



CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE



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RLC Homecoming Court

Rend Lake College students will be introduced during halftime of the men's basketball game on Feb. 23 as part of Homecoming 2016 celebrations. The candidates are, FRONT, FROM LEFT, Jonathan Dauby (Springerton), Drake Carter (Enfield), and Chris Richard (Mulkeytown); BACK, LeAnn Aaron (West Frankfort), Ryan Bushar (Carbondale), and Mikaela Matthews (Bluford). Look inside today's issue for more about this year's candidates. A story is on page 3 of this month's Clocktower Chronicle (ReAnne Palmer / RLC Public Information)

Late Howard Payne is first member of Legacy Society

REANNE PALMER

RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION

The late Howard Payne was truly a legacy at Rend Lake College, thus it is only fitting he becomes the first member of the recently-established Legacy Society with the RLC Foundation. The Benton native passed away last year at the age of 100, but is continuing to give back to his community and the college in the form of an estate gift.

At the end of last year, RLC Foundation CEO Shawna Bullard was informed of Payne's exact donation - \$500,000 to go toward student scholarships. This planned gift came from a portion of Payne's estate he left to the college after his passing in May of 2015. Bullard explained this type of donation makes Payne the first individual to join the Jim & Carole Mounier Legacy Society.

Payne's \$500,000 donation will create an endowment for two scholarships, one for students in RLC's nursing program and another for students in the college's vocational programs. Offi-

cially called the Howard L. Payne Scholarship, the first awards will be presented in the Fall of 2016. Bullard said the scholarship will generate about \$25,000 in scholarships every year.

"The establishment of the Jim and Carole Legacy Society was incredibly impactful in its educational benefits, just as Howard's legacy gift is," said Bullard. "It encourages people to consider RLC students in their wills and estates, while giving them a sense of security that others before them have left similar, life-changing gifts that very clearly define their faith in the Foundation's leadership, its mission, and its ability to carry out the donor's wishes."

The donation is another part in Payne's life-long involvement with the Foundation. In November of 1979, he was among several notable individuals at the RLC Foundation organizational meeting. During the evening, this new board of directors established the Foundation to support the college, and Payne was elected Vice President by the other directors. It was just his first step in

supporting the college for more than three decades.

Jumping back 40 years, Payne started on his path to becoming a successful banker and leader in his community by attending Southern Illinois University, then a teaching school, and working in a one-room schoolhouse. By July of 1937, he and a group of local bankers formed the Bank of Benton, from where he would retire in 1984 as the CEO and chairman of the board.

Payne was also a proud veteran, having served in France and Germany during World War II from 1943 to December of 1945. He and his wife Helene were known widely around Southern Illinois for their involvement in an endless list of community organizations, projects, and charities.

In the past few years until his passing, he served as an Emeritus member of the RLC Foundation Board of Directors and was named a recip-



Howard Payne, CENTER, takes a photo with retired RLC President Mark Kern and his wife Pat, retired RLC Foundation CEO, on his 100th birthday last year. Payne worked closely with the Kerns during his time on the RLC Foundation Board. (Submitted Photo)

Society continues on page 2



RLC 'Goes Red, Wears Red' for heart health

Rend Lake College faculty, staff, and administrators wearing red gathered in the James "Hummer" Waugh Gymnasium Friday morning for a photo to promote the American Heart Association's National Wear Red Day and celebrate heart health. Learn more about the campaign at www.heart.org. (ReAnne Palmer / RLC Public Information)

RLC, SIU-C approve psych agreement

REANNE PALMER

RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION

Rend Lake College psychology graduates have a new transfer option starting this spring, thanks to a partnership between RLC and Southern Illinois University (SIU) Carbondale.

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Rend Lake College Board of Trustees

CHAD COPPLE
RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION

TUITION RATES SET FOR FY 2017
Due to the state of Illinois' budget impasse, resulting in no funding for the current fiscal year and continuing indefinitely, an increase in tuition rates is necessary. The board approved an in-district tuition rate of \$110 per credit hour, an increase of \$15 per credit hour. The out-of-state and out-of-country rates were set at \$200 per credit hour. The out-of-district rate will be set at a later date. These rates will allow the college to remain competitive with its peer group schools and maintain its standing as one of the most affordable community colleges in the state.

TENURE FOR JONES, WINGO
The board granted tenure to two instructors, effective Feb. 9. They will now have the title of associate professor. Emily Jones, Biology Associate Professor – “Emily has proven herself to be a solid, well-rounded instructor who is respected not only in her own division, but also in the Rend Lake College community as a whole,” said Andrea Banach, Dean of Math and Sciences. Jones has been instrumental in reworking the life sciences curriculum and was selected as the Phi Theta Kappa Faculty Member of the Year for 2015.

Charlie Wingo, Mining Technology Associate Professor – Wingo has displayed a willingness to teach not only in the mining curriculum but also in the industrial maintenance area, reports Chris Nielsen, Dean of Applied Science and Technology. Wingo recently was certified to teach the OSHA 10-hour and 30-hour training courses and also is certified to teach the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council’s four modules.

SMITH TAKES LARGER ROLE IN COMMUNITY, CORPORATE EDUCATION
The board approved the transfer of Stephanie Smith from Administrative Assistant to Specialist within the Community and Corporate Education Division. The transfer is necessary to combine job duties while filling a vacancy in the division. Smith has been employed full-time with RLC since July 2014. In a related action, the job description for the specialist position was revised.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT APPROVED WITH SIUC
The board approved an articulation agreement with Southern Illinois University Carbondale which will allow students to complete an Associate in Arts Degree

in Psychology and transfer seamlessly to SIUC’s psychology program.

In other business, the board ...

- Approved board policy and procedure addressing discrimination and harassment to include sexual assault, sexual misconduct and relationship violence (second reading).
- Approved several curriculum-related matters and authorized their submission to the Illinois Community College Board for action: curriculum hour change and permanent approval of the Mine Operations certificate; development of a new Health and Illness Concepts hybrid course; and withdrawal of An Introduction to Marine Biology (BIO 1103).
- Approved a change to the Board of Trustees meeting schedule, moving the March meeting from March 8 to March 1.
- Approved the notice of election for the student member of the Board of Trustees.
- Approved revisions to board procedure concerning fees, effective Summer Term 2016.
- Approved revisions to board policy concerning the tenured / tenure-track faculty and staff list (first reading), which is updated each February and October as needed.

- Approved submission of the statements of final construction compliance on excess protection, health and safety projects regarding the replacement of the North Oasis roof and the energy conservation lighting project.
- Granted a one-year probationary period to a medical coding instructor.
- Mark your calendars ...**
 - Visiting Artist Series: Blaine Murphy, Jan. 18-April 4, RLC Theatre Lobby.
 - Distracted Driving Presentation, 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, Rend Lake College Theatre, guest appearance by Miss Illinois 2016 Crystal Davis.
 - Collegiate FFA Week, Feb. 22-26, daily activities and canned goods collection.
 - Winter Concert, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, RLC Theatre.
 - RLC Homecoming Basketball Games, 5:30 p.m. (women) and 7:30 p.m. (men), Feb. 23, Waugh Gymnasium.
 - Warrior Series: 5K, 8K and 10K Runs. 5K to be held Feb. 27, 8K on April 2, 10K TBA, all at The Rec on campus.
 - Job Search Party, 3-6 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, in partnership with WSIL, Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn.
 - RLC Spring Musical “Godspell,” 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, April 7-9; 2 p.m. Sunday, April 10, RLC Theatre.



Jim Mounier is honored at the 2015 Illinois Community College Trustees Association Convention in Schaumburg as the RLCF Alumnus of the Year. He is pictured with his wife Carole, LEFT, and RLCF CEO/Shawna Bullard. (ReAnne Palmer / RLC Public Information)

Society continued from page 1

Helene were known widely around Southern Illinois for their involvement in an endless list of community organizations, projects, and charities.

In the past few years until his passing, he served as an Emeritus member of the RLC Foundation Board of Directors and was named a recipient of the RLC Presidential Award in 1995 – the first year it was awarded. Bullard said with a résumé as long as Payne’s, it’ll be impossible to replace the support and dedication he brought to the table.

“Howard was very devoted to the Foundation and his church. He wanted for the RLC Foundation to continue in its mission: helping RLC students and making higher education not only attainable, but affordable,” said Bullard. “He was very active on the board during several Foundation projects, and he was very helpful when it came to financial experience and investing. He believed strongly in scholarships, and that was where he focused his resources.”

Payne’s estate gift, also known as a bequest, tends to be the largest gifts the Foundation receives, said Bullard. With the help of an attorney, an individual can designate their estate or a portion of their estate to be made to the college in their will or trust. In addition to Payne’s donation, the RLC Foundation recently announced another, future bequest from the Legacy Society’s namesakes.

At the RLC Foundation Annual Dinner in December, the 2014 Alumnus of the Year Jim Mounier and his wife Carole, announced their decision to bequest a portion of their estate to the college. Already totaling a value of seven figures and growing, the donation marks the largest-ever donation to the RLC Foundation.

“When sitting down with Jim and Carole and working through their estate gift, I stressed several times the impact they would be making with this life-changing gift and the establishment of the legacy society,” said Bullard. “The story they’re telling through this gift is something so significant that you hear it and it makes you feel something. Our hope is that people feel encouraged to get on board with making a difference, and seeing the change they can make in our students’ lives.”

Jim Mounier, a 1972 graduate of RLC and resident of Caledonia, is currently the Senior Vice President at Merrill Lynch in Rockford. He came to Southern Illinois from Indiana during his high school years and graduated from Mt. Vernon Township High School. At RLC, Mounier focused on a mathematics degree before transferring to Illinois State University (ISU).

After graduating from ISU in 1974, Mounier worked in construction for about a decade before making the leap back into the world of finance, where he has been for the last 30 years. In his spare time, Mounier maintains several apartment buildings and has published a book. Together, Jim and Carole enjoy golfing and volunteering with a number of organizations and businesses in northern Illinois.

If there’s one thing the Mouniers and Payne have in common other than the Legacy Society, it’s that they both are dedicated to ensuring the college and Foundation continue to support students in need.

“Both the Mouniers and Howard are paving the way for others to find the joy of giving, and that’s a beautiful gift aside from their financial contributions,” added Bullard. “I can say right now it’s working, as I’ve received several calls from estate attorneys and accountants on behalf of clients wanting to know the specifics for leaving a planned gift to the RLCF since the announcement. That is powerful, that’s influential, and that’s generosity on several different levels.”

Scholarship applications are still being accepted for next fall, through Sunday, Feb. 28. To apply for the Howard L. Payne Scholarship, and approximately 300 others, visit www.rlc.edu/rlcf to complete the single-page application. Applications will be accepted after the due date; however, preference will be given to students who meet the due date.

Every year, approximately \$450,000 is awarded to RLC students through Foundation scholarships. Over 500 scholarships and academic awards that generally range from \$500 to \$1,500 annually are made possible by generous, local businesses, and individuals.

More information on how to apply can be found at www.rlc.edu/foundation or by contacting the Foundation at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1214.



MOVIES
Now on Blu-ray and DVD (Feb 9):

- Spectre (PG-13, action)
- Crimson Peak (R, fantasy/horror)
- Love The Coopers (PG-13, comedy)
- MI-5 (R, action)
- 99 Homes (R, drama)
- Grandma (R, comedy)
- Freaks of Nature (R, comedy/horror)

IN THEATERS THIS WEEKEND (FEB 12):

- Remember (R, drama/thriller)
- Touched with Fire (R, drama/romance)
- Deadpool (N/A, action)
- How to be Single (R, romantic comedy)

• Zoolander 2 (N/A, comedy)
In Theaters Now:

- Underdogs (PG, animation)
- Regression (R, thriller)
- Hail, Caesar! (PG-13, comedy/musical)
- Pride and Prejudice and Zombies (PG-13, comedy/horror)
- The Choice (PG-13, romance)

MUSIC
Top 10 Songs:

1. “Love Yourself” - Justin Bieber
2. “Sorry” - Justin Bieber
3. “Stressed Out” - twenty one pilots
4. “Hello” - Adele
5. “My House” - Flo Rida
6. “Roses” - The Chainsmokers feat. ROZES

7. “Hands To Myself” - Selena Gomez
8. “Same Old Love” - Selena Gomez
9. “Work” - Rihanna feat. Drake
10. “Here” - Alessia Cara

Top 10 Albums:

1. “25” - Adele
2. “Purpose” - Justin Bieber
3. “Dystopia” - Megadeth
4. “Blurryface” - twenty one pilots
5. “Death Of A Bachelor” - Panic! At The Disco
6. “Blackstar” - David Bowie
7. “Traveller” - Chris Stapleton
8. “Beauty Behind The Madness” - The Weeknd
9. “2016 Grammy Nominees” - Various Artists
10. “TRAPSOUL” - Bryson Tiller

BOOKS
Fiction:

1. Blue - by Danielle Steel
2. Feverbarn, by Karen Marie Moning
3. The Choice, by Nicholas Sparks
4. Y NAME IS LUCY BARTON, by Elizabeth Strout
5. THE REVENANT, by Michael Punke

Nonfiction:

1. WHEN BREATH BECOMES AIR, by Paul Kalanithi
2. 13 HOURS, by Mitchell Zuckoff with members of the Annex Security Team
3. THE ROAD TO LITTLE DRIBBLING, by Bill Bryson
4. DARK MONEY, by Jane Mayer
5. BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME, by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Apply for Foundation scholarships by Feb. 28

JUSTIN WOMACK
CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFFWRITER

February 28 is an important date for all of those looking to apply for a Rend Lake College Foundation Scholarship for the 2016-17 school year. This is the deadline for applications.

Last year there were 182 different scholarships awarded to students at the college. Several of those scholarships were awarded to more than one student. Caitlin Keele, a scholarship coordinator at RLC, says that they already have 155 scholarships available through their office this year. The RLCF has helped give students a real opportunity to achieve their goals and hopes to do the same in future years. The Foundation receives tons of different donations from local businesses

and community members, according to the Foundation’s web page.

“Scholarships, totaling an approximate \$300,000 annually, are awarded to Rend Lake College students each academic year,” the site states. “These scholarships are made possible by generous local businesses and individuals who care about the future of our students and community. Scholarships, for the most part, range from approximately \$500-\$1,500 annually.”

There are all different types of scholarships that are available through the Foundation. There are endowed scholarships, annual scholarships, and one-time scholarships. Any student who has been accepted to RLC is eligible to apply for scholarships. Follow the simple application requirements.

The first step is completing an application. Only one application is necessary to be eligible for most foundation scholarships. Students can complete applications online at www.rlc.edu/foundation.

In addition to an application, students must submit both a transcript and one letter of recommendation to the Foundation office. Keele says that these are necessary for applications to be considered complete and be given highest priority.

In addition to a completed application, transcript, and letter of recommendation; applicants will also need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Students can apply for the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Anyone with questions about completing a FAFSA can visit RLC’s Financial Aid office in the Baker

Administration Building.

Foundation scholarship applications are kept for the academic year, just in case any additional funds become available. However, applicants must re-apply for the next year in order to be eligible. Keele says that one of the most common problems that their office hears about is students who fail to re-apply for the next year.

The Foundation Scholarship is one of the best ways to get financial aid at RLC. But there are plenty of other ways to receive a scholarship as well. These other applications, along with their deadlines, are listed on RLC’s website at www.rlc.edu/rlcfoundation/other-scholarship-opportunities-questions? Call the Foundation at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1214 or contact Keele at keeleca@rlc.edu.

Psychology students analyze RLC

REANNE PALMER
RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION

A look at retention in the fall led one Rend Lake College faculty member to get real with her psychology students. The results are now wall art in one hallway of RLC’s Administration Building.

Last Fall, Dr. Jeannie Mitchell, Psychology Professor, surveyed her students to find out everything-RLC. After quizzing approximately 150 freshmen and sophomore students enrolled in her Intro to Psychology, Child Psychology, and Social Psychology courses, Mitchell learned exactly what the students think about the college, campus life, and much more.

“This was a follow-up from our Fall faculty and staff in-service, which focused on how to retain students and the challenges some of them face,” explained Mitchell. “I was curious to see what our students had to say about RLC specifically.”

What is RLC doing right?
This question received many positive responses, alongside several surprises, said Mitchell. Students complimented RLC’s variety of courses, flexible class schedules, friendly teachers, low cost and small classes, and tutoring options,

among other factors. A surprising answer was that students like RLC’s recent conversion to a non-smoking campus on July 1 – a measure ordered by the Smoke-Free Campus Act.

What can RLC do better?
Mitchell’s students weren’t afraid to provide honest answers, many of which focused on campus life outside the classroom. These suggestions included more food options, an increased presence of security officers, more recreation activities, added parking, additional clubs and organizations, and a location for students to relax outside of class.

“My students appeared to take the exercise seriously and were willing to offer suggestions for improvement,” said Mitchell. “Many of the responses we’ve heard for years, such as more food service options, having a place to hang out, and more recreations activities. A few comments that stood out included wanting more security officers and interest in the addition of various clubs.”

When it came to new clubs and campus activities, the students gave a wide-range of ideas, from ROTC prep and criminal justice, to hobbies such as fishing, football, culinary, and renaissance, to clubs based on popular TV shows, movies, bands, or books.



RLC’s Dr. Jeannie Mitchell and President Terry Wilkerson stand beside the new wall art in the Baker Administration Building. The graphics show top responses in Mitchell’s poll of 150 students who were asked to put RLC to the test. (ReAnne Palmer / RLC Public Information)

What is your biggest challenge in college?
Some popular answers included poor study and note taking habits, a lack of social life, inability to manage time, a lack of motivation, procrastination, long travel time, and difficulty balancing school and work.

“Academically, there was a strong presence of students struggling with the basics of adapting to college life. How to prioritize activities and time, how to study, how to effectively take notes, and personal procrastination were all touched upon,” said Mitchell.

“Their answers prove Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs holds true for some individuals and we need to continue to provide opportunities which address those basic needs. According to Maslow’s ‘self-actualization,’ in order for someone to fulfill their potential, they need to feel safe, know they’re cared for, and have a sense of belonging. Once these basics are achieved, there’s an increased likelihood they will succeed.”

RLC has addressed many of these challenges, and continues to look into student needs on a continuous basis. In recent years, the incorporation of the

new First-Year Experience orientation course, tutoring options, and the Learning Enhancement Center (LEC) has provided students with a way to get involved academically on campus.

“Student support services appear to be an integral component of student success, as there were many comments regarding the importance of tutoring, the LEC, and the Writing Center and Math Lab. Faculty and staff friendliness and approachability also appear to be of great importance,” she said.

To learn more about RLC’s Student

Services, visit www.rlc.edu/student-services. Some of these services include Academic Advisement, Financial Aid, and Admissions, all located in the Administration Building; the First-Year Experience orientation program; tutoring; and the Student Transfer And Retention Support (STARS) program, located in the South Oasis.

Check out Mitchell’s survey wall in the Academic Building. Suggestion boxes are also located across campus. If you have a suggestion for RLC, let us know! Email info@rlc.edu or tag us on social media.

Busy month for athletics at The Lake

Warriors and Lady Warriors basketball is nearing the postseason while baseball, softball and tennis are gearing up for their season openers either late this month or early March.

Men's basketball will be at Southwestern Illinois on Feb. 13, at John Wood on Feb. 15, at Southeastern Illinois on Feb. 20, and will host John A. Logan for Homecoming and its last regular season game on Feb. 23.

Women's Basketball is at SWIC on Feb. 13, at Vincennes on Feb. 17, at SIC on Feb. 20, and hosts John A. Logan in its last regular season game on Feb. 23.

Baseball starts its spring campaign with a road trip in the southern U.S. The Warriors play Feb. 20 at Northwest Mississippi CC and Feb. 21 at Itawamba CC before heading to Missouri on Feb. 23 to play Three Rivers CC. Then its south to Florida where RLC will play at Pensacola State College versus Alabama Southern CC, Feb. 27 versus Mineral Area College and Pensacola State, and Feb. 28 versus Delgado CC and Mineral Area.

Tennis will bounce back into action March 1 at Fontbonne University.






Softball starts play March 6-10 in Myrtle Beach, S.C., at the Snowbird Classic.

Find everything about athletics at The Lake, online at www.rlc.edu/warriors.

Campus Connection

The Clocktower's own Justin Womack set out on campus to ask ...

"Is applying for financial aid an easy process?"

<p>Kyle Friant, 18, Mt. Vernon, Ill. – "I can see how applying could be complicated, but it's definitely something that I could do on my own."</p>  <p>Kyle Friant</p>	<p>Briana Forrester, 18, McLeansboro, Ill. – "Yeah. The way it functions is pretty self-explanatory."</p>  <p>Briana Forrester</p>	<p>Nathan White, 20, Sesser, Ill. – "Some of the questions on the FAFSA can be difficult, but the people in the financial aid office are usually very nice and helpful."</p>  <p>Nathan White</p>	<p>Jada Ballew, 19, Cincinnati – "No. I don't think so. But I wasn't able to get financial aid, unfortunately."</p>  <p>Jada Ballew</p>	<p>Jeremy Garrett, 20, Sebree, Ky. – "Not really. The new forms that are supposed to make it simpler actually are more complicated. And it's hard to get help."</p>  <p>Jeremy Garrett</p>
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RLC announces 2016 Homecoming Court

The Rend Lake College basketball teams are going out with a bang at this year's Homecoming event, scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 23. The celebration will include basketball games, a dance, and the crowning of the college's king and queen.

This year's court is made up of six candidates for queen and six for king.

RLC students can cast votes on Homecoming day in the Student Center.

Up for queen are LeAnn Aaron (West Frankfort) representing the Culinary Arts program; Bethaney Brown (Mt. Vernon), member of the RLC Thespians; Becca Cunningham (Benton) of the Automotive program; Lady Warriors golfer Alexis Hammer-ton (Whittington); Brittany Knapp

(Tamaroa) representing the STARS program; and Student Ambassador Mikaela Matthews (Bluford).

Contestants for king are Ryan Bushar (Carbondale) of the Culinary Arts program; Student Ambassador Drake Carter (Enfield); Jonathan Dau-ber (Springerton), member of the RLC Thespians; Brandon Meyer (Benton) representing the Automotive program;

Chris Richard (Mulkeytown) of the STARS program; and Warrior Nathan Williams (Kevil, Ky.) of the baseball team.

The Warriors and Lady Warriors will host John A. Logan College for Homecoming. The women's game will tip off at 5 p.m., followed by the men's game at 7:30 p.m. Coronation will take place during halftime of the men's game.

The Homecoming Dance will be held after the game until 11 p.m. in the Aquatics Center Lobby. There is no charge for entrance to the dance, and there will be free food and live entertainment. RLC students should bring a student ID.

RLC Warriors baseball prepares for start of spring season

REANNE PALMER
RLC SPORTS INFORMATION

The Rend Lake College Baseball team is heading south in less than three weeks to kick off their Spring 2016 season. Head Coach Tony Etnier, working through his tenth season, said he's excited to see what's in store for the Warriors. Overall, Etnier said the team has a chance to be better than last year's group who finished 14-10 in the Great Rivers Athletic Conference (GRAC).

seven seconds or below.

"We have four who have run a 6.6 or below. Marquise Lanier can get as low as 6.3," said Etnier. Lanier, a sophomore outfielder from Warsaw, Va., made 48 plate appearances in 25 games and logged seven runs for the Warriors as a freshman.

Four starting pitchers are also returning this spring as sophomores: Zach Becherer of Troy, Brock Fulkerson of Mt. Vernon, Justin Hayden of Mayfield, Ky., and Dayton Tripp of Goreville. Last year, the group helped log the second-lowest, conference-only ERA in the GRAC at 2.07.

Becherer went 4-3 for RLC last season, throwing for 48.1 innings and allowing only one homerun and 51 strikeouts. Etnier said the right-handed pitcher (RHP) clocked a 98 mile per hour fastball in the fall season.

"He's the hardest thrower I've had in our program in my ten years," he said.

Fulkerson put up some of the best numbers last season, Etnier said, going 3-1 for the Warriors. He pitched 63 innings and logged a 2.71 ERA with 45 strikeouts. Hayden, the third RHP in the line-up, is also a returning favorite who had a 4-3 record last spring with an ERA of 3.73. For the Warriors, he logged 60.1 innings and 42 strikeouts.

Sophomore Dayton Tripp of Goreville will fill the fourth starting pitcher slot. The RHP started as a red shirt last year and pitched 23 innings for RLC.



Coach Etnier, LEFT, watches as sophomore batter Nathanael Higgins (Benton) and returning catcher Aiden McMahan (Wolf Lake) practice last week on the RLC Baseball fields in Ina. The Warriors first home game is set for March 1 against McKendree University. ReAnne Palmer / RLC Public Information)

"He's much improved this fall over last spring," said Etnier of Tripp, who then added the fifth starting pitcher slot is still open with several pitchers competing for it. He said the spot will likely be filled by a freshman.

Leading the charge out of the bullpen, Etnier said he's banking on sophomore Hunter Johnson of Louisville, Ky. to step into the closer spot.

"I really like our bullpen arms a lot. It's good to have quality pitchers in

that role, and we have several guys right now who we feel good about bringing in to a close game," said Etnier. "Even though we return a lot of guys from last year's team, I expect several of our freshman to play big rolls this year. We had a great fall, and I think as long as everyone stays healthy, we'll be competing in the top half this year. If we get hot, we could make a nice run in the post season."

Across the conference, Etnier said RLC isn't the only team that's gotten

better.

"As we've gotten better, the whole league has too. We played John A. Logan and Kaskaskia in the fall, and they're both strong teams, but we had as much success against them as they had against us," he said.

Etnier also has a new assistant coach this year in Jason Belk of Herrin. Serving as the pitching coach and recruiting coordinator, Etnier said Belk is an important part of the Warriors success.

"He's been great with the pitchers, and the team overall," said Etnier. "He brings a positivity to every practice. He's also been great with our social media and with helping the guys get placed in summer ball."

RLC's first home appearance is a noon doubleheader against McKendree University on Tuesday, March 1. Check out the RLC Warriors Baseball team at www.rlc.edu/baseball or by visiting the Rend Lake College Baseball team on Facebook or Twitter @RLC_Baseball.

RLC Poetry Slam packs the house in King City

BILLY MCPHERSON
RLC CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFFWRITER

RLC's third annual Poetry Slam drew a large crowd Monday night, and by all accounts was a huge success, both artistically and communally.

Hosted by King City Books, performers from all over the community gathered together to recite poems, sing songs, and celebrate the power of the spoken word.

The event was coordinated by RLC English Professors Rob Little and Peggy Davis.

"Josh Nelson, who holds weekly open mic nights, was the master of ceremonies. It is a combination poetry slam, spoken word night, and any kind of musical performance," said Davis.

Little compared the event to the classic "Def Poetry Jam" television specials.

performances like this."

Aside from Alvis, other performers included Bailey Wielt from Richview, who read an original poem, and Brendon Donoho, who performed an original song. There was RLC alumni and current Mt. Vernon High School English teacher Derrick Bennett, who also performed an original song, and Mike McDaniel who performed his own original music as well. Molly Landesman of Mt. Vernon was lauded for her adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Cask of Amontillado." She read it in the style of Dr. Seuss.

Little mentioned that he recognized about a dozen RLC students, past and present, at the event.

"The evening went really well," he said, adding, "We had a huge turnout of what we wanted - including poetry and acoustic music that was written by the performer, along with some songs that you could recognize from pop culture."

"We had a big interactive crowd," Davis said. "We had a lot of performers, and a lot of original work. Both the performers and the audience had a lot of fun. It's really low-key and very relaxed. I think people feel really encouraged and accepted. I think everybody took part, one way or another - even if they didn't perform, they still had a good time."

RLC Sociology Professor Sarah Draper also helped out with the event. "The night was a lot of fun, and it



RLC's Poetry Slam mingled with open mic night and killed at King City Books on Monday in Mt. Vernon. Rob Little said they'll plan to do it again. (Submitted Photo)

was well attended."

Emma Meritt is a barista at King City Books.

"I think it went really smoothly, and there was a lot of variety in the performances," she said.

Meritt thought the event brought a lot of culture and diversity to the community, and was also a great opportunity

to bring in new people to King City Books.

Due to the success of Monday's Poetry Slam, Little mentioned that RLC would consider adding an extra event to the academic calendar.

"We'll probably do one in the fall, and maybe add one in the summer, since this one was so successful!"

Psych
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at or higher than a 2.0. Of these 64 credit hours, several specific courses must be completed and passed, including public speaking, rhetoric and composition, college mathematics, introduction to psychology, introduction to sociology, cultural anthropology, and elementary Spanish. Transfer students will then be required to complete 56 credit hours at the 300 and 400 level at SIU Carbondale to earn a BA.

Henry Leeck, dean of Liberal Arts, said this agreement is the first of its kind for SIU Carbondale and the Liberal Arts division; one he hopes will assist RLC grads with continuing their higher education in Southern Illinois.

"Articulation agreements are a wonderful collaboration between two institutions," said Leeck. "Students interested in the field of psychology will be required to continue their education beyond an associate's degree, and this new option to reach that goal right down the road is a unique opportunity. I hope our graduates take the chance to consider all of their options to find the right path

for them moving forward."

RLC students can also take advantage of a similar agreement with Missouri Baptist University (MBU) wherein students interested in psychology, sociology, or social work can complete their associate degree program before completing the remaining credit hours from MBU on the RLC campus.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are approximately 173,900 psychologists working across the country, with the creation of 32,500 new jobs in the next eight years. A master's or doctorate degree is required for many in the field and the median pay in 2014 was \$70,700.

RLC is currently enrolling for the Summer 2016 semester. Students can begin making appointments for Fall 2016 advisement on Tuesday, March 1. To learn about registering for the RLC programs, visit the Academic Advisement Center in the Administration Building or call (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1266.

To learn more about these agreements, contact ReAnne Palmer at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1223 or palmer@rlc.edu.

