Denton to receive faculty honors

Hired full-time 10 years ago this spring, Rend Lake College Associate Professor Linda Denton ascends to the rank of full-fledged Professor status in the fall.

But here is another way of describing her in the meantime recipient of the 1998 "Faculty Excellence Award"

Denton, who teaches Physics and Physical Science, will be recognized by the RLC Foundation and her peers as the 19th winner of the award when it is presented at the annual Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner in May.

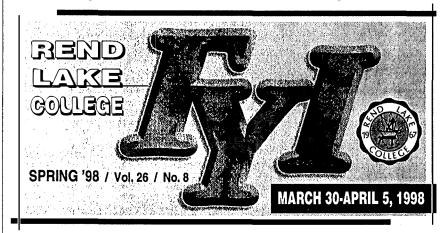
She will represent Rend Lake College later in the summer when the Illinois Community College Trustees Association salutes outstanding faculty from throughout the state. Many of Denton's students and former students might call her something entirely different, as grad Linda Murphy did two years ago when she took the time to write to RLC President Mark S. Kern to express her feelings concerning Denton.

"She certainly is an asset to RLC, and I wanted it brought to your attention," noted Murphy, with "over 100 credit hours of both average and challenging classes" behind her.

"She is, without question, the best teacher I have encountered in my schooling."

Denton does a tremendous job, according to Murphy.

"May I say that the other students and I thoroughly enjoyed Ms. Denton's class – science, of all things!





LINDA DENTON 'Faculty Excellence' award-winner

"She runs her class like the 'Price is Right' game show, learning names by calling them out' among other things ... discovering the correct answers she seeks with leading questions, "usually upbeat and just an overall interesting teacher."

Many on campus would be surprised to learn that Denton was appointed by Gov. Jim Edgar and served from 1991-97 on the Illinois Coal Development Board; has been a mem-

(Continued on Page 4)

SICCM to honor seven from Rend Lake College

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

Five individuals from RendIllinois Collegiate CommonikeCollegeWill receiveMarket 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 LakeCollege'sPioneerAward-(Continued on Page 4)

F.Y.I. • 3/30/98 • Page 2

🧏 F. Y. I. Briefs 🛛

An essay by Rend Lake College student Kelly Chullen of Benton has been submitted to the Illinois Community College Trustees Association for consideration in its annual Paul Simon Student Essay Contest.

The essay was chosen from among those submitted locally by Dr. John Homan Jr., chairman of the Arts and Communications Department, and Dr. Barbara Luchsinger, English Professor.

A \$500 scholarship is awarded to the best essay submitted statewide that describes "How My Community College Has Changed My Life."

RLC's Becci Doering of Mt. Vernon was the 1996 statewide Student Essay Contest winner.

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When the Lady Warriors beat Olney Central in the first game of a doubleheader sweep recently, it marked the 200th win for Coach Dave Ellingsworth.

Now in his fifth season as the head coach, Ellingsworth was named "Coach of the Year" in 1994 when his

% F.Y.I. Personals

Happy to report Brenden Lay, the infant son of Illinois ChildCorps Coordinator **Rosemary Hicks-Lay** andhusbandChris, was released from Cardinal-Glennon Hospital a week ago Friday and is now home.

Brenden had been transferred to St. Louis soon after his March 9 birth in Mt. Vernon as a result of complications during delivery.



- Lee Wilson (3/30)
- Barbara Bauernfeind (3/31)
- Ro Hoar (4/6)
- Chuck Mercer (4/7)
- Salah Shakir (4/8)
- Mary Ann Lewis (4/10)
- Gloria Oliver (4/10)

first team won the Great Rivers Athletic Conference championship. Two years later, RLC won a Region XXIV championship and advanced to the NJCAA National Fast-Pitch Tournament for the first time.

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Used textbook buyback dates have been firmed up for later this spring:

Monday, May 119 am-4 pmTuesday, May 129 am-4 pmWednesday, May 139 am-6 pmThursday, May 149 am-4 pmFriday, May 159 am-1 pm



Honors for RLC grads ...

• Mt. Vernon Township High School's John T. Kabat, an agriculture teacher, has been named winner of the American Vocational Teacher Award for Region III, which includes six Midwest states.

Kabat has taught for 13 years.

• Darin Lee of Nashville and Matt Hampleman of West Frankfort were saluted as "Best Class A Boys Coach" and "Best Class A Girls Coach" for 1997-98 by *Southern Illinoisan* sportswriter Jim Gordillo in a recent column.

OBITUARY Carl C. Jones, Mining retiree

Carl C. Jones, 70, of DuQuoin, formerly of Tamaroa, died Tuesday, March 24, at Marshall Browning Hospital in DuQuoin.

Jones taught in the Mining and Industrial Technology Department at Rend Lake College for 10 years after retiring as a coal mine supervisor with 30 years to his credit. He worked at RLC from 1979 until 1988.

Services were held March 27 in DuQuoin, with burial in Tamaroa Cemetery.

Jones is survived by his wife of 50 years, Norma, two daughters, Christy Emery and Cathy Youngman, both of DuQuoin, a son, Michael Jones of Los Angeles, and three grandchildren.

A U.S. Army veteran of World War I, Jones was a member of the Tamaroa Masonic Lodge and AinadShrineTemple. He helped found the Tamaroa Fire Dept. and was a Village Board member. Memorialsmay be made to the

Tamaroa Cemetery Association.

MARTIN'S FOODSERVICE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Specials	Specials	Specials	Specials	Specials
DINNER \$4.19 Chicken- Spinach Bake 2 Vegetables Roll Small Drink	DINNER \$4.19 Chicken Pot Pie 2 Vegetables Roll Small Drink	DINNER \$4.19 Chicken Tenders 2 Vegetables Roll Small Drink	DINNER \$2.99 Taco Salad Small Drink	DINNER \$4.19 Chicken Stir-Fry 2 Vegetables Roll Small Drink
SANDWICH \$2.99 Chicken FF/Veg/Chips Small Drink	SANDWICH \$2.99 BBQ Pork FF/Veg/Chips Small Drink	SANDWICH \$2.99 Sloppy Joe FF/Veg/Chips Small Drink	SANDWICH \$2.99 Cheeseburger FF/Veg/Chips Small Drink	SANDWICH \$2.99 Fish FF/Veg/Chips Small Drink
Hours // 7/30 am - 1330 pm				

Fisher chosen for Learning Standards team

Chemistry Professor John Fisher has been nominated and selected to serve on the Illinois Board of Higher Education's Science Performance Standards and Assessment Advisory Team.

Based on information provided, he is believed to be the only person serving because of his direct involvement at the community college level from 250-300 participants in seven different subject categories.

"Based on the recommendation of Dr. Eunice Greer and the selection committee, I am appointing you to serve" subject to Fisher's agreement, according to notification received earlier this month from State Superintendent of Education Joseph A. Spagnolo.

"Over the next 18 months, the Performance Standards and Assessment Advisory Teams will work with professionals in the ISBE Standards and Assessment Division to develop performance standards and new state assessments that are aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards," Spagnolo explained.

Illinois Learning Standards were adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education July 25, 1997.

Science Goals are included along with those for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Science, Physical Development and Health, Fine Arts and Foreign Language.

One of Spagnolo's assistants was a reader when Fisher recently was awarded another Dwight D. Eisenhower Science and Mathematics Grant. The \$50,000 grant is directly related to local industry and agricultural technologies.

It will consist of a series of weekend and summer inservice programs conducted for area high school chemistry and other science teachers in which participants will develop and implement nine science curriculum modules that will be incorporated in the high school curriculum. The modules will utilize engaged learning and will be centered around the Illinois Learning Standards.

Illinois Learning Standards "were developed consistent with state law and are based on the thoughtful input of thousands of teachers, administrators, parents, employers, community leaders and representatives of higher education," Spagnolo indicated. "Collectively, the statements in this document define what Illinois citizens believe all students should know and be able to do as a result of their public schooling

"The next challenge will be to ensure that all Illinois students are prepared to meet these expectations. That means, at a minimum, aligning the learning opportunities in each school – e.g., curriculum, teacher knowledge and skills – with these new standards."

"The committee I have been asked to be a part of will develop the assessment standards which will apply to each school to see how well they are doing at achieving the state goals for their students. We will help determine how well each school's curricula meets, or doesn't meet, state standards," Fisher commented.

"My participation," he continued, "should be beneficial to all science students and programs in our district. Not only will I be helping to set the standards, but through the grant I will be working with local high school teachers to develop the curricula to meet those standards."

Fisher currently is serving as Vice-President for the Illinois Association of Chemistry Teachers.

In a similar appointment, Fisher has been asked to serve on the Advisory Committee for 2YC3, the Two-Year and CommunityCollege Chemistry organization, a subdivision of the American Chemical Society which sets the standards nationwide for chemistry education.



F.Y.I. • 3/30/98 • Page 4

MORE ABOUT >>>

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 Phil Ward 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."

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

MORE ABOUT >>> **Denton to be honored**

ber of the Community Consolidated School District 204 Board in Tamaroa since 1993 and served as vice-president the past school year; is President of the Coast-to-Coast Hardware Store she owns in Pinckneyville with her husband, Roger, and is working on her doctorate degree in Engineering Sciences from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

During her time on the Illinois Coal Development Board, she was a member of the Administration Committee which was responsible for budget and personnel of the Illinois Clean Air Institute and the Office of Coal Development and Marketing.

A "Who's Who Among American Teachers" nominee, Denton has served on numerous committees at Rend Lake College, including Policies and Procedures, North Central Association Student Assessment and Distance Learning Development.

"Linda is a dedicated and knowledgeable instructor with high standards of teaching," indicated her letter of recommendation signed by six colleagues. "She is well-liked and respected by her peers and is always a 'team player' in department activities. She also is well-liked and appreciated by her students."

Denton is the mother of two school-age children – Megan, a freshman in high school, and Will, a second-grader. She also finds time to be a Sunday School teacher and committee member at Sunfield United Methodist Church.

Prior to coming to RLC, she taught Physics, Chemistry and Physical Science at Pinckneyville Community High School. She also spent a year as



In spite of beautiful weather last week which no doubt kept some donors away, the annual American Red Cross Spring Blood Drive at Rend Lake College collected 32 pints on Tuesday and 47 on Wednesday.

The totals included six first-time

donors in the mobile unit the first day and 12 first-timers in the gym the next day.

Another 17 individuals tried to give blood but were rejected for various reasons

Thanks to all who helped!.

a civil engineer and gained experience at two different coal companies, the Illinois Department of Transportation and SIUC's Thermal and Environmental Engineering Department.

Former student Murphy is a fan even though she wasn't sure if she was going to maintain a straight-A average after taking Denton's class.

"It is not because her class was easy that I'm writing," she said. "It was horribly challenging. But if science had more instructors like Ms. Denton, the field probably would be overcrowded."

"I hope," Murphy concluded, "to pattern my future teaching and classroom after her as much as possible."

Murphy and other would-be teachers might be wise then to considerhow award-winner Denton once described her philosophy of education by stating that "... the quality and focus of the education of the masses is the primary determiner of the values and success of a society.

"As an educator directing formal classroom education in the physical sciences, it is my job to provide my students with the opportunity to understand the application of scientific principles in our technological world. That knowledge is crucial for our society to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the gigantic technological leaps we have seen in recent years, and to solve the problems associated with those changes.

"As an educator directing informal education, it is my job to force my students to question everything. As citizens in a democratic society, they must be able to use their fundamental scientific knowledge to analyze the use of technology and governmental policies that guide that use. As consumers in a capitalistic society, they must be able to analyze a manufacturer's claims for its product.

"By producing adults capable of reasoning and providing them with the base knowledge to guide that reasoning, I feel I am building a foundation for a successful society."

Second RLC Job Fair offers impressive lineup of guests

A "fountain of opportunity" awaits those who take advantage of the second annual Rend Lake College Job Fair Wednesday, April 8.

The event, which offers potential full-time, part-time and summer employment opportunities, internships and/or job placement and career information, is planned from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in Waugh Gymnasium on the Ina campus.

Current students, alumniand other district residents are encouraged to meet with dozens of area employers to recruit individuals for a variety of positions.

Participants should bring their résumés and other credentials and dress appropriately.

Why should anyone attend?

RLC Cooperative Education and Job Placement Director Rex Duncan can think of at least four good reasons:

• Enhance employment potential through self-presentation skills;

 Gain an understanding of entry-level job responsibilities and career paths;

• Learn whatemployerslook for in new hires;

• Secure job leads for employment and internships.

"We made the switch last year from 'Career Day' to a Job Fair and I think everyone was quite pleased with the results because it really was of direct benefit to our students and district residents," Duncan said.

"I heard of several people who got hired as a result of the contacts they made at last year's Job Fair, and others were called in for interviews."

It is of benefit to employers, he noted, "because of the business-like attitude that prevails.

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"I had several employers tell me they were impressed with how serious our students were, how well prepared they were, how good their résumés were and how they were dressed. They appreciated all of that."

This year's Job Fair will feature 5-10 more businesses and industries, retail establishments, banking institutions, government agencies, health care providers, military organizations and the like. Included will be a handful of central and northern-Illinois based representatives.

"I think from past experiences they like what they see here," Duncan added. "There are shortages for skilled workers, and they are coming to recruit our students."

Duncan also suggests these tips for anyone who wants to maximize their opportunities at the second annual Job Fair:

• Prepare a professional résumé to leave with Job Fair employers;

• Prepare a "1-2-minutecommercial" of your qualifications; compose questions and answers;

• Professional dress is strongly recommended; Plan your wardrobe needs;

• Gather relevant information about employers attending the Job Fair.

Once there, "Show your interestby asking thoughtfulquestions; Be yourself ... be pleasant, honest and self-confident; shake hands with representatives when introducing yourself; balance your personality and achievements with attentive listening skills; ask for a business card and the name of the person with whom you are speaking," he said.

(Continued on Page 6)



F.Y.I. • 3/30/98 • Page 6

Mariah's Fulks saluted for financial support

Jimmy Fulks, owner of Mariah Boats, Inc., was on the Rend Lake College campus last week to tour the new Aquatics Center and to receive the "gold" major gift award from the RLC Foundation.

The "gold" award is given to contributors who have donated over \$50,000 to the RLC Foundation, according to Executive Director Pat Mitchell.

Joining Mariah President Fulks and Mitchell for the presentation were Rend Lake College President Mark S. Kern and Mariah's J. Rance Fulks, Executive Vice-President/General Plant Manager; Guy Coons, Chief Financial Officer, and Paul Sheon, Corporate Legal Council.

"Without the commitment of Jimmy Fulks and four other individuals like him, the Aquatics Center would not have been possible," Kern commented.

Rend Lake College was awarded one of 17 competitive Endowed Challenge Grants from the federal government in 1993, providing a 2-for-1 match for monies raised by the college Foundation up to \$500,000.

Fulks immediately assumed a leadership role in the "Generations of Excellence" capital campaign and stepped forward with his pledge of \$100,000, including a lead gift of \$20,000 toward the \$250,000 Challenge Grant goal.

The remaining \$80,000, with the interest earned from the contribution, was designated by Fulks toward the financial acquisition of the Aquatics Center, which cost more than provided through state funding and required private contributions to make up the difference.

No local tax dollars were involved in the construction of the \$2.6 million facility.

Projects such as the Aquatics Center and the new Children's Center, a day-care facility for the children of RLC students and staff which will have ground-breaking ceremonies April 9, are made possible through the partnerships of local business men and women with the college, Mitchell indicated.

Fulks, standing next to the therapy pool and whirlpool while observing the six-lane pool, noted, "This looks just as you (President Kern) told us it would. I love to be able to envision a boat and then be able to see it become a reality the way I dreamed it would. The same holds true here; this is exciting."

Mariah Boats, Inc. also sponsors RLC Foundation Scholarships annually for employees' dependents. Since initiating the scholarship program in 1995, 13 scholarships have been made possible through the efforts of the Benton-based boat manufacturer.

"The Rend Lake College Foundation would certainly like to thank Jimmy Fulks for his support of education," Mitchell added. "With his initiative and foresight, he is the type of individual with vision that it takes to turn dreams into reality.

"The Foundation and Rend Lake College will forever be grateful to Jimmy Fulks and Mariah Boats for their support."

MORE ABOUT >> Job Fair participants April 8

Among those expected:

- ABC Child Development
- Accountemps
- AFLAC
- Airtex Products
- Alpine Air and Water Purification
- AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois
- APAC
- AutoZone
- Cahokia Police Department
- Citizens Bank
- Community Media Group
- Drury Inn
- DSI Health Care Systems
- FGM Architects
- Five-Star Industries
- Hevi-Duty Electric
- Hibbett Sports
- Illinois Dept. of Central Management Services

- Illinois Dept. of Corrections
- Illinois Employment
 and Training Center
- Infinite Access
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- Jefferson County Chamber
 of Commerce
- Kerasotes Theatres
- Marion Pepsi-Cola/ Crisp Containers
- Martin & Bayley
- Mary Kay Cosmetics
- Morton Building Systems
- North American Lighting
- Office Team
- Orpack-Stone
- Osmose Wood Preserving
- Parkway Manor
- Plastipak Packaging
- Radio Shack

- RLC Career Center
- Shagbark Girl Scout Council
- Social Security Administration
- Southern Illinois Healthcare
- Southtown Youth and Daycare Programs
- Stage Department Store
- Stevens Industries
- Touch of Nature
- Twin County Service Company
- Universal Distribution
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Air Force Reserve
- U.S. Army and Army Reserve
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Penitentiary
- U.S. Marine Corps
- U.S. Navy
- Wal-Mart Stores
- · Western Staff Services

F.Y.I. • 3/30/98 • Page 7

Nobody benefits more from ICWS funding than RLC

Nineteen educational entities in four Southern Illinois counties and two industries will reap the benefits of 56 student "employees" that will result from a \$100,000 grant renewal awarded to Rend Lake College.

No other college or university in the state – public and private twoand four-year institutions alike – will receive more than Rend Lake College from the Illinois Board of Higher Education in fiscal year 1998 under the Illinois Cooperative Work-Study Program Act. Only Bradley University and Eastern Illinois University are slated to receive the same amount.

The total ICWS appropriation of \$1.7 million will support 10 new and

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Bob Ross, Director of Resource Development, has been selected as a presenter for the Council for Resource Development Region V Conference this summer.

The conference is scheduled June 1-3 at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee.

Ross will make two presentations to college grant writers and foundation directors from the Midwest and Canada.

His presentations, "Grantwriting – Gambling That Pays," will outline "how a one-person resource development office, with borrowed secretarial help and limited resources, can be a catalyst to building an annual grant base of over\$4 million." (Sound familiar?)

Gambling "skills" that will be emphasized include:

• Calculating the odds of getting funded for a particular grant.

• Deciding whether to apply for a grant again, or cut the losses and walk.

• Deciding how much money and time to "bet" on a grant.

• Hiring outside consultants ... How big of a gamble?

• Investing for the short-term and the long-term.

27 continuing projects.

According to the RLC program Director Rex Duncan, continued participation will enable the college to place students into paid positions withemployersprovidingmore than a 50/50 match to grant dollars.

A large majority of those students "will be education majors working in area schools while gaining vital, workbased, academically structured experiences and providing an important service to the students," Duncan said.

"College students will earn credit toward their majors and will be paid at least \$6 per hour.

"The employment of education majors in area schools has proven to be a valuable service-learning experience as hundreds of school children will be receiving additional academic assistance, expanded extra-curricular opportunities and mentoring."

In submitting his grant renewal, Duncan pointed out Rend Lake College students are gaining valuable insights into their chosen careers through this program. At the same time, employers involved in the project are receiving the services of "enthusiastic, energetic college students, which is proving to be profitable, contributing additions to their workforce.

"The college also gains useful feedback from the employers through work-study students."

Added Duncan, who cited statistics showing 52% of participants receiving some form of financial aid and completing coursework with a "C" average or better, "A direct relationship between the student's declared major and the nature of the work performed is mandatory. Psychology and social work majors also were placed in school environments.

"Employers are actively involved in the selection of students. Typically, the employing schools conduct background checks on the students prior to final placement in their schools."

Day-to-day supervision is performed by the teachers and principals at each work site. Learning objectives are reviewed to determine that appropriate progress is being made toward their completion. And at the end of the semester, employers complete written evaluations of their students' performances. Those students whose performance and evaluation warrant such are asked to return for a second semester.

Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program Grant allocations are for the period April 1 through June 30, 1999.

The Act stipulates that the program shall benefit students academically and financially, reduce reliance on loans, enhance public-private sector partnerships and encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois.

A breakdown of how employers and RLC students will benefit: FRANKLIN COUNTY -

Akin Grade School, \$5,760 (four students); Benton Elementary, \$4,320 (three); Ewing-Northern Grade School, \$6,720 (four); Logan Grade School, \$3,360 (two); Sesser-Valier Grade School, \$1,920 (one), and Thompsonville Grade School, \$2,880 (two). Total – \$24,960 or 8,320 hours. JEFFERSON COUNTY –

Bethel School, \$5,760 (four students); Farrington School, \$4,800 (three); Field Grade School, \$4,320 (three); Grand Prairie, \$2,880 (two); Ina Grade School, \$3,360 (two); Mt. Vernon District 80, \$7,200 (four); Summersville Grade School, \$1,440 (one); Waltonville Grade School, \$1,440 (one); Waltonville Grade School, \$2,880 (two); Webber Township High School, \$1,920 (one), and Woodlawn Grade School, \$7,680 (five). Total – \$42,240, or 14,100 hours.

PERRY COUNTY -

Five Star Industries, \$1,440 (one); Prestige Trailers, \$7,620 (four); Tamaroa Grade School, \$1,920 (one). Total – \$10,980, or 3,660 hours. HAMILTON COUNTY –

Hamilton County Grade School, \$8,160 (five); Norris City-Omaha-Enfield Grade School, \$2,880 (two). Total – \$11,040, or 3,680 hours.



Project CHILD Child Care Resource & Referral - Rend Lake College will be sponsoring "A DAY IN THE PARK" Children's Festival at the Mt. Vernon City Park. Through the festival we hope to provide a fun day of activities for children and families in our area while drawing attention to the programs and services available to young children.

The Festival will consist of tables of activities sponsored by local day care providers, nursury schools, early childhood programs, and local service groups. We encourage you to provide "hands-on" activities. You may also want to include pamphlets or other information you have available for parents. Other plans for the day include children's entertainment, clowns, a train, and various other child related activities.

The Festival committee will provide technical assistance and arrange space for you. There are a limited number of tables and chairs available, so register early to reserve your space. They will be assigned on a first come basis. It is vital that we hear from you by April 1. Programs not registered by April 1 may not be included in pre-Festival publicity. We need all participants to stay from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and plan for 250 - 300 children.

PLEASE COMPLETE ATTACHED REGISTRATION FORM AND RETURN



Network News / Troy Becker, Programmer/Analyst

TO: ALL RLC INTERNET USERS

During spring break we attempted to upgrade the software on the email and web server server. We were only partially successful. We successfully completed the upgrade earlier this week and have some good news for you to show for the upgrade.

Things that can be done now that could not be done before:

■ You can change your email password and some other user information from the courtesy of your web browser (Netscape or Internet Explorer). [Note: Browsers older than Version 3 may not have this ability.]

- 1) Go to the URL http://www.rlc.cc.il.us:16630
- 2) Type in your current name and password when prompted. (Case sensitive.)
- 3) You now have options to change Password, Personal Information, Delivery Options, Vacation Message, Account Information
 - a) Delivery Options allows you to forward messages to others or to your home address. [Note: Make sure you leave POP3/IMAP box checked]
 - b) Vacation Message allows you to set a message to be replied to all that send you mail while you are away for any reason.
 - c) Account Information is personal info you wish others to see (like job title).

■ A group email account can be set up for a department/class. This allows you to publicize an email like mis@rlc.cc.il.us and Don, Mary, Nina and myself would get it.

 Submit an ISR stating the name of the group and list the email addresses of those you wish to be included in the group.

■ A News Group can now be created. This allows you to share questions and answers with people of similar interests. You submit a question to the newsgroup and if someone has the answer they can respond to it. We plan on creating an RLC computer users group that you can use for general computer hardware and software questions. [Name of newsgroup is RLCUSER]

1) Submit an ISR listing the name of the newsgroup and its primary focus (i.e., nontraditional students or students in college algebra).

■ You can have a listing of email accounts serviced by RLC. Directions for this are on one of our web pages at URL http://www.rlc.cc.il.us/IS/addrbook.htm

Things that could be done before:

■ You can check your email from home. Directions for this can be found on one of our web pages at URL http://www.rlc.cc.il.us/IS/chkmailnet.htm [Note: to get to the information now, go to Edit, Preferences, Mail & Groups

■ You can add information about your department, coming events, etc. to our web page. Submit an ISR with the specifics about your request. We will be glad to work with you in getting the information published to the web server.

F.Y.I. • 3/30/98 • Page 9 Pinckneyville CNA start-up Monday at 8

A Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) class offered by Rend Lake College is scheduled to start Monday, April 6, in Pinckneyville, according to Allied Health Department Chair Wilanna Patton.

Adult Education funding is available to cover the cost for many prospective students.

The course is scheduled to meet on a Monday-Wednesday basis for 101/2 weeks, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pinckneyville Community Hospital.

It is designed to prepare individuals to fill the roles of CNAs in a variety of health care settings. The class, which is approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health, includes both classroom instruction and clinical experiences. Upon completion, the student willbe eligible to apply to take the state CNA registry examination.

Many CNA job opportunities exist in the local market, Patton added.

To pre-register or to find out more about the Certified Nurse Assistant program, individuals are encouraged to contact Patton or Administrative Assistant Beth Mitchell at Rend Lake College, 437-5321, Ext. 251, or tollfree (in-district) 1-800-369-5321. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until 4 p.m. Fridays.



Mark this date on your calendar:

The Illinois Council of CommunityCollege Administrators willhold its Fall '98 Conference November 18-20 at the Renaissance Springfield Hotel. The theme is "Surfing the Wave of Change: Facing the Attitudes, Challenges and Opportunities of the 21st Century.

Reservations? (217) 544-8800.

Mt. Vernon G.E.D. Students Study Passover

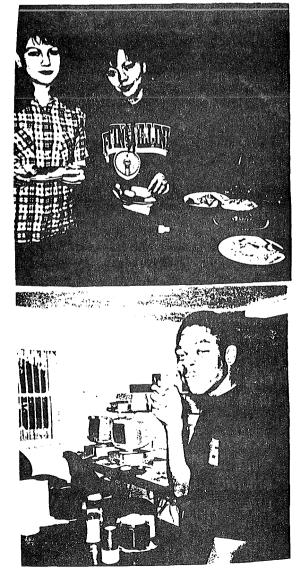
Investigating different cultures is part and parcel for the whole language curriculum at the Mt. Vernon G.E.D. As part of a recent classes. study on the Jewish festival of Passover, students researched the holidav's biblical discussed background, its modern celebrations. and downloaded Jewish recipes for Passover foods. The final "hands-on" activity involved partaking of the kinds of foods they had learned about.

Passover is an important Jewish festival commemorating the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt and their safe flight across the Red Sea. It is a holiday celebrated for eight days, and begins on April 11th this year.

Throughout the holiday, special foods symbolizing some aspect of the ordeal undergone by the Hebrews during their Egypt enslavement in are Narratives of the eaten. recounted. exodus are Readings, songs, and prayers are made.

G.E.D. students tastetested unleavened bread and hot dog rollups as part of their research into the festival. Recipes for "Passover Hot Dog Rollups" as well as a few others that were downloaded from the Internet were copied and distributed for students. To do more research vourself. students recommend checking out

http://www.holidays.net/passov er/story.html.



The Rend Lake College Arts & Communications Department cordially invites you and your guests to the Opening Reception of

The Student and Faculty Art Exhibition

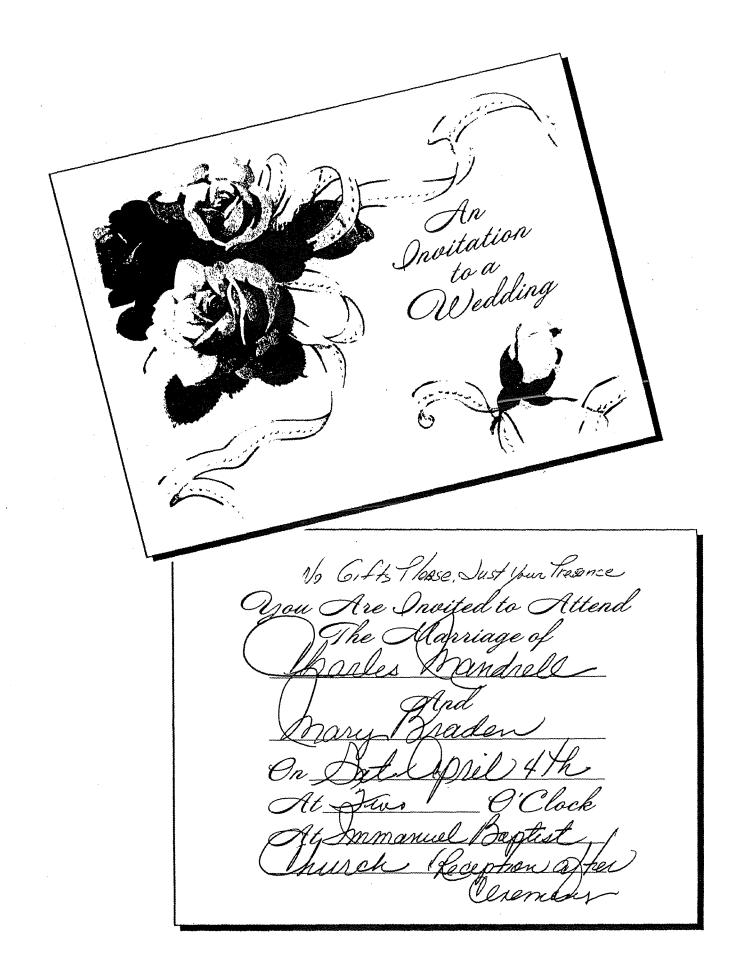


April 2 -May 1, 1998

Rend Lake College Art Room, Theater, Theater Gallery and Library

Opening Reception April 2, 1998 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Awards Presentation 8:00 p.m. in the theater



You are cordially invited to attend the Second Annual

RLC JOB FAIR 1998 Wednesday, April 8, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Coffee & Muffins from 8:30-10:00 a.m. "Hummer" Waugh Gymnasium

We encourage y on to take advantage of this opportunity to visit with area employers. Sponsored by Co-Op & Job Placement.

The Rend Lake College Foundation invites you to attend the Ground Breaking Ceremonies for the new

CHILDREN'S CENTER

at Rend Lake College Thursday, April 9, 1998 11:00 a.m.

> Please RSVP Refreshments will be served

To My Rend Lake Colleagues & Friends,

Your expression of Sympathy during the loss of my mother was overwhelming. Your expressions of food, flowers, cards, visits and calls and spoken words were deeply appreciated.

Many of you have experienced the loss of a loved one and know exactly how comforting it is to know others are sharing your grief.

I only wish all of you could have known my Mother (some of you did). She was a very unique person, she was always witty and uplifting. She even displayed her good sense of humor on that last and final trip to the hospital.

She was very loving and her family meant everything to her.

She is terribly missed by her Husband, her Grandsons, Son-in-law and especially by me, her daughter.

Again to my college family, thank you for being there for me and my family. I know that God will bless you for all your good deeds.

The family of **Marion G. Cockrum**

Troy Cockrum Larry & Carolyn Manker Todd, Eric & Suzy Manker



Grades: the real problem?

by Armendia P. Dixon

Grade inflation is a problem; but the real problem is integrity. We must not allow this essential value of American education to slip away.

Grade inflation may be traced from kindergarten through graduation. More students than ever are graduating from high school with A's. Did they earn them or have they been cheated?

In "What Do Student Grades Mean? Differences Across Schools," the U.S. Department of Education reported that A students in high-poverty schools score at about the same level in reading as C and D students in affluent schools. In math they score at about the same level as D students in most affluent school. (*Educational Re*search Report, January 1994, p. 3)

According to a recent newspaper article, UCLA studies "show 31.5 percent of college freshmen nationwide [in the fall of 1996] reported average grades of A- or higher... up from 22.6 percent in 1990 and twice the level 30 years ago." ("When everyone gets an A, grades are meaningless," USA Today, March 25, 1997)

Data from *College Bound Seniors* show evidence of rising grade inflation among high school students taking the SAT. Since 1987, the proportion of students with A averages rose from 28 percent of test takers to 37 percent; however, the combined SAT verbal and math scores of A students taking the test dropped 14 points over the same period. (College Board, 1997 College Bound Seniors, August 1997, p. 6)

My experience

The problem was made very real to me one day when a parent came into my office in the inner city school district where I work. She said, "My daughter was an A student who took advanced classes in this high school; yet, she can hardly make a C in college." Her daughter had tried but simply did not have the skills needed to succeed as a freshman. "What's wrong?" she asked with anger in her voice. Other parents expressed dismay that a district could be so cruel and deceiving as to give their students grades they could not defend.

In comparison to other high schools in the area, our students lagged behind in performance on standardized tests, in acceptances at Ivy League schools, and in garnering academic scholarships. In conversations with business and industry, we heard over and over again that our students could not communicate effectively with people and did not have satisfactory computation and writing skills.

It was time to do something to change this.

A community of learners, led by the superintendent, came together over a threeyear period to make the changes that now are leading to higher student achievement. The group included parents, teachers, students, school administrators, and representatives from business, industry, and the community. When the layers of our educa-

tional institution were unwrapped, it was clear that we did not have high expectations for our students; we needed to take an up close look at our district.

After designing a strategic plan, we did an internal audit of our curriculum. The first thing we did was to eliminate general courses in which students did very little. Interestingly enough, students responded well to this move. They were anxious about the change but knew that their teachers and parents expected them to do a fine job. Most accepted the challenge to buckle down and study. Advanced Placement courses were reinstated and the academics came alive again.

Then we implemented a Student Advisory Program. Staff development was held for teachers who were chosen to be advisers. These advisers were taught how to assist students and their parents in planning course sequences congruent with a child's academic profile, how to do goal-setting, and short- and long-range planning. Staying with the student through graduation meant that the adviser and parents got to know each other well and were better able to guide the student. The adviser, along with the parent, tracked student progress and sought counseling or other resources for the student who did not "measure up."

We now keep a Graduation Portfolio for every student. It contains assignments and projects students have completed at a Mastery (A) or Proficiency (B) level in various classes. Students do assignments over and over, working with teachers, until they meet the district's criteria for written or oral assignments; then, they are assessed—it does not take long for the students to understand their responsibilities. Other items in the Graduation Portfolio are the personal essay, a resume, personal data, letters of recommendation, awards, student publications, and other exhibits that showstudent achievement.

In conjunction with the Advisory Program, the district described the meaning of grades and invested heavily in staff development during which teachers learned the strategies and techniques for raising the level of student achievement. Most of these strategies and techniques are centered around content reading strategies and writing across the curriculum.

Parents, teachers, and the director of high school education spent a year working as a team to determine, based on research, how to assess students and what we needed to do to raise their level of achieve-

"Grade inflation is

a problem; but the real

problem is integrity."

ment. To earn an A. students must have an intellectual command of the subject. This includes mastery of techniques, skills, and knowledge.

Also, it includes the ability to integrate and synthesize knowledge across the curriculum. The A student must demonstrate initiative, describe and exhibit various ways of seeing, think critically and analytically, and must be able to work well independently and in groups. If students cannot accomplish these tasks, they are not given A's.

Finding success

We are now into the fourth year of looking at grades descriptively and already it's paying off: 21.8 percent of all our students meet these criteria. We know that they can apply their skills: they have demonstrated it.

Parents and the public are aware that there is a positive difference in student achievement. Students are also vocal about the curriculum and believe that they are being better prepared. More than anything, students take pride in being able to demonstrate what they know. Because high expectations have been clearly defined and delineated throughout the curriculum, teachers feel comfortable requiring that students earn their grades.

We have stopped encouraging mediocrity. By denouncing grade inflation and working to foster real achievement, we have been able to move forward in our district.

Our nation must also act. We need the brightest minds to problem-solve and to be academically responsible, to meet the challenges in a global economy, and to know how to be life-long learners. Higher expectations of students and honest grading practices are two giant steps toward meeting those goals.

Armendia P. Dixon is director of high school education, School District of the City of Erie, Pennsylvania.

The College Board News, March 1998

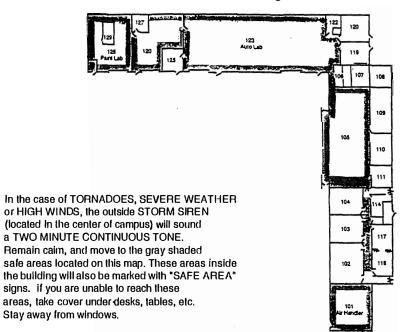
TORNADO/SEVERE WEATHER

- 1. If severe weather conditions exist, the Campus Security will monitor weather conditions. All faculty/staff/students will be alerted by a **TWO MINUTE CONTINUOUS TONE of the STORM SIREN**. This outside siren is located in the center of campus.
- 2. During severe weather/tornadoes, remain calm, move to the areas indicated as safe areas on the emergency signs located in the hallways of each building.
- 3. Safe areas will also be marked with signs stated **SAFE AREA**. These areas have been determined to be the safest during severe weather.
- 4. If unable to reach these areas, take cover under desks, tables, etc. Stay away from the windows.
- 5. It is important for faculty and staff to do a head count.

EVACUATION PROCEDURE EARTHQUAKE/FIRE/BOMB THREATS ETC.

- 1. Building Evacuation
 - A. All building evacuation will occur when the **IN BUILDING FIRE HORN** is activated or upon notification of Campus Security.
 - B. All staff/faculty/students are to immediately evacuate the building by the nearest marked exit. Once outside, proceed to a clear safe area at least 500 feet from the buildings.
 - C. Staff/faculty should take a head count of personnel. Do not return to any building unless told to do so by Campus Security or authorized personnel.
 - D. Assist the handicapped in exiting buildings.
 - E. Elevators should not be used.

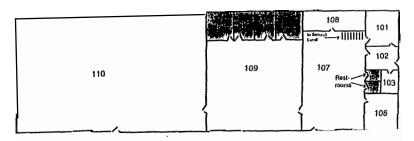
Vocational Building

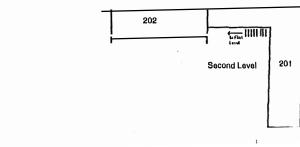


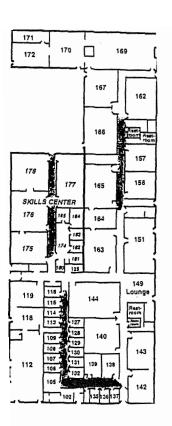
SAFE AREAS (in case of TORNADOES, SEVERE WEATHER or HIGH WINDS) are SHADED GRAY on this map

> Industrial Technology Building

Maintenance Building

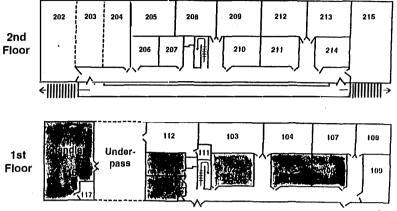




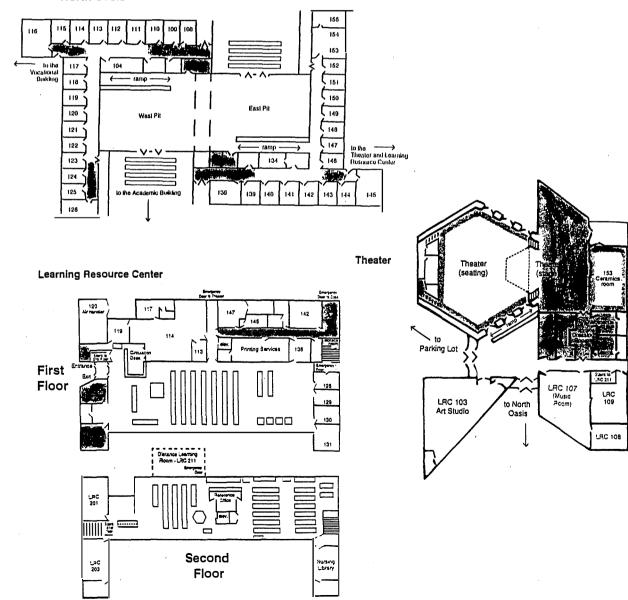


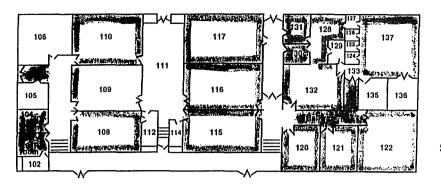
Academic Building

SAFE AREAS (In case of TORNADOES, SEVERE WEATHER or HIGH WINDS) are SHADED GRAY on this map



North Oasis

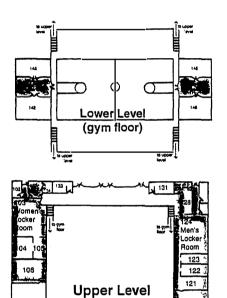




Science Building

Gymnasium

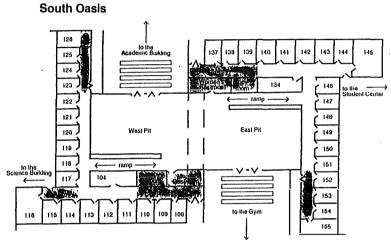
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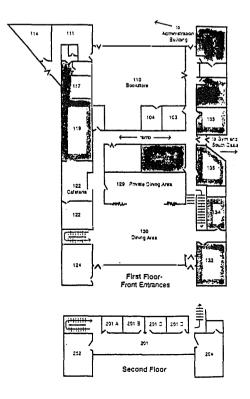
Fitness Canter ີ່ມີ

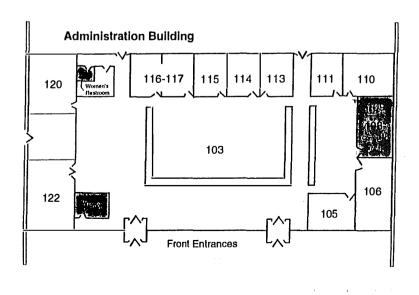
to South Oasis

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Student Center

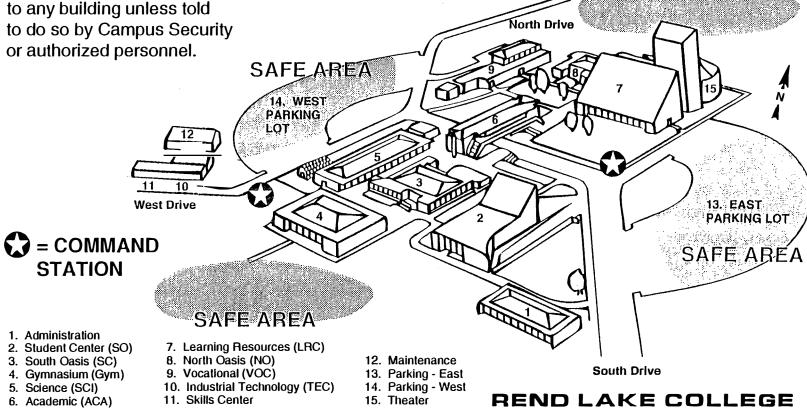




When the in-building FIRE HORN is sounded, or upon notification of Campus Security, EVACUATE THE BUILDING through the nearest marked EXIT. Do not use the elevators, and assist the handicapped while exiting. Once outside, go to the gray shaded SAFE AREAS on this map, or to a clear area at least 500 feet from the buildings. Do not return to any building unless told to do so by Campus Security or authorized personnel. SAFE AREA 14, WEST PARKING LOT

Building Evacuation (in case of EARTHQUAKES, FIRE, BOMB THREATS, etc.) SAFE AREAS are SHADED GRAY on this map

SAFE AREA





RLC STUDENTS AND STAFF:

It's Time <u>Now</u> to Put Together Your Six-person Volleyball Team for the **Fun Fest** on April 29. Contact Cindy Minor at Ext. 243 (Admin. Bldg.).

THERE WILL BE ROOM FOR 16 TEAMS--SIGN UP ASAP!!!

F.Y.I. Week ahead 🛞 MARCH/APRIL				
// MONDAV / SOM /////////////////////////////////				
 Biology, 8-9:30 am (Theatre) Community Education, 3-4 pm (SC/EBR) Tennis, RLC at BAC, 3 pm BASIC, 4-5 pm (SC) Student Senate, 4-5 pm (SC/EBR) "Taxidermy," 6-9 pm (SCI 116) 				
// TUESDAY/Shat				
 Art Show (Theatre) • "Health" TV, 11 am-1 pm, 6-7 (ACA 108) • Water Furnace, 11 am-1 pm (SC/PDA) • Instructional Chairs, 1-2 (SC/EBR) BB, Ky. Wesleyan at RLC, 1 pm • SB, JAL at RLC (DH), 2 pm • "Latin Am. History" TV, 3-4 pm (A 206) • Special Pops, 4-6 pm (SCI 109) Culinary Arts, 6-10 (SC) • "Flight," 6-9 (ACA 109) • "Job Skills," 6-9 (SCI 106) • "Parenting Training," 6-9 (A 208) • "Theatre," 6-9 (LRC 107) 				
WEDNESDAY 1 1st /////////////////////////////////				
 Art (Theatre) Biology, 8-9 am (SCI 110); 4-6 pm (SCI 109) Student Srv, 8:30-10 (SC/EBR) Ina Scholar Bowl, 9 am-2:30 pm (SCI 121, 132) "Health" TV, 11 am-Noon, 2-3 pm (ACA 206); Noon-1 pm (ACA 106) Water Furnace, 11 am-1 pm (SC/PDA) Aca. Council, 4 pm (SC/EBR) "Anthropology" TV, 1-2 pm (TECH 119) and 6-8 pm (SCI 110) "Government," 6-7 (ACA 211), 6-9 (ACA 106) "Taxidermy," 6-9 (SCI 116) 				
Z THURSDAY / 2nd /////////////////////////////////				
 Art Show, all day (Theatre) DACUM, 8 am-3 pm (SC/PDA) McKendree College, 9 am-5 pm (SCI 108) WalkAmerica, 9:30 am (SC/EBR) "Health" TV, 9-10 am and 6-7 pm (SCI 116); 10-11 am (ACA 105) Marketing, 11 am (SC/EBR) Baseball, RLC at Lincoln Trail (DH), 1 pm Softball, Wabash Valley at RLC (DH), 2 pm BASIC, 2:30-3:30 pm (ACA 102) Tutoring, 4-6 pm (SCI 109) "American Government" TV, 6-7 pm (ACA 207) "Creative Writing," 6-8 pm (ACA 102) "Taxidermy," 6-9 pm (SCI 115) 				
ERIDAN DE				
Art Show, morning (Theatre) • Tutoring, 8 am-3 pm (SCI 109) • Jackson Co. Health, 9 am-1:30 pm (SC/PDA) • "Health" TV, 10-11 (SCI 106) and 2-3 pm (ACA 108) • SB, RLC at St. Charles, MO (DH), 3 pm • BCHS, 4-10 pm (Theatre; LRC 107) • "Lifeguarding," 4-7 pm (SCI 106)				
<u>///MEEREND/ARD 3.500//////////////////////////////</u>				
 SATURDAY – BCHS, all day (Theatre; LRC 107) • S.I. Swim League, 9:30 am-Noon (ACA 210) • "Lifeguarding," 11 am-2 pm (SCI 106) • BB, RLC at John A. Logan (DH), 1 pm • SB, RLC at Shawnee (DH), 2 pm • Men's Tennis, RLC at McKendree, TBA SUNDAY – BCHS, all day (Theatre; LRC 107) • BB, RLC at Lewis and Clark, 1 pm • Golf, RLC In Hidden Meadows Invite at Shelton State 				
// MONDAY/ 6th				
 Biology, 8-9:30 am (Theatre) BCHS, all day (Theatre) Golf, RLC in Hidden Meadows Invite at Shelton St. SB, Lincoln Trail at RLC (DH), 2 pm Assessment, 4-5:30 (SC/EBR) BASIC, 4-5 (SC) Student Senate, 4-5 (SC/EBR) "Taxidermy," 6-9 (SCI 116) Airplane, 7:30-9 (SC/EBR) 				
// TUESDAY 1. TWO				
 BCHS, all day (Theatre; LRC 107, 4-10 pm) • Appeals Meeting, 10 am-Noon (SC/EBR) • Golf, RLC in Hidden Meadows Invite at Shelton State BB, RLC at Parkland (DH), 1 • SB, Shawnee at RLC (DH), 2 • Tennis, Parkland at RLC, 3 • Tutoring, 4-6 (SCI 109) • Culinary Arts, 6-10 (SC) RLC Foundation, 5:30-9 pm (SC) • "Marketing Job Skills," 6-9 pm (SCI 106) • "Theatre," 6-9 pm (Theatre) • "EcoWatch," 7-10 pm (SCI 109) 				
WEDNESDAY / Stra				
 Biology, 8-9:30 am (Theatre) BCHS, all day (Theatre; LRC) Student Services, 8:30-10 am (SC/EBR) Bidders, 9:30 am-Noon (SC/PDA) "Health" TV, 11 am-Noon, 2-3 pm (ACA 104) Allied Health, Noon-1 pm (SC/EBR) Tutoring, 4-6 (SCI 109) "Taxidermy," 6-9 (SCI 116) 				
// THURSDAY / Day				
 BCHS, all day (Theatre; LRC 107, 4-10 pm) Choate Mental Health, 8:30 am-2 pm (SC/PDA) McKendree College, 9 am-6:30 pm (ACA 108) BB, Belleville Area at RLC (DH), 1 pm BASIC, 2:30-3:30 pm (ACA 109) Tutoring, 4-6 pm (SCI 109) Ag Banquet, 5-10 pm (SC) "Creative Writing," 6-8 pm (ACA 102) "Taxidermy," 6-9 pm (SCI 115) Lions Club, 7-9 pm (SC/EBR) 				
// FRIDAY / 10m				
COLLEGE CLOSED – GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY • BCHS, all day (Theatre; LRC 107) • "Lifeguarding," 4-7 (SCI 106) • BB, RLC vs. St. Louis-Forest Park (DH) at Sauget, 1 pm • SB, RLC at Kaskaskia (DH), 2 pm • Men's Tennis, RLC In Springfield Tourney, TBA				
WEEKEND/1100& 1200				
SATURDAY – NO CLASSES • BCHS, all day (Theatre; LRC 107) • "Lifeguarding," 11 am-2 pm (SCI 106) • BBI, Wabash Valley at RLC (DH), 1 pm • Men's Tennis, RLC in Springfield Tourney SUNDAY – BCHS, all day (Theatre; LRC 107)				

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