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Veronica Reed, LEFT, and Angela Richard are pictured outside of the REA Clinic in Christopher. Richard said, "We want to support the students and help them apply their education in a real setting." (Photo by ReAnne Palmer / RLC Public Information)



Veronica Reed completed her clinicals at the REA Clinic in Christopher for the Health Information Technology degree. She said, "Everything I had read about or learned in the classroom came together for me when I had the opportunity to have a hands-on experience." (Photo by ReAnne Palmer / RLC Public Information)

Alumna reveals all about MEDC, HIT programs

wo health care programs at Rend Lake College go perfectly hand-in-hand with each other and an increase in job availability across the country. The Health Information Technology (HIT) and Medical Coding (MEDC) programs prepare students to go out into

the working world in a year or less, but don't take our word for it.

MEDC and HIT graduate Veronica Reed of Sesser and Angela Richard, RHIT, Health Information Management Director, and Privacy Officer at the REA Clinic in Christopher, tell all about the programs at RLC and the clinical experiences that go along with it.

Reed graduated last month with her Associate in Applied Science degree in Health Information Technology, a degree she combined with her MEDC certificate, which she earned in May of last year, to help her on her job search. After missing the deadline to enroll in the Nursing program at RLC two years ago, Reed said she started looking into other health care programs.

"I knew I wanted to do something in the health care field. I consulted with Kim Wilkerson [Dean of Allied Health] and she suggested the Medical Coding program by telling me there would be a new Health Information Technology program up and running by the time I finished. It sounded very interesting to me,

Programs

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RLC music ensembles seeking local musicians, new talent

hree Rend Lake College music ensembles are calling for talented musicians to join for the 2015-2016 academic year. The Concert Band, Concert Choir, and Community Orchestra are tuition free and registering now.

These courses are available to any student or community member. If you don't have an instrument for the band or orchestra, don't worry. RLC has a number of instruments for students to use, including a bassoon, cellos, clarinets, double basses, flutes, a marimba, an oboe, trumpets, a tuba, a vibraphone, violas, violins, and many more.

Concert Choir (MUSI 1159), under the direction of Sara Alstat, RLC Music Associate Professor, strives to create beauty in the choral art through concert performances for the college and surrounding communities. This ensemble performs a wide range of sacred and secular choral literature. Auditions are required and are held the first week of the Fall and Spring semesters.

The Concert Choir rehearses from 12 – 12:50 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays starting Aug. 17 in the Learning Resource Center (LRC), Room

The Concert Band (MUSI 1161) provides an outlet for musicians to perform as a high-quality repertoire in many events

and at one or more concerts during the semester. Concert Band rehearses from 11 – 11:50 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays starting Aug. 17 in the LRC, Room 107.

Community Orchestra (MUSI 1163), under the direction of Larry Phifer, performs on campus several times a year, including the Fall, Christmas, and Spring concerts. Auditions are required and are held the first week of the Fall and Spring semesters. The

Community Orchestra rehearses from 7 – 9 p.m. Tuesdays starting Aug. 18 in the LRC, Room 107.

Alstat said the ensembles are looking forward to new talent with the start of a new academic year, "We're always looking for musicians and music-enthusiasts to join RLC's music ensembles. We have many new instru-

Music continues on page 2



Eilerts, RIGHT, films a scene for a RLC commercial last year. The commercial is just one of many projects Eilerts has worked on for the college.

Clint Eilerts' life experience incomplete without RLC

rom start to finish,
Clint Eilerts is a Rend
Lake College Warrior,
and he's not afraid to
show it. Now the co-owner
of a marketing and consulting firm called Arthur
Agency, the RLC alum
attributes some of his success to the RLC "life experi-

It was no surprise when Eilerts came to RLC in 1997 to begin his postsecondary education. The son of two RLC staff members, he says the family ties to the college made it an easy choice.

"Rend Lake College was a logical fit. I knew I wanted to

do something, I just didn't know what, and Rend Lake was there to fill that gap," said Eilerts. "My ties with the college go much deeper, starting from early childhood. My mom worked at the college from the time I was in grade school until I graduated and my stepfather worked for the college for almost 40 years."

RLC's Graphic Design program caught Eilerts' attention and he graduated in 1999 with an Associate in Applied Science Degree.

continues on page 4

Grad Kristi Rapp uses 1993, 2013 degrees to start new career in Health Information

eing laid off after nearly two decades with the same employer can be a tough break, but one two-time graduate of Rend Lake College was determined to find another way into the workforce. Using one degree, Kristi Rapp of Waltonville decided there was no time like the present to improve on the skills she already had to turn her life around by enrolling in RLC's Health Information Assistant pro-

continues on page 2



Two-time graduate Kristi Rapp said, "The classes (at RLC) honed and improved the skills I already had and gave me new ones. The transcription classes taught me to listen better and pay more attention to detail, and the medical terminology classes gave me knowledge to understand what tests the doctor's offices, clinics, and different departments are scheduling ... Plus they pushed me to learn and do things outside of my comfort zone. (Photo by ReAnne Palmer / RLC Public Information)

Three RLC athletic teams earn highest GPA in Region XXIV

t was a good year for three athletic teams at Rend Lake College who reached the number one spot for high academic achievement. RLC's Women's Tennis, Softball, and Volleyball teams were nominated as All-Academic Teams by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) last month, and each put up the highest GPA of all their regional competition.

Though no regional team won a title this year, RLC athletes have plenty to be proud of. The Women's Tennis team came out on top of all the other athletic teams in the region with a combined GPA of 3.67, higher than any other college and sport.

Four of the six players on the team also received individual nominations: Evelyn Mendez of Benton for a 4.0 GPA, Marisa Uhls

of Mt. Vernon for a 3.80 GPA, Sydney Crews of Mt. Vernon for a 3.78 GPA, and Emily Culbreth of Benton for a 3.66 GPA.

RLC's Softball team earned a collective 3.45 GPA, marking the third year in a row that the team has been recognized. The team also had four athletes nominated as individuals: Sara Dixon of Benton who earned a 4.0, Kaitlyn Jones of Thompsonville who earned a 3.93, Summer Karch of Mt. Vernon who earned a 3.94, and Kayla Piersol who earned a 3.66.

The Lady Warriors Volleyball team also finished the year with a 3.34 combined GPA, thanks to four individuals. Pinckneyville sisters Danielle and Denise Bruns (Pinck-

Athletic Teams continues on page 3

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How To Cut Water Costs5	
$Classifieds \dots \qquad \qquad 6$	

my knowledge and skills in

the medical field. I plan to

and learn new skills in my

current department to work

my way into more responsi-

bility," said Rapp. "I have the

departments with the hospi-

tals to take on more respon-

sibility and hopefully a lead-

ership role putting more of

my education from RLC to

And for prospective stu-

dents thinking about any of

the Office Systems Technol-

RLC, Rapp has some advice

"Be aware when you're

young that what you do can

follow you as you get older.

Always try to leave a good

impression behind you," she

said. "You may not like your

job or a course, but do your

impression. That instructor or

whether that's a good one or

There are several OFTC

courses available this fall,

including Beginning Docu-

ment Formatting, Building

Keyboard Speed, Business

Data Entry, Records Man-

agement Concepts, Medical

Terminology, Medical Tran-

scription, Medical Insurance

Processing, and Office Pro-

Sarah Bilderbeck, OFTC

the Health Information Assis-

tant program are located all

over RLC's district, including

pher, Pinckneyville Commu-

nity Hospital, and Hamilton

Memorial Hospital District in

McLeansboro. These gradu-

ates have more options than

"RLC's graduates are able

to work in a medical or cleri-

cal position in any medical

facility, not solely limited to

hospitals," explained Bilder-

trained in various Microsoft

minology, and medical tran-

scription, as well as a few

basic courses in medical

medical coding. With the

Administrative Assistant

degree only five classes

away from the Health Infor-

mation Assistant degree, I

see more students taking

for one more semester to

According to the U.S.

Bureau of Labor Statistics,

the fields for administrative

assistants and health infor-

mation assistants continue

there are expected to be

ogy programs, contact Bilderbeck at (618) 437-

beck@rlc.edu.

5321, Ext. 1754 or bilder-

to grow every year. By 2022,

479,500 new jobs for administrative assistants alone.

To learn more about any of the Office Systems Technol-

Department of Labor.

the workplace."

have many more options in

advantage of going to school

insurance processing and

Office programs, medical ter-

beck. "My students are

ever in the workplace.

the REA Clinic in Christo-

cedures and Technology.

Associate Professor, said

many recent graduates of

boss is someone who will

best and give a good

give you a reference,

bad one is up to you."

ogy (OFTC) programs at

work for me."

to share.

ability to move to different

continue to improve my skills

Rapp continued from page 1

Rapp first attended RLC immediately after graduating from high school in the fall of 1984. Already knowing what she wanted to do, Rapp began her post-secondary education in RLC's Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree program for administrative assistants. Unfortunately, she had to withdraw from the program one semester short of graduation when she went into the workforce after her husband lost his job.

But that didn't deter her completely. In the spring of 1993, seven years after she left, Rapp came back to RLC to finish up the degree, all while holding a full-time job and playing the part of working mother. After working 25 years as an administrative assistant, a familiar scene unfolded.

"After working 19 years with the same employer. I found myself laid off unexpectedly and had no idea

Across

15

1 Shower bar

9 Roughnecks

covering)

14 Almanac contents

rug (small floor

26

50

1 Kinsman

2 Grave responsibility

3 Bushy hairstyle

4 Browser bothers

6 Snacks with milk

__-froid (calmness)

9 Wall-mounted safety

11 Orchestra pitch-setter

12 One of Columbus's

13 List of appts.

10 Startlingly unusual

5 A little crazy

7 Regular guy?

16 His cube was a craze

19 Make reparations, e.g.

23 Petits ___ (tiny peas)

30 "Never heard of him"

33 Not-so-sharp dairy

17 Post-bottle sound

18 University VIP

20 Starch from San

Francisco

24 Penny figure

28 Isle near Mull

25 Beads up

35 "I'm for it!"

36 Some poems

37 Give relief to

39 Mattel doll

40 Meeting all

44 Epoch

38 Breathe heavily

requirements

45 Grouse house

foamy tops

47 Racket's ending

49 NBA team

57 Graceful steed

58 Directs toward

paper?

61 It can be high

63 Golfer Vijay

64 Nasty look

65 Antsy

60 Make the morning

62 Granny or bowline

56 Ecstatic

48 Wrap for some parties

46 Coffee orders with

5 Packs

what I was going to do," explained Rapp. "I'll be honest, the idea of some time off after working all those years was appealing. However, as time went on and I found no real jobs materializing in my future, I began to worry and wonder what I was going to

Rapp says the fact that she found little by way of prospects in her future was a deciding factor for making a change and going back to school.

"I found that I was lacking in the education, new program knowledge, and necessary certification for a lot of the jobs that were available. Even though I felt I was fairly experienced, I found that the software and programs had developed, changed, and evolved so much that I only really had a very basic knowledge," said Rapp.

That's when she took advantage of ManTraCon and their services for dislocated or laid off workers under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) that would help send her back to school

Crossword

to earn a degree in a needed

"I knew there were opportunities to get assistance for displaced workers through Man-Tra-Con and their WIA program. They offered me the opportunity to go back to school. They paid for it and would help me obtain a new education and skills in a program that current employers needed," said Rapp. "So in January of 2012, I began the journey of college education again at RLC."

The two-year Health Information Assistant degree is designed to provide students with the background in technical skills and general studies necessary for a career as a health information assistant. Graduates will be prepared for support positions in medical and allied health fields. It also helps those already employed upgrade job skills and gain advancement potential.

Rapp decided to improve on her Administrative Assistant AAS degree and is now a member of the class of 2013, boasting not only an

58

62

65

42 Hit with a haymaker

43 Milan meat sauce

47 "Dallas" clan name

50 Letters on the cross

49 Janitorial tools

51 Rested (on)

53 Ohio native

55 City haze

59 Muddy pen

54 Good-hearted

52 Stylish Lagerfeld

48 Kid with

AAS degree in Health Information Assistant and slots on the President's List for academic honors for three semesters, but also holding certificates in Office Assistant, Medical Clerk, and Medical Transcription.

"The second time I attended RLC, it was because there seemed to be a need for health information assistants and medical transcriptionists. I also figured it would be a safe field to get into as people will always have a need for health care. It was an extension from what I had already been doing for 25 years of my life,"

said Rapp. Of her courses, Rapp said the medical terminology and transcription courses were sometimes the most difficult, but also the most rewarding. Her instructors, too, were inspiring to her life-changing endeavor.

"The classes honed and improved the skills I already had and gave me new ones. The transcription classes taught me to listen better and pay more attention to detail, and the medical terminology classes gave me knowledge to understand what tests the doctor's offices, clinics, and different departments are scheduling," said Rapp. "The different projects required for the various classes helped me be more confident in my skills and abilities, plus they pushed me to learn and do things outside of my comfort zone."

She continued, "Sarah Bilderbeck, Shari Carpenter, and Gina Schenk were some of my favorite instructors. They were always very encouraging and willing to answer any questions or help me in any way. Their classes and encouragement always pushed me to strive to put more thought and effort into things and to get outside my comfort zone to do the best I could. They made me, as a person, learn how to do work in different situations and how best to handle each one to reach a result that was beneficial to us all and complete projects satisfactorily."

While working on her second degree, Rapp was also highlighted at RLC for typing 100 words per minute with no errors during the final week of class, something no other student had accomplished in the decade before. She said all of the hard work was supported by her husband, three children, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren.

"Between homework, basketball with my two youngest children and volleyball and softball for my daughter, housework and the other normal, everyday wife-mother-granny-housewife-maidjack-of-all-trades duties, I had little time for anything but trying to stay sane. I wanted to prove to my kids that it is possible to accomplish anything you set your head to, at any age," said Rapp of her accomplishments.

Rapp now works for SSM Health as a Scheduler and Registrar, helping patients, doctors, and clinics with scheduling and pre-registration at two local hospitals. And that's just the beginning.

"Exactly two years after I lost my job and less than two months after graduating from RLC, I was hired by SSM Health," said Rapp. "At my workplace, I serve as the Safety Ambassador, am the chairperson for our Shared Governance Committee, and am a member of the Peer Interview Panel for my department. I was also top collector for the months of March, June, and November last year and finished 2014 as top collector."

In the next few years, Rapp says she looks forward to staying right where she is, but taking on more duties and responsibilities in the workplace.

"I see myself expanding

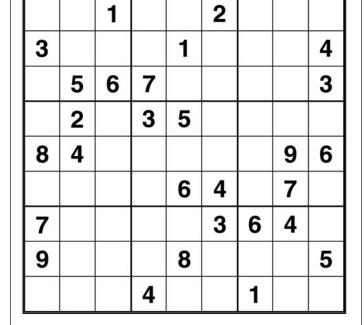
Music continued from page 1

ments available for our students and we invite anyone who has an interest in learning or improving on their musical abilities to join. Seats fill up fast, so register now for

Participants must be over the age of 16, and one credit hour can be earned for each ensemble. For more information about the Community Orchestra, Concert Bana, or Concert Choir, contact Sara Alstat at alstats@rlc.edu or (618) 201-2044.

your spot."

Sudoku



Solution to Sudoku puzzle printed on page 4.



61

colleges

22 US Open winner

Mandlikova

25 Blazing speed

27 Justice Kagan

28 A genius, no

29 Probabilities

38 Kids' game

31 Away

30 "Easy Rider" biker

32 Scouts take them

40 Find after digging

41 Arequipa's land

34 Goes to a restaurant

26 Comparatively spread

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Programs continued from page 1

so I enrolled," said Reed. The Medical Coding program requires 29 credit hours — or two semesters - of work to receive an occupational certificate. During the program, students learn to condense information from physicians, nurses, and other health care staff and assign codes to that information to create a claim to be paid by the patient or others. The certificate prepares students to sit for licensing as a Medical

During the MEDC program, Reed completed the clinical requirement at a local hospital. This past year, she finished her HIT program clinicals at the Rea

Clinic in Christopher. Both, she said, have positives that taught her the differences between classroom and hands-on work.

"Everything I had read about or learned in the classroom came together for me when I had the opportunity to have a hands-on experience," explained Reed. "Then in the classroom, I was tested on everything I had experienced and was taught, and I was able to focus on the subjects I didn't understand as well. Both the classroom and clinical experiences were beneficial to me and they go hand-in-hand."

Reed's clinical coordinator Angela Richard said the clinical experience is important for both the student and the health care facility. Not

only was she impressed with the knowledge Reed brought with her from RLC's program, but she used Reed's knowledge to help with keeping up with an annual grant the clinic receives through the Bureau of Primary Health Care.

"We want to support the students and help them apply their education in a real setting," said Richard. "Veronica was very helpful when it came to hospital statistics and working with medical records for our annual grant. She came at a very good time. I was amazed that she already knew ICD-10 (the new medical coding system). We haven't changed over to it yet. When she came here, Veronica had a basic knowledge of everything she

needed to know, and we put that to use."

Richard, a 25-year plus veteran working in health information, said the clinical experience is set up much like the routine of a patient to give the students a view of all the functions in each department.

"We like to put our students into the workflow of the building as if they were a patient," she explained. "We start at the front desk where a patient checks in, and the student works with the patient through that process. They also follow the nursing staff to see what they do, and they visit billing and health information. Everything that a patient does here, the student also does."

For Reed, that meant getting to put her hands into a

variety of areas.

"It was a lot of going back and forth, and every day was different," said Reed. "I was good at asking a lot of questions. The first time I saw medical records, everything clicked into place and a lightbulb went off. You have to see it and use it to be able to really understand. I am so thankful for the experience I had at the Rea Clinic. There are just certain things you can't understand in a classroom unless you actually have the opportunity to have the hands-on experience you get at your clinicals, such as working with actual medical records, we didn't have that option in

The HIT program requires 66 credit hours of coursework that results in an Associate in Applied Science degree. Health information technicians organize and manage health information data in hospitals, physician's offices, clinics, and other health care facilities, on both paper and electronic systems. Serving with administrative and technical skills, technicians maintain many components of health record systems.

the classroom."

"I was obviously nervous on the first day of my clinical, because I didn't know what to expect, but the staff made me feel comfortable right away," added Reed. "Angela was always willing to take time out of her busy schedule to answer any questions I had. Everyone who I worked with was extremely patient and very helpful. I learned so much from each member of the staff."

Not only was the staff helpful, but Reed said two instructors at RLC also pushed her in the right direction. Lora Phillips, MEDC and HIT Instructor, and Charlotte Henry, Director of the HIT program, both played an important part in her education.

"The instructors at Rend Lake are great. Charlotte Henry (Director of the HIT program) is still very helpful. Even now when I'm getting ready for an interview, I'll call or text her with a question and she's always there to answer," said Reed. "She goes above and beyond."

For students interested in the two programs, Reed had a bit of advice to share.

"What I would say to a student who was looking into the HIT program is that it is a great program for an individual who is interested in pursuing a career in the health care field. Health Information Technology is an emerging, growing field in healthcare, offering an array of career opportunities," said Reed.

There are several courses available in the HIT and MEDC programs this fall, including Intro to Health Information, Health Data and Statistics, Management in Health Care, Pharmacology for Health Information, Intro to Medical Coding, Medical Law and Ethics, Electronic Health Records, Health Care Terminology, Anatomy and Physiology Fundamentals, and Pharmacology for Health Information.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, both careers are growing across the country due to an aging baby boomer population. Medical coders can expect to see 6,400 new jobs by 2022 compared to 41,100 for health information technicians during the same time.

To learn more about the Medical Coding program at RLC, contact Lora Phillips at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1776 or phillipsl@rlc.edu. For more information about the Health Information Technology program, contact Charlotte Henry at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1772 or henryc@rlc.edu.

Athletic Teams.. continued from page 1

neyville) both logged 4.0 GPAs, in addition to Emily Green's (Wayne City) 3.88 GPA and dual-athlete Sydney Crews' (Mt. Vernon) 3.78 GPA.

RLC Athletic Director Tim Wills said academic achievement is one important factor that coaches encourage throughout the year.

"All of our coaches push for high academic achievement, in addition to athletics, for their players, because they are both a student and an athlete. Some have seen some great years recently and done very well academically," said Wills. "I want to congratulate all of our student athletes who received any academic recognition and encourage everyone to work hard to make the list next year."

To qualify for recognition by the NJCAA, teams had to have a combined grade point average

(GPA) above 3.0. A total of 120 individual athletes and 32 teams earned recognition this year with

RLC finishing second overall in the region with 13 individuals receiving recognition, only two

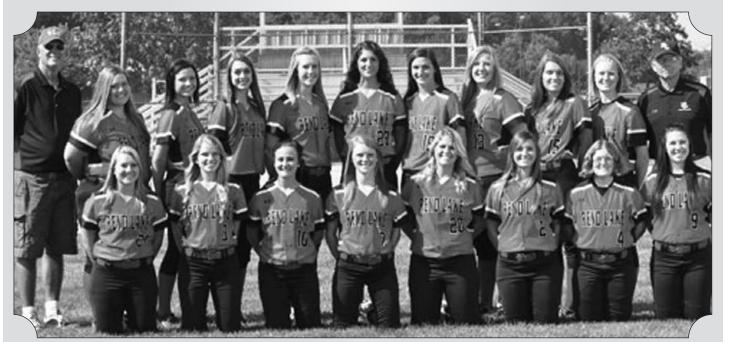
behind Illinois Central College. For all things athletic at The Lake, visit www.rlc.edu/warriors.



RLC Women's Tennis team are, FROM LEFT, Coach Dave Junkins, Emily Culbreth (Benton), Marisa Uhls (Mt. Vernon), Evelyn Mendez (Benton), Svdnev Crews (Mt. Vernon), Paige Hutchcraft (Benton), and Katie Wall (Mt. Vernon).



RLC Women's Volleyball team are, FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT, Emily Green (Wayne City), Cassidy Melliere (Prairie du Rocher), Sydney Crews (Mt. Vernon), Courtney Conrad (Benton), and Kacee Roberts (Ewing); BACK ROW, FROM LEFT, Koral McBride (Murphysboro), Allie Leitz (Hoyleton), Danielle Bruns (Pinckneyville), Rebekah Maddox (Du Quoin), Coach Sara Crews, Ashtyn Ward (Benton), Rowdee Sanders (Carterville), Denise Bruns (Pinckneyville), and Ashley Modglin (Shiloh Hill).



RLC Women's Softball Team are, FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT, Christa Hill (West Frankfort), Katie Shubert (Coulterville), Sam Klass (Evansville, Ind.), Ashley Lehman (Marissa), Jerrica Money (Carmi), Katie Jones (Thompsonville), Sara Dixon (Benton), and Summer Karch (Mt. Vernon); BACK ROW, FROM LEFT, Assistant Coach Tim Ricci, Emily Jenkins (Benton, Ky.), Ashley Modglin (Campbell Hill), Jordyn Wieland (Pinckneyville), Hayley Spicer (Sims), Kayla Piersol (West Frankfort), Emma Bachman (Carmi), Ashton Beaver (Christopher), Meagan Moon (Carterville), Lexi Skelton (Henderson, Ky.), and Coach Dave Ellingsworth.



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Edward **Jones**'



During the 2010 Commencement Speech, Eilerts received a standing ovation after addressing the students. Of RLC, Eilerts said, "Like anything, like life, you get what you put in. Rend Lake is the same way. For those looking for opportunities, it's there. For those looking for a challenge, it's there. And for those looking for answers, Rend Lake is there"

continued from page 1

During his time at RLC, Eilerts said it was the whole experience — rather than a specific class — that gave him the biggest advantage.

"It was the overall experience that had the biggest benefit for me. Was the school part important? Sure. Did I learn stuff? Of course. But overall, the whole thing was a life lesson," said Eilerts. "I like to look at the big

picture. Any new experience is a good thing and something that you can learn from, from new routines to new responsibilities to meeting new people. There are many relationships that I built at Rend Lake that still exist today — some are friends, some are clients, and one is my wife. It wasn't just a good education experience, it was a life experience."

Of his favorite memories at the college, two do stand

out as highlights: a unique class trip and his 2010 Commencement speech.

"During my sophomore year, I took part in a Cultural Diversity Study class where we spent a few weeks in Mexico, and it was just awesome. I didn't think much about it at the time, but looking back, the fact that Rend Lake even offered such a thing was a great opportunity and a great experience for me," said Eilerts. "Then, a few



Eilerts directs Michael Rooker (Days of Thunder, The Walking Dead, Guardians of the Galaxy) for a recent IDOT web series, "The Driving Dead."

years ago, I had the honor of giving the commencement speech at the Spring 2010 graduation, and that was just a total blast. I think it was a bit different than what most people were expecting, and I had a good time nonetheless."

After graduating from RLC, he attended Southern Illinois University Carbondale and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Communications in 2002. Early the next year, Eilerts' path

would again cross with RLC.

"Early in my professional career, I was a part-time instructor for the design program," said Eilerts. "After growing up Rend Lake and then working with them, it's given me a better awareness of what an asset the college truly is."

Eilerts was an RLC instructor for five years, during which time he became involved with Arthur Agency, a full-service creative firm in Carbondale that helps brands and organizations with marketing and advertising solutions across the globe. As the part-owner and self-proclaimed "Chief Awesomeness Officer," Eilerts has the opportunity to work in marketing consultation and strategy, branding and brand building, film and video, web and app development, social media, and graphic design.

Recently, he's been involved with filming RLC's two latest commercials and an ongoing web series called "The Driving Dead," featuring actor Michael Rooker of "The Walking Dead" fame. His firm also helped design the college's clocktower logo several years ago. To check out

everything about Arthur Agency, visit their website at www.ArthurAgency.com.

To current and future students, Eilerts encourages everyone to take advantage of the opportunities at RLC.

"Like anything, like life, you get what you put in. Rend Lake is the same way," said Eilerts. "For those looking for opportunities, it's there. For those looking for a challenge, it's there. And for those looking for answers, Rend Lake is there. The script to their commercial holds true, 'No matter who you are, where you want to go, or what you want to be, the journey starts at Rend Lake College."

Though a very busy guy, Eilerts says he's always interested in meeting and networking with fellow Warriors on Facebook (www.facebook.com/arthur agency), Twitter (@iLerts or @arthuragency), YouTube (www.youtube.com/arthuragency), Vimeo (www.vimeo.com/arthuragency), Instagram (@arthuragency), LinkenIn, or email (clint@arthuragency.com).

For more information about Rend Lake College, visit www.rlc.edu.

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Solution to page 2 Sudoku puzzle.

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Solution to page 2 Crossword puzzle.

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How to cut your water use in half

CONSUMER REPORTS

s the saying goes, you can't squeeze water from a stone. But that's what California residents have been trying to do as the state's drought stretches into its fourth year, according to Consumer Reports.

California isn't the only place facing a dry spell. Water managers in 40 states say that even if water conditions remain normal, they expect shortages in some part of their state over the next decade. That's according to WaterSense, the water conservation partner of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The two best ways to save water, Consumer Reports says, are by replacing water-wasting appliances and fixtures, and changing your lifestyle and habits. Neither is easy. The first requires an up-front expense and the second. a long-term commitment. But do both, and you can cut your usage in half or better.

Outdoor watering accounts for almost 30 percent of water use, according to an analysis published by Environment Magazine. But toilets (19 percent), washing machines (15 percent), showers (12 percent) and faucets (11 percent) also use substantial amounts. Then there's the 10 per-

cent of water lost to leaks that are not always easy to detect.

In addition to plugging leaks, five of the most effective ways to save water indoors, says Environment Magazine, are to install low-flow toilets, use a high-efficiency washer, reduce shower time to five minutes, wash only full loads of laundry and reduce toilet flushes by 25 percent.

Consumer Reports offers these other ways to save water around the house:

IN THE KITCHEN

- Don't rinse dishes before putting them in a dishwasher. The dishwasher is designed to do that very job — and to do it better than you can.
- Replace your old dishwasher. Energy Star dishwashers are about 15 percent more water-efficient than standard models. The most miserly use only 4 to 6 gallons during a normal cycle.
- Wash only full loads of dishes. For maximum efficiency, load your dishwasher according to the instructions in your owner's manual, which will make the most of the sprays in your machine.
- Keep your drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap until it's cool.
- Give pots and pans a soak instead of scrubbing them under running water. And don't wash your fruits and vegetables under the tap. Instead, rinse them in

CONSUMER REPORTS

a large bowl filled with water.

IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM

- Replace your old washer. Energy Star washing machines use about 40 percent less water than a regular washer.
- Pick the appropriate water level setting — often small, medium, large for the load if that's how your machine works.
- Measure laundry detergent and use HE detergents for HE toploaders and front-loaders. Regular detergents are too sudsy, and using too much can cause high-efficiency washers to use more water by extending the rinse cycle.
- Do only full loads, but don't overstuff. Using cold water whenever possible helps save on energy

costs, Consumer Reports notes.

IN THE BATHROOM

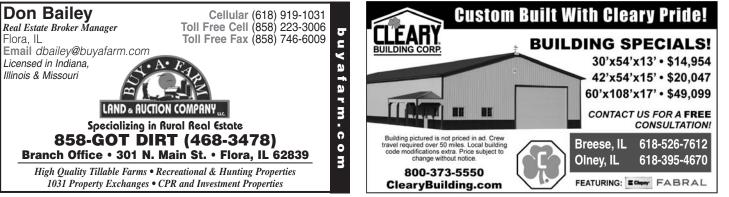
- Replace your old toilets — all of them. Older toilets use as many as 6 gallons per flush, while new WaterSense toilets do the job with 1.28 gallons or less. With new toilets, the average family can reduce water use by 20 percent per toilet.
- Instead of baths, take

short showers, cutting your shower time to 5 minutes. If you're brave, turn off the water when lathering up or shampooing. And don't let the water run when brushing your teeth or shaving.

 Replace your old showerhead. Standard showerheads use 2.5 gallons of water per minute.

 Replace your old faucets. Replacing leaky or inefficient faucets and aerators with WaterSense models can save the average family 500 gallons of water per year.

 Don't use your toilet as a garbage can. It wastes water and can clog your pipes. Toilet paper is designed to disintegrate. Tissues, most wipes and dental floss are not.



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