

Turning the spotlight on theatre at RLC

SHELBY PATTERSON
CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFFWRITER

Academic advisement for the upcoming fall semester is well under way at Rend Lake College.

While students have a lot of control over the classes they take, the majority of options are required in order to obtain an associate degree.

College is the perfect time to try something new — it's a time for branching out and exploring the endless possibilities that the world has to offer. When making a new course schedule and loading up on generals, dive in and try something new! The Theatre Department at RLC is always eagerly looking for new talent!

RLC offers a wide variety of theatre classes to choose from, which count as electives towards an associate's degree. Introduction to Acting, Advanced Acting, Stage Makeup, Theatre Appreciation, and Theatre Practicum are offered.

Introduction to Acting is taught only in the fall semester. It focuses on the basic concepts of the craft: movement, blocking, characterization, and group scene development and analysis. In the spring semester, students can take Advanced Acting, only after completing the introductory course. The more advanced course emphasizes skills previously learned. Students are challenged with more difficult acting exercises, improvisation and scene analysis. After a

Shakespearean section, students will have a wide variety of knowledge of the acting world to go out and begin their own careers, if they so choose.

The Stage Makeup course is offered only in the spring semesters — and has been a hit with students! Students first learn basic makeup application concepts and then build on them as the semester goes on. A few of the topics covered in Stage Makeup include: Blood and gore, highlights and shadows, animal, fantasy, and old age applications. Skills learned in the classroom don't just end there. In the past week, three former Stage Makeup students exercised their skills creating special effects makeup for a disaster drill in Pinckneyville, stage to help train nurses and first responders in the event of a real disaster.

The Theatre Appreciation class counts as a Humanities credit and is fun to take while working away at a degree. It provides a basic overview of the entire theatrical world — from the being on-stage perspective to background roles such as the director, stage manager, costume designer, etc. It is hoped that students will gain a new insight and appreciation for the theatrical world.

If acting and portraying other people aren't really your thing, don't fret! There are many other opportunities in the RLC theatre! Theatre Practicum is a course offered to students involved in

an RLC theatrical production. It is a hands-on course designed to incorporate everyone! The class runs during the fall play, and the student gains credit by either being in the show, helping with set construction, or doing backstage work.

The fall play usually runs during the first week in November, with auditions being held in early September. The upcoming fall play for 2014 will be "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," based on the novel by Victor Hugo. Auditions are being held on September 2nd at 6 P.M. in the RLC Theatre.

There is also an on-campus Thespians Club, which meets from 3 - 4 PM on Fridays. The Thespians work together to practice their improvisation skills, play acting games, rehearse skits, and attempt to humor others with their quick, comic wit. During the fall semester, they work on honing their craft to present an annual night of comedy at the top of the spring semester. They then rehearse and present a play for area grade schools at the end of the semester.

Theatre courses benefit students in many ways. Not only does it help break-through shyness, it also builds confidence in people and you develop a strong sense of teamwork.

Rend Lake College Theater instructor, Tracey Webb, agrees. "Theatre is a great way to develop confidence, but acting class is also a great way to enhance

your memorization skills, which will help you in other courses. Just because you take an Acting class doesn't mean you are seeking a career in theatre or film. Many different employers look for employees who have had some theatre in their background, such as salespeople, marketing, medical professions, law enforcement, attorneys, etc. Theatre helps everywhere. Inherently, we're all actors. We play many different roles in our lives. Why not hone these skills in a fun environment at RLC? Comedy improv games are employed to teach people to live in the moment. Live theatre requires that kind of acting — it's a great way to keep your brain sharp."

As a theatre student myself, I can speak from experience about the benefits of theatre. Before I got to Rend Lake, I was very shy and withdrawn. Since discovering the theatre program here, I have blossomed! No longer is "shy" a word that describes me. Theatre has liberated me and given me a home away from home; rehearsing and working with other students and building sets together has built a strong sense of teamwork and a bond between the theatre group.

To view the entire fall semester schedule, please visit www.rlc.edu. For more information regarding the theatre program, please contact Tracey Webb at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1295.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



Rend Lake College Child Psychology students created shirts to raise awareness about April being National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The students wore their shirts to Dr. Jeannie Mitchell's class on Monday. (Nathan Wheeler / RLC Public Information)

Explore the future with RLC's Discovery Camp

REANNE PALMER
RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION

There is no better way to explore careers in healthcare, and experience what they are like, than with Rend Lake College's two-day Discovery Camp.

This eye-opening opportunity

is returning to RLC in August and is designed for seventh-grade students on up to high school seniors who show interest in a career in the healthcare industry.

The first day of the camp is Aug. 5. It's a full day on the RLC Ina campus where students learn about different careers through hands-on activities, presentations, and videos. Some of the fields highlighted include Emer-

gency Medical Services, Radiology, Nursing, Nutrition, Veterinary Science, Occupational Therapy, and Mental Health.

Aug. 6 — day two of the camp — will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon at a local hospital. Campers will receive a tour and valuable advice on career planning from healthcare professionals. The tour and advice will give students first-hand experience about a number of

careers and the workplace in the local area.

Discovery Camp is free! Thanks to a partnership between RLC and the South Central Illinois Allied Health Education Center (SCI-AHEC) Network, students can explore careers at no cost, pick up a free Discovery Camp tee-shirt and enjoy a complimentary lunch on both days. Transportation will also be provided from local drop-off locations. Parents who wish to attend the camp alongside their son or daughter are welcome to do so.

Applications and more information are available by contacting Kelli Stover at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1280, or by email at stoverk@rlc.edu. The applications are due to Stover on or before May 1. They can be emailed to her, or mailed to her at Rend Lake College, 468 N. Ken Gray Parkway, Ina, IL 62846. Find a printable application on SCI-AHEC's Facebook page by searching "AHEC-SouthernIllinois."

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Air Evac Lifeteam visits campus



The Rend Lake College Associate Degree of Nursing program students visited with members of Air Evac, based out of Mt. Vernon, on the Ina campus. The students will have a pinning ceremony on Thursday, May 15 and will graduate on Saturday, May 17. The program prepares the students for the state licensure examination. Pictured are Sarah Anderson (Mulkeytown), Alicia Barnes (Woodlawn), Taylor Belmont (Wayne City), Katie Blagg (Thompsonville), Alisha Capps (Mt. Vernon), Cory Capps (Belle Rive), Jamie Carney (Benton), Kaitlyn Catron (Ina), Breanna Choisser (West Frankfort), Hillary Dinkins (Elkville), Susan Dismore (Mt. Vernon), Aaron Dunn (Mt. Vernon), April Emery (Scheller), Michael Fritts (Du Quoin), Julie Gerner (Benton), Amy Giacomo (Pinckneyville), Candy Guern (Centralia), Nancy Gunter (McLeansboro), Mackenzie Haeuber (Woodlawn), Bryce Hamburger (Du Quoin), Christina Hart (Opdyke), Adriene Helmer (Du Quoin), Theresa Hewlett (Thompsonville), Chelsea Hill (Du Quoin), Deana Hill (Mt. Vernon), Penny Huff (Christopher), Allyssa Jones (Benton), Emmalee Jones (Mt. Vernon), Mackenzie Kerley (Logan), Randee Kurtz (Tamaroa), Dristi Lamichhane (Bonnie), Amy Lampley (Thompsonville), Helena Lenard (McLeansboro), Abbey Mathis (Du Quoin), Trisha McPheeters (Dix), Susan Mendenall (West Frankfort), Stephanie Moore (Dix), Tiffany Moore (Thompsonville), Connie Owens (Mt. Vernon), Josh Owens (Waltonville), Amber Page (Benton), Rachel Pisoni (Herrin), Amy Restoff (Du Quoin), Sherri Robinson (Mt. Vernon), Donna Sawmiller (Sesser), Bart Shurtz (Valier), Marlo Smith (Mt. Vernon), Ashley Spetter (Ewing), Ashlee Summers (Benton), Caitlyn Tuthill (DuQuoin), Julie Vortriede (Pinckneyville), Jenni Vosburgh (Mt. Vernon), Casey Wininger (Mt. Vernon), Cameron Yosanovich (Christopher), and Heather Zuber (Mt. Vernon).

Continental University still rolling strong at Mt. Vernon plant

BILLY MCPHERSON & NATHAN WHEELER
 CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFFWRITER AND EDITOR

Did you hear the one about Continental Tire Americas plant in Mt. Vernon? It's so big it's got a college inside of it.

The continued partnership between Rend Lake College and CTA makes a lot of sense. One is a local training leader, capable of providing custom-built educational programs at the turn of a wrench. The other is the largest employer in the RLC district.

RLC has worked with CTA to provide courses and training since the plant opened in 1974. A tuition-free pilot program introduced in 2005 gained speed and turned into record enrollment in the college's industrial maintenance program. Two years later, Continental University was born. It's a place in the plant where employees can complete both an associate and bachelor degree in business around their work schedule.

Kacie Hunter oversees the program for RLC's Applied Science and Technology Division. She is the liaison for RLC students interested in a career at the plant, and employees interested in continuing their education.

"With an associate degree, employees have a vast opportunity to work in the fields of supervision, setup and maintenance, industrial electronics, or finance, to name a few," she said. "With the RLC degree for engineering, employees can work in industrial, mechanical, and chemical engineering."

Hunter mentioned that employees of CTA have a variety of options for choosing the educational path that's right for them. They can attend courses scheduled around their work schedules, held in on-site classrooms. Or they can attend classes at the RLC main campus in Ina. There are also online and hybrid courses. Hybrid are a blend of online and physical classes. All of this is

designed to ensure that every effort has been made to make this venture enticing and convenient for both the present and future members of the CTA and RLC family.

For those CTA employees with questions about participating in the program, Hunter is happy to schedule a face-to-face meeting. She said it's the best way to hash out a plan to meet educational needs with a convenient schedule.

"If any (CTA) employees would like more information they can talk with Kacie at Continental on Tuesdays or Nick LeMay at Continental on Thursdays," said Joy Fitts, administrative assistant in the Applied Science and Technology Division at RLC.

There are numerous success stories from individuals who have used this partnership program to better themselves and further their education and careers.

"Some of the more recent success stories are from previous Continental employees who



Kacie Hunter

completed their AS degree through Continental University and have moved up in the company," said Hunter. "... A tire builder is now a supervisor, a machine extruder operator is now a shift superintendent, a supervisor is now an operations manager, and a training tech intern through RLC is now a

Human Resources supervisor. Many of the Continental employees who have completed their AS through Continental University went on to earn their bachelor's degrees and have continued to advance."

Hunter can be reached at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 2373 by phone or by email at hunterk@rlc.edu.

Retired RLC Director Carlson dies at 61

Doug Carlson, longtime Rend Lake College Director of Financial Aid, passed away Sunday, April 27, at his home in Mount Vernon. Carlson was 61. Visitation will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, May 2, and from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, May 3, at Faith Lutheran

Church in Mt. Vernon. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 3, at the church. Memorials may be made to the church or the Douglas S. Carlson Scholarship Fund at the Rend Lake College Foundation. Hughey Funeral Home in Mount Vernon is in charge of arrangements.



Doug Carlson

Caps and gowns ready for pick-up

Graduates can pick up caps and gowns in the RLC Retail Store.



Seminar 'Refuse to be a Victim' scheduled for May 10

REANNE PALMER
 RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION

Back by popular demand is the "Refuse to be a Victim" seminar at Rend Lake College. This proactive class is designed to prepare attendees against criminal attacks through prevention, not self-defense. The new seminar is scheduled for 8 a.m. - noon, Saturday, May 10.

Topics of the seminar will include maximizing home, auto, phone, technology, and travel securi-

ty by having an overall safety strategy before it is needed. It will focus on proactive courses of action, rather than reactive or self-defense.

The seminar will be held in the Advanced Technology Center, Room 140 with Instructor Ricky Robinson. There is a \$20 registration fee. For more information, or to register, contact RLC's Community and Corporate Education Department at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1267 or 1714, or morrise@rlc.edu.

Student Appreciation Days are May 6-7

Rend Lake College will show its appreciation for students with two Student Appreciation Days. They have been scheduled for next month. Faculty and staff will serve lunch to students from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. May 6 and 7, outside the Academic Building. On the menu are hot dogs, chips, soda and

homemade treats. "We're feeding lunch to our students to show we appreciate them," said Lisa Price, Vice President of Student Services. "We do this every year toward the end of the semester, and on two days so we can reach all students, no matter their schedule. It's a thank you to them for choosing Rend Lake College."

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