

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE PUBLICATION: DUE TO THE UPCOMING HOLIDAYS, THE REND LAKE COLLEGE CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. THE CRIER WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN ITS PLACE.



Tinsel and teamwork

Liberal Arts faculty member Dr. Elizabeth Bailey-Smith and Steve Kennett were the favorites in the ugly sweater group contest at this year's campus holiday party. They narrowly defeated other group contestants Stephanie Smith from Community and Corporate Education, Tyler O'Daniel from the #FitFam group, and Felicia Follmer from the Office of the President. Jean Huie, executive assistant to the vice president of Instruction, won the individual category for her ugly sweater. (Nathan Wheeler / Clocktower Chronicle)

RLC enrolling now for Spring 2015

BY REANNE PALMER

RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION

Before you know it, the holiday season will be in the past and it will be time to gear up for the Spring 2015 semester at Rend Lake College. Reserve your appointment today to get registered for classes that start Monday, Jan. 12.

Registration is currently open by appointment in the Academic Advisement Center, located in the Administration Building. To

sign up for an appointment, contact the center between 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, or 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Fridays.

Walk-in registrations will begin with the new year. No appointment is necessary and students can stop in anytime between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5 through Thursday, Jan. 8, or from 8 a.m. through 4 p.m., Friday, Jan. 9. Students should arrive on campus no later than one hour before campus closing to ensure

ample time to complete the registration and financial aid processes.

Payment is due at the time of enrollment, so students should come prepared. Those who do not have financial aid will need to self-pay that day or sign up for the FACTS Payment Plan in the Business Office to ensure they remain enrolled. To complete the Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA), visit www.fafsa.ed.gov.

"We're looking forward to having everyone back for the Spring

semester," said Lisa Price, vice president of Student Services. "Many college faculty and staff will be on hand during open registration and Super Saturday to help our new and returning students get on track for a successful semester."

Students can also take advantage of Super Saturday on Jan. 10 to cross everything off their "to-do" list, including registering for classes, picking up textbooks, taking a photo for a Student ID, and much more. College staff will

be available between noon and 2 p.m. to help with anything from testing to paying bills and financial aid questions. Those interested in testing for placement should be in the Academic Advisement Center at noon.

Veterans and service members are given priority registration at RLC. Contact the Academic Advisement Center at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1266, for priority registration dates and times. For any other questions, call the center or email advising@rlc.edu.

Beat the winter blues with theatre at RLC

BY SHELBY PATTERSON

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFFWRITER

With cold weather settling in for a long stay, many people may get the winter blues and become stagnant, as fun-filled activities become subdued by frigid temperatures. The Rend Lake College Liberal Arts department, however, will just be getting warmed up!

Once school resumes from Christmas break, students and local community mem-

bers will have the chance to audition for the upcoming spring musical. This year's selection is "Les Miserables." Set in 1815 — and including the 1832 June Rebellion of Paris — the story follows the lives and interactions of several characters, particularly ex-convict Jean Valjean and his struggle for redemption. With a cast of about 30 roles, the show is filled with many different characters. Some

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Stage ninja

Can you find the stage hand in this photo? Acting, singing and dancing are big parts of musical productions at RLC. So are stage construction, lighting, sound, and backstage operations. There are so many ways to get involved with the spring musical. It all starts in January. Call Sara Alstat at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1817 or e-mail her at alstats@rlc.edu.



Newly renovated classrooms are just one of the tools instructors use to help students reach their musical goals at RLC. (Nathan Wheeler / Clocktower chronicle)

RLC music department is helping me reach my dreams

BY TI'ERRE HARRIS

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFFWRITER

Starting out at Rend Lake College, I was fanatical about joining the music department. I knew it would increase my skills and prepare me for things to come, as well as produce connections I could use in the future to expand my music career. I think the RLC music department is equipped to prepare any person who has passion for the performing arts.

There are two types of

music degrees you can earn at RLC. One is an associate in Music Education. The music education degree is for students who have a desire to teach music. The second degree offered in the music department at RLC is an associate degree in music performance. Whether you're a vocalist or instrumentalist, the music performance degree prepares students for a career in live perfor-

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Focusing on photography? Shift into manual

BY TAYLOR BLANKENSHIP

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Do you ever see something perfect happening and automatically think — "grab the camera, I have to take a picture!"

My sentimental side loves capturing important and exciting moments in my life. I know someday soon I will thank myself for photographs that allow me to relive these moments. After all, that's what pictures are for, right?

In high school, I grew quite fond of the idea of capturing moments. In no time, I was able to upgrade from my iPhone with a thousand photos to a Cannon Rebel T2i. Soon after, I was named yearbook editor at Christopher High School. This let me become familiar with photography programs such as Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. Shortly after graduating, the design work I did for the yearbook turned into taking main art pictures for our very own Clocktower

Chronicle here at RLC. Sharing the experience with Clocktower Chronicle Editor Nathan Wheeler and many others on the newspaper staff has been a joy and definitely something from which I have learned greatly. Taking pictures for our newspaper has given me the opportunity to get to know different people around campus. With an extremely busy schedule, it is very easy to pass by people and never get to know them. Having a weekly assignment for the newspaper keeps me on my toes, and gives me a chance to get to know students and staff members I have never met. I have learned really interesting stories from some, and got to know the different majors and future goals of others.

I didn't always intend to take pictures. I am pursuing an Associate of Arts degree here at RLC and I hope to soon transfer that to a bach-

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RLC offering SafeLandUSA drilling instruction

BY REANNE PALMER
RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION

Hundreds of thousands of acres in Southern Illinois have been chosen for hydraulic fracturing. As rig operators finalize their drilling plans, get started with the training they demand. Rend Lake College's next SafeLandUSA course is set for 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 23 at the Coal Mine Training Center.

This training course will cover materials required for PEC certification. Don McBride, RLC Mining Technology instructor, is a PEC certified instructor, and will teach course curriculum designed to give students information on safety issues, including rigging, fall protection, hazmat, emergency response, weld-

ing safety, fire protection and more.

The first SafeLandUSA training was offered at RLC in 2013 in connection with PEC Safety of Mandeville, La. The instructional class is open to anyone in the drilling industry.

"RLC began this program in anticipation of the fracking activity we hoped would come to Southern Illinois, and many of the large oil producers, such as Shell and Exxon, require their rig workers to have PEC certification before allowing them to work on the drill sites," said McBride.

To register for the class, contact Kacie Hunter at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 2373, or email hunterk@rlc.edu. The cost of the class is \$95 and individuals must pre-register.

Theatre

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other popular roles include Cosette, Inspector Javert, Fantine, Eponine, and Marius.

The musical is based on the Victor Hugo novel of the same title, first published in 1862. It is considered one of the greatest novels of the 19th century. It has been adapted in many ways, including television, radio, film, and of course, for the stage. It has been translated into 22 different languages and productions have been performed in 42 countries. "Les Miserables" is the longest running musical on Broadway, followed by "Phantom of the Opera" and "Cats." There have also been 48,000 professional performances, reaching an audience of more than 70 million people worldwide.

The first act of the show begins in 1815. After a turn of events, the main character, Valjean, decides to change his life and make a fresh start. Fast forward to 1823 — eight years since Valjean was released from prison. He has since changed his name to Monsieur Madeleine and has become a factory owner and mayor. Fantine, one of his workers, has a secret illegitimate child. She is shunned once other women discover her secret. Fantine becomes desperate for money and ends up getting into a fight with a prospective customer and is about to go to jail herself when the mayor comes by and demands that she be taken to a hospital instead. At the hospital, Valjean promises Fantine to find and look after her daughter Cosette. The end of the first act is set in 1832 in Paris, where there is unrest in the city. Cosette has prepared to flee the country.

Act two begins with the characters preparing to

build the barricade where revolutionaries defy an army warning them to give up or die. Not giving away the ending, histories are revealed and truths are learned.

Auditions for this classic tale, retold on the RLC stage, are slated to take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20 and Wednesday, Jan. 21, in the RLC theatre. Only one audition is required. Callbacks will be held the following night, Thursday, Jan. 22, also at 6 p.m. Those wanting to audition need to prepare a memorized, 32-bar selection of any musical theatre-style song. Director Sara Alstat is looking for actors who can show emotion and acting abilities while singing. She also suggests prospective actors research the show and its characters as a way to prepare for the audition. There will be an accompanist at the auditions. Bring sheet music. For those who get a callback — Alstat says to wear appropriate dance clothing and to bring dance shoes. Strong singing skills are required for this production. A majority of the show is singing, with little dialogue.

Those interested in being a part of this production, but not on stage, can help make the magic for this large-scale production as a member of the crew. Productions are a group effort and anyone can help out in the following areas: lights, sound, set construction, backstage crew, props, makeup, spotlights, costuming. Alstat said any kind of help is greatly appreciated.

The show will run Thursday, April 9, through Sunday, April 12, with rehearsals from 6-9 p.m. each week, Monday through Thursday, starting Jan. 26. Questions can be directed to Alstat at (618) 437-5321 Ext. 1817 or by e-mail at

alstats@rlc.edu. The music program's Facebook page also has announcements. Go online to facebook.com/rlc.musicdepartment or search "Rend Lake Music-Program."

That's not all! The RLC Thespian troupe is gearing up for their annual night of comedy. Held in the RLC theatre, the students perform comedy improvisation games similar to styles seen on the popular TV show, "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" Games include: Comedy Cube; Freeze; Last Line; Questions Only; Sit; Stand; Lean; Slideshow; Whose Line; Stage Directions; and many more. Audience participation is required as the night goes on. This upcoming show is free to attend and will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28 in the RLC Theatre.

Members of the troupe have been practicing together since August to hone their comedic timing and work on the art of improvisation. After January, the club doesn't lose any steam! Once the improv show is over, members of the group immediately set their sights upon the next role: participating in the annual performance of "Flumoxed Fairy Tales." This show is also free for area grade schools, and features many fairy tales children are familiar with — only the endings are a little different. Featured stories include: Cinderella, Snow White, Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood, Hansel & Gretel, and the Frog Prince. The show runs about an hour and 10 minutes each performance.

Theatre director Tracey Webb said, "We take well-known fairytales and show children how they can be retold in unusual manners, which opens their minds to other possibilities. Each year, we try to change it a

little bit, so the play is always a work in progress and never the same from each spring. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to give back to the community and teach a little at the same time."

"Flumoxed Fairy Tales" will be presented on at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Thursday, April 30, and again at the same times on Friday, May 1. All shows are in the RLC Theatre. Reservations must be made in advance. Seats are limited and go quickly. To make a reservation, contact Webb at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1295 or by e-mail at webbt@rlc.edu.

While winter may get some people down in the dumps, it is the perfect time to come out and support the college. Those looking to get involved in something new should consider a musical. Audition for an onstage role or work backstage! Need a few laughs? Come to the night of comedy! It's sure to leave you in stitches. RLC provides many outlets for students to chase their dreams and to give back to their community.

If students are looking for fun and challenging classes to enhance their schedules this spring, the RLC Art Department has something to offer everyone! Associate degrees require certain humanities courses, and three sections of Art Appreciation will be taught this semester. Other class offerings include Design I and II, Painting I and II, Photography I and II, Art History II, Intro to Ceramics, Advanced Ceramics, Life Drawing, Illustration I and II, and Intro to Stained Glass.

For more information on the art department and spring course offerings, please contact RLC Art Professor Therese Melena at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1747 or by e-mail at melenat@rlc.edu.

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Music

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mance. Improvisation, music theory, music dictation and sight reading are some of the techniques and skills that must be learned and applied to earn a degree in music performance.

Before I enrolled, I felt very limited in my music performance abilities. Without any previous reading experience, I put my confidence in RLC's reputation as an institution that truly focuses on each student and helping him or her gain the necessary skills to have a career. Since joining the program, my knowledge of music has really increased. I feel that my teachers have helped me grow by leaps and bounds over the last 16 weeks. I've learned how to apply skills, such as sight reading, in a very short amount of time. That makes me proud. The teachers in the music department break down the curricu-

lum in small parts and use creative methods to teach students how music works.

Music is a universal language and I believe it helps connect people without words. One interesting fact about music is that it's versatile and can always be changed. There are many styles of music and in the other parts of the world it may sound totally different from western civilization music. The RLC music department teaches its students about the history and importance of the many styles of music around the world. I think it's great to learn about other styles of music in different countries, helping us relate to different cultures in a more effective way.

There are many benefits to being a part of the RLC music program. Building strong relationships is very important for any career, but as a musician it's even more important. Most of the classes in the RLC music program are small, allowing teachers to give more attention to the needs of the students. Another benefit of the music program is all students have full access to instruments and practice rooms. Students also have a chance to be a part of

the many different groups in the program such as orchestra, concert band, stage plays, or choir. I hope to see the music department grow even bigger next year, helping impact the lives of many students.

Even though there are many rules to the composition of music, to me, creativity is the icing on the cake. Once you learn the rules and ways of music then it's time to practice creativity. I think rules and creativity balance each other out in a perfect way. Too many rules and it's no fun. On the other hand, too much freedom or creativity without a foundation is no good. I think music can be looked at as a perfect balance of math and art, and they both support each other through the sound we hear. I believe the music program at RLC helps students perfect the organized way of making music. Creativity is something that must come from oneself. Being a part of the RLC music program has helped boost my creativity tremendously by teaching me how music works in an organized manner. I believe all music comes from creativity, allowing one to express himself in a musical way.

One interesting fact about music is that it can be a major stress reliever. When I am creating or playing music, my problems don't seem as big as they once were, and I don't seem to have a worry in the world. Another thing I like about music is how it brings back memories from previous experiences. Music is a part of our everyday lives, and without music the world would be a very dry and dull place. Many of the participants in the RLC orchestra are volunteers who have day-time jobs. Most of the volunteers participate in the orchestra because they feel playing music is a way to express themselves and relieve stress in a positive way. Even if you're not a musician, music can still be used as an aid to relieve unwanted stress or even cheer you up after a rough day or week.

When I graduate from RLC, I plan to transfer to a university where I will earn a

bachelor's degree in music performance. However, there are many things that I will be able to do with my associate degree. It will allow me to perform with orchestras and also qualify me as a fluent reader and writer of music in an organized way. Another goal of mine is to produce music for television shows, films, and make jingles for commercials. Touring and producing are two very important things that I want to mold my music career around. Touring is when major artists travel the world performing live music. When artists or musicians go on tour it also allows them to connect with their supporters from around the world. Producing is when musicians and vocalists, or artists, come together and record their music in a professional setting, such as a studio. One benefit of recording music is royalties. Producers and artists get royalties from their music any time it's played through radio, TV, or streaming online. There are many ways to create revenue in the music business, but it takes hard work to sustain a career. I look forward to the days when I can enjoy a sustainable income from doing what I love.

I hope to travel the world with the knowledge RLC has helped me obtain. I'm proud to be a Rend Lake College Warrior. I have learned so much from my teachers and peers. They have given me a better perspective on how music works. I think the RLC music department is a great program and can be an asset for anyone willing to put forth the effort. My lifelong aspiration is not only to have a great career in music, but to create opportunities for others to do the same. I want people to see the steps that I've taken and be inspired to pursue their dreams with no hesitation. The main things required to achieve your dreams are vision, dedication, and execution. Attending the music program five days a week for the last 16 weeks has been hard, but it has built discipline and endurance in me. RLC is helping me achieve my dreams one step at a time and for that, I am forever grateful.

Rend Lake College Clocktower Chronicle

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Photography

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lor's program in Communication Design. I will be very glad to have so much experience with photography when I enroll in design school. I feel like learning photography has put me one step ahead of an average design student.

In high school I was an editor in design, and I did not have as many opportunities to shoot events like I do now. RLC has given me many experiences — from shooting our annual car show for Warrior Fest to capturing exciting moments at Fun Fest. Taking the journalism class here at RLC has really brought out my passion in photography.

Growing up as a kid, I loved looking through old pictures of my parents — trying to relive their youth through the moments I could see in front of me. I love having the pleasure of taking pictures for the families I meet.

Photography requires vision. Anyone can look at something pretty and take a picture, but being a photog-

rapher requires you to look at something beautiful in a different way. You have to capture it in a sort of way to make the picture "breathless." This can be as simple as changing the perspective to make another person see it differently. I thoroughly believe in the expression that "a picture is worth a thousand words." A picture not only shows emotion and expression, but can also explain and tell a story.

Taking the same shot 200 times until it is perfect can definitely test my patience some weeks. Being on the newspaper staff, finding the perfect picture each week can be difficult but is very rewarding when you get positive feedback from people around campus.

Without the help of a few people along the way, I could not put out some of the work I do. For those potential photographers here at RLC who want to make photography a hobby, I would like to offer a few tips and tricks. The best way to improve your skill is to practice. A lot. Shoot as much as you can — and it doesn't really matter what. Spend hours and hours behind your camera. When I first started shooting I took every picture imaginable, ranging from my dog to my brother's sports pictures.

When I first got my camera I started taking pictures in an automatic setting, just to get the hang of it. Once you have messed around enough to get the feel of it, switch to the manual setting. It's purely

golden and can make a huge difference in the pictures you produce!

There are three manual settings to learn — ISO, aperture, and shutter speed. Before adjusting these settings, ask yourself some questions. For example, what is the intended use? Print? Social media? If it's print, you will need to produce a larger image size that has more pixel information per square inch. Regarding ISO, are you shooting in the day or at night? If you are shooting outside during the middle of the day you will need to use a lower ISO, such as 100 or 200.

To get a sharp image when shooting a moving subject, use a high shutter speed. If you don't have a good light source, you might need to use a high ISO to compensate. Vice-versa, if you're using a slow shutter speed to capture blur you will need a low ISO to keep the image from becoming over-exposed or blown out by too much light coming into the camera through the lens.

When I first started shooting I got in a habit of checking every photo after I took it to see if it was a good shot. That's called "chimping" in the industry. I have learned over time that it was a bad

habit to get into. Checking your photos every time could cause you to miss that special photography moment. Get your settings right for your intended use and remember that you can look at your photos later. Don't be afraid to just keep shooting! I have also learned to shoot a shot consecutively. You won't believe the number of times a person can blink. Taking a lot of shots gives you options, especially with good action shots, and can make all the difference in portraits.

RLC offers four photography classes to students. Two of them are ART 1111 and ART 1112. These classes specialize in teaching students the knowledge of black and white photography. These courses include experience with developing film, printing and other techniques. The other two photography classes are GRD 1204 and GRD 2202. These provide an introduction to basic digital photography, but focus on skills used for a graphic designer.

RLC has provided me with a great opportunity to get to know others, and most importantly flourish my skills with photography. I am very grateful for the opportunities our college has provided me and I cannot wait to see where my journey leads. One thing is for sure — I'll be taking pictures along the way! Students interested in working on the Clocktower Chronicle in the upcoming spring semester can sign up



Future focused
As a staff photographer for the Clocktower Chronicle, Rend Lake College student Taylor Blanken-ship has learned to capture her vision with her Cannon Rebel T2i. One example is this highly-detailed image from Warrior Fest earlier this year.

for the journalism practicum for newspaper production, JOUR 1103. The tuition is waived and students who successfully complete the class are awarded three hours of tuition toward the next semester's coursework. For more information, contact Wheeler at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1234 or by e-mail at wheelern@rlc.edu.

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