 7:48 p.m., the hearing for Ms. Petitt was adjourned. Three people from the audience then gave their testimonies for Ms. Petitt. One person stated the school should get rid of administrative personnel before getting rid of teachers, because a teacher is the most important asset any school can have. The audience reacted to this with a long round of applause.

One of the Board members then had some questions for Ms. Petitt. Through this questioning, it was found she had not been offered another job at RLC, but would consider taking another job here if one was offered to her. Ms. Petitt was asked about her qualifications for another job. She stated for the last 15 summers she has worked with the underprivileged. From this experience, she feels she is qualified to work in a drop-out program. When asked about GED, she stated she has had special courses in reading.

The hearing then went to the area of school finances. President Snyder, according to Deffenbaugh, said there would be deficit spending in the 1973-74 school year. Deffenbaugh said Dr. Ward agreed with this statement because Dr. Ward wants to be President of the school some day.

"The school is spending \$28,000 on a new Xerox machine," said Deffenbaugh. "If Ms. Petitt is incompetent, say so. Don't hide it under finances."

After a short recess, the hearing for Mr. Jones commenced at 8:24 p.m. When asked how it was decided which faculty member in this department would be the one to go,

Dr. Ward, on the stand once more, said Jones and Vincent Cain were reviewed by Dr. Richard Doherty, Chairman of the Social Science Department.

According to Dr. Doherty, the difference was one of consistency. Cain was found to be always well-prepared, and he performed professionally. Jones was found to be prepared most of the time, but was generally not as strong as Cain in certain areas. The result of this review was to keep Cain. Dr. Doherty insisted this did not mean Jones is not a good teacher.

Several RLC graduates testified on behalf of Jones, saying Jones had a great influence on their lives. They also said Jones is a very powerful teacher.

The Board temporarily adjourned and the following night voted to terminate Ms. Petitt's contract and not to renew the contracts of Jones and Brammeier.

[Petitions signed by 241 students protesting Petitt's termination were submitted to college officials.]

MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS DECEMBER 31, 1975
BY STEVE KORRIS, R-N STAFF WRITER

[As part of a year-end story under the headline, "Snyder Retires; Replaced by Martin . . . 1975 Will Be Remembered As Pivotal Year for College," was this summary, subtitled "Ex-Teacher Sues."]

The first time Rend Lake College made the news in 1975 was on January 3, when Rebecca Petitt, one-time tenured Physical Education Instructor at RLC, sued the college over her March 1974 dismissal from the faculty.

She asked the court to reinstate her on the faculty with back pay to the time of her dismissal.

The Board responded a few days later by hiring Ted Clark of Chicago to handle the college's legal defense. Clark won an early battle in May when Judge Charles Quindry ordered Miss Petitt's lawyers to change their complaint to make it more specific.

The revised complaint was filed June 10, with Miss Petitt's lawyers arguing again that her dismissal was "arbitrary and capricious and not in the best interest of the college district nor in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois."

The college's lawyers asked the court to dismiss the suit, but on August 27 Judge William Eovaldi said he would not. The college's lawyers then drew up their response to the June 10 complaint. There the matter rests . . .

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN JANUARY 6, 1975

A former Rend Lake College faculty member has hired a Chicago law firm to help protest her firing 11 months ago while on tenure.

Rebecca A. Petitt, a Physical Education Instructor who had been at the college since 1964, was one of three faculty members fired by Rend Lake College Trustees last February, reportedly because of falling enrollment and severe financial problems at the college, located in Ina.

Neither Robert Jones nor Ted Brammeier, the other fired instructors, was tenured. Jones taught in the Social Science Department and Brammeier was an English Instructor.

Jones and Miss Petitt contested the firings, which were upheld by a 4-3 vote of the Trustees following two public hearings in March.

In a letter to Board of Trustees Chairman Allen Y. Baker, Lawrence Jay Weiner, of the firm of Weiner, Wexler and Spak, advised Miss Petitt has retained the attorneys to represent her further.

"It appears that based upon the facts as represented, the termination of Ms. Petitt was and has continued in violation of the policies of the Board by reason nontenured teachers were retained and new teachers hired in positions which she was legally qualified to hold," the letter says.

"In addition, serious questions have arisen concerning the violation of other Board policies and regulations, the financial and fiscal status of the college and sex-based discrimination."

The letter asks Baker or the college attorney to contact Weiner in the hope "that this matter can be amicably resolved."

College President J.M. Snyder said the Trustees will meet in special session at 7:30 p.m. Friday in his office "to consider what might be appropriate action, if any." The meeting will be open to the public, he said.

THE PRESSING TIMES FEBRUARY 7, 1975

The Board met in a special meeting Friday, January 10, in the Student Center to discuss matters arising from the lawsuit filed by the firm of Weiner, Wexler and Spak, Chicago, on behalf of Becky Petitt, RLC Physical Education teacher terminated last spring.

Dr. J.M. Snyder, President, made notice of receipt of a charge of employment discrimination from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on November 6, 1974.

. . . The special meeting was called to allow the Board to review its position on the case and give Dr. Snyder direction as to legal counsel he should contact.

Bill Moore, Mt. Vernon Trustee, stated the only decision the Board had to make was to hire legal counsel for the action against the Trustees.

Albert Gulley, Benton, stated he saw no reason to "rehash" the whole situation.

The Board voted to retain Ted Clark to represent Community College District No. 521 with Don Musick, legal counsel for the college, assisting him. ~ Mary Jo Cockrum

REND LAKE COLLEGE BOARD MINUTES MARCH 6, 1979

Report from Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Regarding Rebecca Ann Petitt . . .

A letter from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission was distributed stating: "Examination of the evidence indicates that there is not reasonable cause to believe that allegation to be true. No determination is made as to any other issue raised by the subject charge or which might be construed to have been raised in the charge . . . This concludes the Commission's processing of the subject charge."

REND LAKE COLLEGE BOARD MINUTES AUGUST 16, 1983

The Rend Lake College Board of Trustees, by a 5-2 vote, approved an \$8,000 Settlement with Rebecca Ann Petitt and the accompanying Adoption of Resolution. Petitt was a Health and Physical Education Instructor and Coach when she was terminated after the 1973-74 academic year.

Voting in favor of the settlement were Rich Herrin, Joe McClure, Allan Patton, Marvin Scott and Everett

Thompson. Casting "No" votes were Joe Scrivner and Richard Simpson.

In response to the original lawsuit filed by Petitt, the Board indicated its action "shall not be construed in any manner as an admission of liability or violation of law on the part of the Board; any individual Board member, past or present; or any officer, agent or administrator, past or present, and the District and its successors."

"It is agreed that upon execution and ratification of this Settlement Agreement the parties shall file with the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit, Jefferson County, Illinois, a Stipulation to Dismiss, with prejudice, and without costs or fees . . ."

JURY TRIAL VERDICT ▶ **Supervisor challenges dress code dismissal, awarded damages**

REND LAKE COLLEGE BOARD MINUTES AUGUST 22, 2003
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CALL TO ORDER – Via a conference call, Chairman Marvin W. Scott called the special meeting to order at 8 a.m. in the Administrative Conference Room in the Administration Building.

ROLL CALL – The AT&T operator called the roll. Telephonically connected were: Mr. Hunt Bonan, Mr. Courtney Cox, Mr. Randall Crocker, Mr. David Edmison, Mrs. Norma O'Daniel, Mr. Marvin Scott, Mr. William Simpson and Mr. Cody Chullen (Student Representative).

TO CONSIDER AN ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION RE: APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE AND PERFORMANCE OF A SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE TO THE BOARD

Mr. Kern advised that Ms. Heather Sample had requested an opportunity to address the Board, and had been provided with that opportunity. Ms. Sample distributed to everyone in the room a copy of the memo that Mr. Bob Carlock had presented to her on August 13, 2003. She then read the following statement to the Board.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the Board of Trustees and Administrators of Rend Lake College:

On Tuesday, August 12, I was made aware that a dress code policy was to be presented for a vote that

night. On Wednesday, August 13, I reported to work wearing shorts. On Wednesday afternoon, I was told by my supervisor, Bob Carlock, to go home and change. I explained that I did not have anything to change into due to my condition and asked if I would be allowed to finish the last four weeks of my pregnancy with the clothing I already owned. He said no; I would not be allowed to do so. I was leaving campus approximately one hour later (after my co-worker had returned from lunch to run the Retail Store) to go purchase appropriate clothing when Bob stopped me and asked me to come to his office. He left and came back with Mary Roe. He handed me a memo stating that I was to leave campus immediately, that I would be suspended on Thursday and Friday (August 14-15) without pay, and that if I violated the dress code policy in the future he would recommend to the President that I be terminated. All of this to serve as my punishment for being in violation of the new dress code – the new dress code that had just been voted on the evening prior, that I was not aware had even been passed until that morning, and for which no date had been given as to the policy's effectiveness. He then verbally instructed me to return on Monday morning at 8 a.m. with a better attitude and appropriate clothing. I purchased clothing that would be in compliance with the new dress code the following day. I returned to work on Monday morning as instructed and, in good faith, thought the matter settled – my strict punishment having been carried out as stated in the memo. On Monday afternoon, I was called into President Kern's office, with Bob Carlock and Mary Roe present, and informed that even though I had not violated the dress code again, they were going to recommend that I be terminated anyway. I was told once again to leave campus immediately and that I would be suspended again without pay until the next Board meeting.

That said, I asked to address you here today for three reasons: First, to apologize to the Administration

and the Board for any of my words or actions that have been perceived as insubordinate or inappropriate; Second, to ask you, the Board of Trustees, to uphold the original punishment set forth and carried out by the Administration as stated in the memo, and Third, to ask that I be retroactively reinstated to my position as the Retail Store Manager as of Tuesday, August 19, with full pay and full benefits.

Thank you."

Mr. Kern requested a copy of the statement for administration, and Ms. Sample provided it. Mr. Cox moved to go into closed session; seconded by Mr. Chullen. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student advisory vote: yes.

The Board went into closed Session about 8:15 a.m. to discuss personnel. Chairman Scott called the meeting back into Open Session at 8:55 a.m. Mr. Kern recommended terminating the employment of Ms. Heather Sample as Co-Manager/Retail Store effective immediately. Mr. Bonan moved to terminate Ms. Sample's employment, as recommended; seconded by Mrs. O'Daniel. On a roll call vote: Mr. Hunt Bonan, Yes; Mr. Courtney Cox, No; Mr. Randall Crocker, Yes; Mr. David Edmison, Yes; Mrs. Norma O'Daniel, Yes; Mr. Marvin Scott, Yes; Mr. William Simpson, Yes. Student advisory vote: Mr. Cody Chullen, No. The motion passed.

REND LAKE COLLEGE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES NOVEMBER 24, 2003

Shari Rhode
Rhode & Jackson
Carbondale, IL

RE: Response to
Heather Sample Grievance

Dear Ms. Rhode:

This is the response, by the Board of Trustees of Rend Lake College, to Ms. Sample's grievance of the College Policy.

Ms. Sample was dismissed as an employee of the College for the reasons set forth in President Kern's letter dated August 26, 2003. She was informed of the Administration's desire to have employees dress in a

professional manner during a meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 2003. The College President explained what type of attire would be permissible in the future and noted that a new policy would be submitted to the Board that same day. The Board approved a new dress code policy later that evening. Nevertheless, Ms. Sample chose to report to work on Wednesday, August 13, wearing inappropriate attire. As a result, she was suspended.

Subsequent to her suspension, the President learned that earlier on August 13, another manager reminded Ms. Sample of the new dress code policy and noted that she was out of compliance. Ms. Sample reportedly responded that if she was ordered to go home and change she would simply take sick days through the end of her pregnancy and let the College pay for it. Based upon this additional information, the President ultimately recommended Ms. Sample's dismissal to the Board.

Ms. Sample was given an opportunity to be heard by the Board before a vote was taken concerning her dismissal. In addition, there have been at least two subsequent grievance meetings with College administrators during which Ms. Sample was given a full opportunity to state her side of what occurred. In a letter to the College President dated September 17, 2003, Ms. Sample admitted that upon receiving advice to go home from another College employee, she said, "If I was sent home, I could turn in vacation time."

In our view, Ms. Sample should have reported to work on Wednesday, August 13, 2003, wearing appropriate attire, in accordance with the expectations described to her by the President on August 12 and approved by the Board later that evening. As a Co-Manager of the College's retail store with supervisory responsibilities, moreover, we believe it was highly inappropriate and unprofessional for Ms. Sample to state her intention of taking paid time off in lieu of complying with the dress code policy. Our managers and supervisors should support



RLC Administrative Procedure Manual

BOARD MINUTES AUGUST 12, 2003

DRESS CODE 3.34

This procedure applies to Administrators, Academic Support Staff, Office Support Staff, Physical Plant Staff and Student Workers.

In order to maintain the appropriate professional image of the college, it is necessary to reserve the following attire for personal time outside the office.

- Denim Jeans *
- Tee-Shirts **
- Tank Tops, Halter Tops
- Shorts **
- Flip-Flop Sandals

Unkempt clothing or inappropriate attire (specifically tight, short or not covering the torso or midriff), if worn, may result in your being asked to return home to change.

* The following people are exempt and may wear jeans:

- Student Workers
- Physical Plant Employees
- Computer Technicians

All staff may wear jeans on Friday.

** The following people are exempt and may wear tee-shirts and shorts:

- Athletic Dept. Personnel
- Aquatics Center Personnel
- Physical Education Personnel

Board policy and set an example for others, not seek ways to evade compliance and take a paid leave at the Board's expense.

The grievance is denied.

Very truly yours,
Randall Crocker
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Rend Lake College
cc: Heather Sample

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN NOVEMBER 15, 2005
BY JIM MUIR

A 30-year-old Sesser woman who was fired by Rend Lake College officials more than two years ago for violating a new dress code policy has been awarded more than \$400,000 in damages after a three-day jury trial in U.S. District Court in Benton.

Heather Sample, who worked at the college for more than six years before she was discharged, was awarded the large sum that includes \$200,000 in punitive damages leveled against College President Mark Kern and an additional \$200,000 in punitive damages against Robert Carlock, Vice President of Finance and Administration.

The jury also awarded Sample \$27,059 in lost wages and benefits. The final monetary award, minus \$11,000 that Sample received in unemployment benefits, totaled \$416,059.

The jury specified that the punitive damages against Kern and Carlock are both in an individual capacity and not in their respective roles as the two top administrators at the Ina-based campus. The jury ruled the two administrators acted in "malicious and reckless disregard for Sample's rights."

Under federal statute, punitive damages cannot be addressed against a public entity such as the college, which also means the college is not responsible or liable for the \$400,000 in damages against Kern and Carlock.

Sample, who was nine months pregnant when she was fired, filed the four-count suit in federal court alleging the college, Kern and Carlock violated the Pregnancy Discrimination Act and the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The lawsuit also alleged that the college, Kern and Carlock discriminated against Sample for exercising her FMLA rights and also that the college was guilty of a breach of contract.

Sample was fired August 22, 2003, 10 days after she allegedly wore a pair of shorts to work at a campus retail store that sells school supplies, clothing and other gifts. Sample was Co-Manager of the store and had never been given a verbal or written

warning during her six years at the college.

According to testimony presented to the jury, Sample was present at a President's Council meeting on August 12 when a discussion was held that a new dress code would be presented to the Board of Trustees that same night. The Board approved the dress code that night, which prohibited wearing shorts, but did not contain an effective date. The following day Sample, who was unaware the Board had approved the dress code, appeared for work wearing "khaki maternity shorts."

Sample was sent home that day by Carlock and told to change clothes so she would be in compliance with the dress code. However, before she could leave the campus she was given a written memo by Carlock instructing her to leave the campus and also informing her she had been suspended without pay for a two-day period for violating the dress code.

Sample returned to work on August 18, in proper attire, and was told she first had to meet with Kern and Carlock. At that meeting Sample was told her conduct constituted "gross insubordination" and that the matter was being referred to the RLC Board of Trustees. She was once again told to leave campus and that she was on unpaid leave of absence until the next Board meeting.

Sample attended the August 22 Board meeting and apologized to the Board, asked for leniency and also asked to be reinstated. The Board voted 6-1 to terminate Sample, with Courtney Cox casting the lone dissenting vote. Trustees Marvin Scott, Randall Crocker, Norma O'Daniel, David Edmison, William Simpson and Hunt Bonan voted in favor.

Sample gave birth to a son four days after she was fired.

The jury found in favor of Sample on all counts except "mental/emotional pain and suffering." Because the jury must make a nominal award even if ruling that no mental pain and suffering occurred, a \$1 award in compensatory damages was awarded to Sample against RLC, Kern in his individual capacity and also in his official capacity and Carlock, in his individual capacity and also in his official capacity.

Sample was represented by Carbondale Attorney Shari Rhode, who declined comment after the jury verdict. Calls to the RLC Public Information Office were referred to Kern's office and calls there were not returned.

ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION ▶ **Administrator sues; lawsuit later dismissed, settlement reached**

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN NOVEMBER 12, 2008
BY BECKY MALKOVICH

BENTON – A Rend Lake College Vice President has filed a federal lawsuit against the college, alleging discrimination based on race, national origin and religion.

Salah Shakir, a Muslim of Iraqi national origin, is also suing RLC Trustees Bill Simpson, Randall Crocker and Bryan Drew, alleging the three took part in discriminatory and wrongful decisions and actions, according to court documents.

Attempts to reach John Huffman, the college board's attorney, on Wednesday evening were not successful.

The suit stems from an anonymous letter – and the board's reaction to it – accusing Shakir of unethical behavior. The lawsuit contends the anonymous letter was full of falsehoods and takes issue with Shakir practicing his religion and speaking Arabic.

In response to the letter, the board initiated an investigation in August 2007, but failed to inform Shakir “of the purpose, scope or findings of the investigation,” nor did the board “repudiate the allegations and bigoted statements” contained in a second letter, the lawsuit argues.

During an October 16, 2007, executive session of the Board of Trustees, the suit alleges, Simpson, Crocker and Drew attempted to convince then-RLC President Mark S. Kern that Shakir's employment should be terminated, but Kern suggested less punitive actions.

The board, on October 19, 2007, removed Shakir from his position as Vice President of Student Services, leaving him as Vice President of Information Technology. It also froze his salary, according to the lawsuit.

The suit alleges the defendants encouraged a hostile and discriminatory atmosphere at the college. It also contends that unsubstantiated and unjustified allegations were discussed with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the FBI.

Subsequent media reports includ-

ed false information regarding the investigation and prompted untrue online speculation, according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit alleges a number of other discriminatory statements made and actions taken against Shakir, including offering the position of President, to which Shakir had applied, to Caucasian males, even though the lawsuit contends Shakir was the most qualified candidate.

After two failed searches, the college is still headed by an Interim President.

The lawsuit contends Shakir's reputation, job conditions and career have been harmed. It also contends he and his family have suffered emotional distress.

The suit seeks damages, but does not name a specific dollar amount.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FEBRUARY 9, 2010

BENTON (AP) – A federal judge has tossed out a lawsuit against a Southern Illinois college by an administrator who claimed he was passed over for the school's presidency because he's an Iraqi native and Muslim.

U.S. District Judge David Herndon dismissed Salah Shakir's lawsuit against Rend Lake College on Monday in Benton.

Herndon ruled that Shakir lacks evidence supporting his contention that he was discriminated against. He was the college's Vice President of Information Technology, but he wasn't hired to fill a vacancy in the college's presidency.

Shakir sued in 2008. He directed calls seeking comment Tuesday to his attorney, Rima Kapitan, who hasn't returned messages. Messages also were left for the college's President and its attorney.

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN FEBRUARY 25, 2010

Attorneys for a Rend Lake College administrator whose lawsuit alleging discrimination was dismissed in U.S. District Court have filed an appeal.

Salah Shakir sued in November 2008, saying the college wrongly investigated him over an anonymous letter received more than a year earlier that accused him of unethical behavior and faulting him for practicing his

religion and speaking Arabic, often on the job.

The letter, the lawsuit alleged, claimed that Shakir, then Vice President of Student Services, also skirted the college's recruitment rules to ensure the enrollment of foreign students, many from Saudi Arabia.

Shakir insisted he was neither told the letter's contents nor allowed to respond, even after being removed from his Student Services post. And he claimed that when the college's presidency position opened, he was overlooked despite considering himself among the most qualified.

U.S. District Judge David Herndon ruled there was no evidence the college acted inappropriately in selecting its new president.

As for the college's scrutiny of Shakir, Herndon wrote that “while such an investigation should not go beyond the realms of decency and turn into a proverbial ‘witch hunt,’ that was not the case here.”

The Amal Law Group on Thursday said it has filed an appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

“The court's ruling improperly denied Mr. Shakir the right to present his case to a jury,” argued attorney Rima Kapitan, who is representing Shakir.

Kapitan also said the district court's ruling “that Mr. Shakir was demoted for performance reasons ignores evidence that the motivations behind the investigation and the demotion were improper.”

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN JULY 15, 2010

The Rend Lake College Board of Trustees this week approved a settlement agreement with former administrator Salah Shakir.

Shakir, former Vice President for Information Technology, sued the college in November 2008, alleging the college wrongly investigated him regarding an anonymous letter received more than a year earlier and accusing the college of discriminatory behavior.

U.S. District Judge David Herndon dismissed the case, and Shakir's lawyers filed an appeal.

According to an RLC news release, the rationale of the administration

was that "the confidential settlement agreement serves the best interest of the college by avoiding any uncertainty and added legal expenses which would be incurred in responding to the appeal process."

As part of the settlement, Shakir dismissed the appeal and resigned from the position effective June 30.

JAVON HOWARD, 14 ▸ Middle school student drowns; Coroner's jury reverses decision

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN MAY 21, 2008
BY BECKY MALKOVICH

DUQUOIN – An investigation into the drowning of a Mount Vernon boy at the Rend Lake College Aquatics Center Friday (May 16) revealed no evidence of foul play, nor criminal negligence on the part of the college or the school.

In addition, Master Sgt. Stan Diggs of State Police Zone 7 investigations said, video of the incident does not support accusations that lifeguards on duty failed to perform their duties as required.

Javon Howard, 14, a student at Casey Middle School, died Friday while on a school trip to the college. Preliminary autopsy reports indicate the cause of death to be drowning, Diggs said.

Initial reports of the incident indicated Howard was struck in the nose while in the pool Friday afternoon. He was checked out by a lifeguard and returned to the pool, where he was later discovered under water.

"We got involved on the criminal end to determine whether the drowning was possibly connected to the hit on the nose," Diggs said. "We found absolutely no evidence of foul play. Neither of the schools were criminally negligent in the death of this young man."

Diggs said the investigation included interviews with those who were present when the drowning occurred, including college staff, school personnel and Howard's classmates. College and school policies were reviewed as was video provided by surveillance cameras in the Aquatics Center.

"We did not find that the drown-

ing was caused by the blow to the nose. That had absolutely nothing to do with his death. This death was not the result of criminal negligence. There was no criminal element at all," Diggs said.

While the conduct of the two lifeguards on duty has been questioned in media reports and on Internet sites, Diggs discounted those accounts of the incident.

"The video shows they did just what they were supposed to do. They assisted in removing the child from the water and began CPR," he said. "When you are in trouble, seconds often seem like a lifetime, but the video shows once he was discovered, they acted very quickly."

Diggs said the report will be forwarded to the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, but he "agrees with our conclusion there is no evidence of foul play in behalf of Rend Lake College or Casey Middle School. We were looking for evidence of criminal activity and that does not exist."

While state police do not typically investigate drownings, Diggs said, their services were requested because of a potential conflict of interest and they joined the investigation with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and Coroner's Office.

He said the drowning is still under investigation by the state Department of Public Health, which investigates drownings in public pools.

Howard was an eighth-grade student at the Mount Vernon middle school, where funeral services will be held Friday. A visitation will be conducted from 10 a.m. to noon with the funeral services to follow.

A memorial fund has been established at the First State Bank of Dix in Mount Vernon to help Howard's family with expenses. Donations may be made to the Javon Howard Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 1750, Mt. Vernon, IL.

MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS MAY 24, 2008
BY JEREMY HALL

Jefferson County Coroner Dr. Richard Garretson said Tuesday an autopsy revealed there was no connection with the drowning of a Casey Middle School student last week and a bump in the face he received mo-

ments earlier.

Javon Howard drowned while attending a school-sponsored party Friday at the Rend Lake Aquatics Center. Prior to going under the water, the pupil had been hit in the head by an elbow and examined by a lifeguard at the scene.

Howard later went under the water and was pulled out and given CPR before being transported to Crossroads Community Hospital in Mt. Vernon, where he was pronounced dead at 3:15 p.m.

Garretson said while results from some tests have not been received, he does not believe the bump to the face led to the drowning, as there were no indications of external bruising or internal affects of an impact.

"We couldn't find any evidence of any trauma around his face," Garretson said, adding that tests of the brain and internal organs also pointed to drowning as the sole cause of death.

"This looked very much like a fresh water drowning," said Garretson. "We couldn't find any evidence of any trauma."

Illinois State Police officials are investigating the drowning, and Master Sgt. Stan Diggs said Tuesday the investigation is near completion.

"We should be wrapping our investigation (today)," Diggs said, adding that two more interviews are needed – neither of which are expected to produce major shifts in the investigation. "Once we conduct those two interviews, we will have conducted all of the interviews we feel we need with the investigation."

Diggs said an investigation is needed to determine whether criminal negligence on the part of District 80 or Rend Lake College contributed to the death of Howard. He also said the ISP needed to determine whether the bump to the face was an accident or a malicious act.

At a meeting Tuesday, the District 80 Board of Education closed classes for Friday at Casey Middle School and authorized use of the school's gymnasium for a memorial visitation that will be held from 10 a.m. to noon. The funeral will immediately follow the memorial.

Settle said on Monday he wants to assure that proper tribute be given to Howard before Casey's graduation on Saturday. He added that the family of Howard also wanted to separate the graduation ceremony from the memorial as to not take away from the celebration of graduating students.

"They have been very cooperative, and we have been trying to cooperate with their needs and requests as well," he said.

Settle told the board Tuesday night that counselors were on hand to meet with students who attended Friday's party at RLC and again during a gathering Saturday morning at Casey Middle School. He said the school's staff met prior to school on Monday, and an assembly was held with the entire student body.

Over the weekend, Settle sent out an email to District 80 principals advising them to cancel any swimming activities planned for the remainder of the school year.

Settle said classes resumed as normal today at Casey, though counselors have remained available for those who need them. He added that Mt. Vernon Township High School Superintendent Terry Milt has assisted by volunteering his school's counselors as well.

"It's been a very difficult few days," Settle said. "I'm extremely proud of the way the students have reacted. Our staff has been outstanding as well as volunteers who have helped us along the way. Terry Milt has been extremely generous in providing the support that we have needed."

MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS JULY 28, 2008
BY TESA CULLI

A coroner's jury found fault in the drowning death of 14-year-old Javon Howard to be due to lack of supervision and attentiveness on the part of Rend Lake College and District 80.

"It means someone was asleep at the switch," Jefferson County Coroner Dr. Richard Garretson said. "This is one of the few times a jury has ever come back with a ruling like this. When this happened, somebody was not doing their job."

Howard died May 16 at the Rend Lake College Aquatics Center while

participating in an eighth-grade field trip from District 80 City Schools Casey Middle School. He was pronounced dead at 3:15 p.m. at Crossroads Community Hospital.

The one witness who testified during the inquest, which was held Monday night, was Illinois State Police Master Sgt. Stan Diggs. As part of his testimony, Diggs showed the audience and jury the surveillance tapes from the day of the incident.

During the video, Howard was seen next to the depth change from the shallow end to the deep end. He jumps several feet out of the water at one point.

"He's already in trouble there," Diggs narrated. "You see his body and arm and head again, then you see his arm again and we're 30 seconds into it. His head crests one more time and then he goes down to the bottom of the pool. You can see the dark silhouette where he lays until he is discovered."

During the 16 and a half minutes that ensued before Howard is discovered by a classmate, children swim above his body and play in the area several times.

"Kids are swimming and enjoying the pool," Diggs said. No one notices his body down there."

The video showed two lifeguards who were on the north side of the shallow end. A third lifeguard leaves during the time of the drowning.

"The lifeguards are watching in the area where they are in the water playing volleyball and making kids stop jumping in and out of the pool inappropriately," Diggs said.

According to Diggs, in addition to the lifeguards from Rend Lake College, District 80 had four teachers and three teacher aides to cover activities at the college which included outdoor, swimming and indoor activities for the approximately 65 students who attended the event.

At the time of the drowning, there were about 20 children in the pool. Diggs noted that Howard's mother told him the boy could not swim.

"That was evidenced by us while viewing the footage that every time he went under water he grabbed his

nose," Diggs testified. "Eighty percent of the time, he holds on to the rail on the shallow end . . . Javon got into the deep end by accident during the action of playing a ball game . . . It appears he slipped into the deep end when he jumped, and then he panicked and got disoriented."

The pool, at its deepest point, is 7 feet deep. Questions from the jury included asking about the demarcation between shallow and deep. Diggs said there are no ropes, however the bottom of the pool is painted with a 5-inch wide black line. Questions were also made by the jury on whether anyone took a deep water test, which is required before anyone swims in the deep portion.

"There was no evidence on the video of any tests being taken," Diggs said.

"An inquest is a search for the truth," Garretson told the jury. "It's your job to determine the manner and cause of death and whether or not anyone should be blamed."

The jury came back that the cause of death for Howard was drowning by accident.

"We find fault was upon Rend Lake College and District 80 for lack of supervision and lack of attentiveness," the jury ruled.

TEN YEARS LATER ► Slaying of Dardeen family in Ina trailer remains baffling, horrific

Joann Dardeen calls to nudge police weekly to solve the killing of her son and his family in Ina, IL. The case has about "driven some of us crazy," a detective says.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH NOVEMBER 16, 1997
BY PATRICK E. GAUEN

INA, IL — Dardeen. The name resonates faintly across Southern Illinois, the faded memory of something gruesome and long ago.

Dardeen. The name rings loudly in a village called Ina, where to this day, people lock their doors and cock their guns at the very thought.

Dardeen. The name labels a drab-green cabinet of reports that spill into extra file boxes at the Sheriff's Office in Mt. Vernon, where nobody gives up on Case 87P6553, a quadruple homicide.

About once a week, the phone rings on Detective John Kemp's desk. It is Joeann Dardeen, pushing or cajoling or offering new leads, just as she did with Mike Anthis and Charlie Parker and Dick Evans and other investigators through the last decade.

Ten years ago on Tuesday, Joeann Dardeen called police to check her son's home because his boss said he missed work. She hasn't stopped calling the police since.

"I carried Keith for nine months. I raised him. I worshiped the ground he walked on. He was a good man and a good father. That's why I do it," she explained in an interview last week. "And I will never give up."

Kemp said he welcomed Joeann's nudges. But he wouldn't forget this case anyway. Not the Dardeens.

The people of Jefferson County, IL, about 75 miles southeast of St. Louis, already were on edge.

In November 1985, 19-year-old Thomas Odle murdered his parents and three siblings one at a time as they arrived home in Mt. Vernon. In May 1987, Amy Schulz, 10, disappeared north of town. She was found raped and murdered. A man has been sentenced to death in that case.

But 10 miles down Illinois Route 37, life remained relatively innocent in Ina, a settlement consisting of a store, a gas station, a firehouse, a bank, a post office and enough bungalows and trailers for 475 residents.

In 1986, Russell Keith and Ruby Elaine Dardeen, who used their middle names, rented a neat beige-and-white mobile home in a wooded lot on Route 37 just south of town. Behind it, traffic zoomed along Interstate 57, close enough to see but too distant to threaten the swing set out back for son Peter, a toddler.

Their lives were open and uncomplicated. Keith was from Mt. Carmel, a 90-minute drive northeast, on the Indiana border, and Elaine from Albion, nearby. Both were hard-working churchgoers.

Keith Dardeen, 29, was a Treatment Plant Operator for the Rend Lake Water Conservancy District; Elaine Dardeen, 30, had a job as a Clerk in an office supply store in Mt. Vernon.

The last time Joeann saw her son, he told her over lunch he was sorry he ever moved to Ina and planned to take his family "home" to Mt. Carmel soon – with or without a new job.

"He felt it was too violent out there," she recalled. But she also said he did not explain, or seem afraid.

They talked, too, of his pregnant wife. Keith said if the baby was a boy, he would be called Ian. If it was a girl, they planned to call her Casey.

No witness, no motive

Three days later, Joeann Dardeen sat at home in Mt. Carmel and waited nervously for police to report back on the disturbing silence from Ina.

She could hardly grasp the news when they did: Elaine was bound and gagged with tape and savagely beaten to death, ostensibly with a baseball bat found at the scene. Peter, 3, was killed the same way.

Keith was missing, along with his car. So officers began a manhunt for a man who seemed to have suddenly raged against his loved ones, just as Thomas Odle did two years before.

But the next night, a mile south on Route 37, hunters found Keith dead in a wheat field just over the Franklin County line – three bullets in his head and his penis sliced off.

The bloodstained 1981 Plymouth turned up 11 miles further south, boldly parked near the Police Station at Benton.

Two days later, police told the family one last grisly detail. Elaine gave birth during that beating. The 3-pound 13-ounce girl was battered to death, too. Grandparents named her Casey.

About 30 local and State Police Detectives pored in to find what many regarded as the most confounding mystery of their careers. Bizarre circumstances. Little evidence. No witnesses. No motive. No suspects.

They found no evidence of forced entry; the back door was unlocked.

Despite cash, jewelry and a video camera laying in plain sight, not a single thing was ever determined missing. Investigators found no rape, no infidelity, no big debts, no grudges.

And the killer took the time to clean up the blood before departing.

'All the pieces'

"We have all the pieces to the puzzle. We just have to put them in the right order," said Anthis, who led the Sheriff's investigation back in 1987 and is now an Illinois Attorney General's Investigator.

But he and other officers find the work maddening.

Why wasn't everybody killed at the same place? (Forensic tests don't show who died first, Kemp said, just that all were killed within an hour or two.) Why kill Peter? Could he have identified someone? Why kill the newborn at all? Why such dramatic violence? And why mutilate Keith?

"If you sit and think about it long enough, it will about drive you crazy," Kemp said. "It just about has driven some of us crazy."

Cops debate even the basics. Was it one killer or more? Nobody can tell.

Police are inclined to think the Dardeens were chosen, if only by mistake. "I don't think it was a passer-by," Kemp said. "It's not the random act of a hitchhiker off the road."

A small amount of marijuana was found in the Dardeens' home, but they were never suspected to be dealers.

Joeann Dardeen said police told her it might even have been the killer's.

Kemp, who was working undercover narcotics when the killings occurred, said the victims had no closer connections to drug dealers than might be found among the families or friends of most people. Joeann said post-mortem tests disclosed no drugs in the victims' blood.

Rumors of cult involvement abounded at first but were dismissed for absence of systematic mutilations, rituals, candles or symbols.

FBI profilers provided some "guideposts," Anthis said, but left town as baffled as everyone else.

Town locks doors

Kemp and Terry Campbell, an Investigator with the Illinois State Police, still track whatever leads come along. Joeann Dardeen provides some, usually from news reports about violent crimes elsewhere.

"Truthfully, there are virtually none similar to this case," Kemp said. "It was so brutal and so bad. I've never

seen or heard of anything more brutal.”

It was so traumatic the town will always bear the emotional scar, said Mary Younger, who works in the town’s market and feels the anxiety every year when leaves fall and afternoons yield to early darkness.

“Before this, I never locked my doors,” she explained. “Now I always do. It has changed the way we live. Nobody is complacent anymore. Everybody stays aware of their surroundings.”

Younger said immediately after the murders, her husband taught her to shoot. She said she was so afraid for her children she used to lock her house just to walk out to the mailbox.

Miracle needed

Older homicides have been solved, of course, but this one started off cold. “After 10 years, it will take nothing short of a miracle,” suggested Kemp.

Joeann Dardeen figures national television may hold that miracle, providing a link to someone somewhere with answers. She has solicited attention from “America’s Most Wanted,” “Unsolved Mysteries” and “Oprah,” but without success.

She studies her own recollections for clues and sometimes worries about reprisals if she ever does figure it out. “I’m still scared,” she admitted.

“I think someone wanted Keith to sell drugs and he refused,” she said. “Or there’s a possibility someone liked Elaine and she wouldn’t accept his advances and he took out his rage on both of them.” Later she added, “We just don’t know.”

The awful memories color every day for Joeann, a 59-year-old divorcee who works as a housekeeper for the funeral home in Mt. Carmel that buried her only son.

She can’t forget, and she won’t risk letting the police forget.

Investigator Anthis said he wanted to solve the case if only for Joeann’s sake. “She’s not a young woman, he said. “I hope she doesn’t have to take this to her own grave.”

www.trutv.com/library/crime/serial_killers/predators/tommy_sells/5.html
EXCERPTS FROM “A LIFE OF CRIME” BY DAVID KRAJICEK

From 1978 to 1999, Tommy Lynn Sells crisscrossed the country by hopping freights, hitching rides or stealing

cars. He spent time in half the states in the union, begging or working as a carny, barber, mechanic and laborer.

A precise accounting of his felonies is impossible; Sells didn’t keep a crime diary. But a murder he committed in July 1985 serves as a prototype.

He was working with a carnival set up in Forsyth, MO, a town of 1,000 on Table Rock Lake near Branson, then a burgeoning country music center.

Among the visitors to the fair was Ena Cordt, 35, a petite divorcee who scraped by working at a car wash. She was treating her 4-year-old son, Rory, to a night out.

By Sells’ account, he met Cordt at the fair, and she invited him back to her home late that night. The authorities found the bludgeoned bodies of the woman and her child three days later.

The way Sells tells the story, he had consensual sex with Cordt, then found her stealing from his backpack. He picked up her son’s wooden baseball bat and beat her to death, then killed the child, a potential witness.

There is no telling what really happened. Perhaps he ogled her at the fair, stalked her home, raped and murdered her. Dead men tell no tales, as Lovins said. Nor do women and innocent children . . .

Evidence indicates Sells went on a murderous rampage in the late 1980s. He claims to have killed a dozen people in seven states from 1987 to 1989, literally coast to coast.

The investigative technique for fleshing out details of these cases would go something like this: Sells would say he killed a family in the Midwest or a woman hitchhiking in the Southwestern desert on an approximate date, and detectives would set out to find matches. They would then press Sells for details of the crimes, the victims and settings for comparisons to cold cases . . .

But everyone agrees he was responsible for one particularly depraved multiple homicide in Illinois in the fall of 1987.

A few days before Thanksgiving, hunters walking a field near Ina, IL (pop 500), 80 miles east of St. Louis, found the body of Keith Dardeen. He had been shot in the head, and his

genitals were mutilated. In the trailer where he lived, police found tucked in bed the bodies of Dardeen’s wife, Elaine, and their son, Pete, 3. Each had been bludgeoned to death, and Elaine had been raped and sexually assaulted with the baseball bat the killer used as a murder weapon.

Also in the bed authorities found the body of a newborn daughter, born prematurely during or after the beating administered to Elaine. The infant, too, was beaten to death. The case had been unsolved for 12 years, until the arrest of Sells, who claimed responsibility.

The Ina murders are examples of the frustrations law enforcers and survivors have had in debriefing Sells. They are certain he killed the Dardeen family, but they are not certain of why – or what touched off the violence.

Sells claims he met Keith Dardeen at a truck stop, and the man invited him home. He also claims Dardeen made sexual advances. Relatives say that is unlikely that Dardeen, who was fearful of crime to the point of paranoia, would have invited a stranger home, and they say the sex come-on allegation is absurd.

Criminals who commit heinous acts frequently concoct circumstances to explain or even mitigate their blame. How else can someone with even a shadow of conscience rationalize the pummeling of a newborn child?

Perhaps even Sells doesn’t know the truth of his carnage. By 1987 he was a heavy drinker and drug-user. He preferred heroin but settled for just about any drug he could ingest or inhale – crank, coke, acid, meth.

He would work a few days or steal something of value, then use his earnings to buy drugs and get high. He was often in a haze . . .

www.crimelife.com/killers/sells.html

A particularly cruel sociopath, Tommy Lynn Sells has confessed to over a dozen homicides, many of them children. Drifting throughout the country, only interrupted by the occasional jail term, Sells seemed to target small children and particularly enjoyed multiple murders.

Sells has already been convicted of a murder in Del Rio, TX. The killer

entered the Harris family home on December 31, 1999, and murdered 13-year-old Kaylene, sexually assaulting her before cutting her throat and attempting to do the same to friend Krystal Surles, 10. He was sentenced to death for the Harris murder on September 20, 2000. Among the other murders Sells is credited with are the killings of a 9-year-old child in Texas, the slaying of a mother and her 5-year-old child in Forsyth, MO, the kills of another mother and child in West Virginia and yet another similar crime in Tennessee.

Perhaps Sells most heinous crime – and that’s saying a lot – was the quadruple murder of the Dardeen family in Ina, IL, on November 16, 1987. Befriended by the family and invited for a meal at their mobile home, Sells shot Russell Dardeen in the head in a nearby field and beat his wife and 3-year-old son to death with a baseball bat. During the brutal attack, Mrs. Dardeen gave birth to a girl, two months premature. Faced with this unique situation, Sells simply turned the bat on the newborn and beat her to death also.

Sells currently faces charges in the Kentucky rape-murder of a 13-year-old girl and in Illinois for the Dardeen family slayings. More charges, and possibly many more confessions, are sure to come . . .

EVANSVILLE COURIER & PRESS courierpress.com
BY LEN WELLS NOVEMBER 18, 2007

MT. CARMEL – Joeann Dardeen has been exceptionally busy this week.

For three days, she worked at the Mission of Hope Store in downtown Mt. Carmel, helping needy Wabash County residents find clothes for their families. Then she had to stop by the local newspaper office to place an ad in memory of her son, Russell Keith Dardeen, his wife, Ruby Elaine, the couple’s son, Peter Shawn, and their daughter, Casey.

The copy beneath a family portrait read: “We miss you all, and we will love you forever.”

What the ad didn’t say was that it was 20 years ago Saturday that the Dardeen family fell victim to one of the most brutal murders in Southern Illinois history.

Casey, the youngest family member, was born during the attack on her mother, then killed by her assailant.

For 13 years, Joeann Dardeen lived without knowing who killed her son and his family – and worse yet, why.

Then in 2000, almost out of the clear blue sky, a California drifter named Tommy Lynn Sells confessed he was the one who slaughtered the Dardeen family at its mobile home near the small Jefferson County village of Ina.

Sells, now widely regarded as one of the nation’s most ruthless serial killers, was sitting in a Texas jail cell awaiting trial for murdering a teenage girl when he confessed to the Dardeen killings.

“I believe Tommy Lynn Sells did it, I just want to be 100 percent sure,” Joeann Dardeen said. “I keep trying to dig up more information about him.”

Although 20 years have passed, Joanne is still haunted by doubts about Sells’ confession, since he has never been brought back to Illinois to stand trial for the killings and there are some inconsistencies in his account.

“One detective I work with would like for us to travel to Texas to see if Tommy would agree to meet with us,” she said. “If I could have one face-to-face conversation with him, then I’d be more satisfied that he was the one who killed my son and his family.”

But the meeting is not likely to take place, she admits, and it’s unlikely Sells will ever be put on trial for the Dardeen killings . . .