

Programs, Departments, Divisions and all that Jazz

EVERYTHING FROM NURSING 'MODEL' TO TRUCKING TO LIFELONG VOLUNTEERS

What do many well-paid truck drivers, some of the most talented artists in Southern Illinois and dozens of loving, child development caregivers have in common? They are graduates of Rend Lake College.

Is there reason to believe there are any similarities between a select group of inquisitive senior citizens seeking noncredit knowledge, hundreds of area high school products with dual-credit hours to their credit and correctional inmates hopefully working toward a brighter future? Yes. They are/were Rend Lake College students with benefits.

A Certified Nurse Assistant, a Practical Nurse and a Registered Nurse all taking their turns providing bedside care for a hospital patient. The Auto Mechanic adjusting your carburetor. The Coal Miner working underground and the Ag major working with the ground, both with the intent of making a better life for each of us. Rend Lake College products all.

Finally, a different answer, for sure. No way an unmotivated eighth-grader from Mt. Vernon, a college graduate working on a four-year degree from Mid-Continent University in Kentucky, an individual in Wayne City with a new small business start-up and couples from Michigan, New York and South Dakota enjoying an Elderhostel experience could have a connection through Rend Lake College in Ina, IL. Or could they? Not so fast, sure thing. They could . . . and they do.

The Programs, Departments and Division Chapter herein comes closest to a Miscellaneous Conglomerate Chapter than any other.

Never mind some Programs transformed into Departments, which en masse eventually evolved into Divisions in 2003.

I.e., the Practical Nursing School or Program, which in reality predates Rend Lake College, became the Nursing Department before becoming the Allied Health Department before becoming the Allied Health Division.

Many references over the years have brought attention to a nonexistent Athletic Department. Or an English Department, which may have been a stand-alone department for the first few years but 40-plus years

ago gave way to the comprehensive Arts and Communications Department, only to be refined into Fine Arts and Communications for a brief span, emerging soon thereafter into a Liberal Arts Division.

If there is any truth to the adage, "Variety is the spice of life," then maybe we should go on record and say the PD&D Chapter is the spice of **Good. Better. Best. A History of Rend Lake College.**

SCORES NO. 1 MANY TIMES ▶ **Since infancy, 'model' Nursing program has met standard of something special**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 1987

Twenty-two students, selected from a list of more than 100 candidates, enrolled in the local Practical Nursing School when it first opened its doors in October 1961.

Twelve months later, the graduating class was comprised of 17 women and one man, all of whom then passed their state board examinations to become Licensed Practical Nurses. Even the four students who dropped out for personal reasons during the year eventually returned to get their Nursing degrees and pass their state boards.

The standard of excellence was established.

More recently, all 47 Rend Lake College LPN graduates writing the Illinois licensure exam passed with a composite mean score of 551.5, the highest attained since the program was started. That record lasted just two years, or until 55 of 57 RLC alumni passed (96 percent) with a mean score of 554.0 in 1985; by comparison, state averages for the same year indicate an 87 percent pass rate and 491.3 composite.

"The composite scores of our students have been No. 1 in the state of Illinois many times over the years," says a proud Mary E. Ksycki, who was hired to build the program just three months before instruction began.

In an ever-changing field, the LPN program at Rend Lake College has managed to meet the challenge established in its infancy.

"Graduates of the Nursing program at Rend Lake College always have been considered capable workers and nurses. The fact our students never have had any problems getting jobs would attest to that fact."

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ADN grads perfect in '79 . . . | | pass state boards

June 1979 graduates of the Rend Lake College Associate Degree Nursing program were a perfect 11-for-11 when sitting for the NCLEX Board exam to become a Registered Professional Nurse. The 100 percent pass rate was a first in the five-year history of the program.

Six of the 11 graduated with honors from RLC – Valerie J. Bishop and Debra Lynne Smith (McLeansboro), Carol Kantner (West Frankfort), Brenda Darlene Richardson (Benton) and Donna Lynn Shinnick and Deborah Tomasik (Mt. Vernon).

The others – Dana Dudley, Shirley Ehrhart, Karin Gaunt and Leslie Gill (Mt. Vernon) and Jackie Meador (Centralia).

The ADN Class of 1979 established an impressive precedent . . . The Class of 1980 followed with a perfect 25-for-25 success rate.

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Success rate of 70% adds up to 49 grants in FY05

BOARD MINUTES JULY 22, 2005

The Rend Lake College Board of Trustees were provided with a report which revealed 49 outside grants and contracts for Fiscal Year 2005 resulted in \$5.3 million in funding administered through the college and paid all or parts of 78 full-time salaries. Salaries and benefits alone accounted for over \$2.8 million of that total.

The Grants Office indicated a 70 percent success rate in regard to its grant submissions applied for from September 2001 to July 2005.



Statewide survey tabs RLC one of two best in business

NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 18, 1984

Rend Lake College's work with business and industry has been cited as one of two model programs statewide following a survey of Illinois community colleges, the Board of Trustees was informed Tuesday night (January 17) at its regular monthly meeting.

Board members also learned 48 graduates of the Practical Nursing program, Class of 1982-83, recently attained a 100 percent pass rate on their State Board examinations and overall achieved the highest scores since the program was started as part of Mt. Vernon Community College 24 years ago.

Phase I of a "Project Assessment of Business and Industry Based Instruction with Community Colleges in Illinois" attempted to determine the current status of contractual and cooperative training arrangements with business and industry, according to C.C. Lowery, Director of the RLC Business Resource and Assistance Center. From this initial survey, Rend Lake College and Moraine Valley Community College in the Chicago suburb of Palos Hills were selected as model programs for more in-depth analysis.

"From the field tests done at RLC and Moraine Valley, plus another survey they will make later at 10 other colleges, a model will be developed for other community colleges on how to work with business and industry, particularly in the high-technology areas, explained Lowery.

Rend Lake College's cooperative efforts with two area coal companies, Old Ben and Inland Steel, was one of three

(Continued at far right on next page)

Ksycki "remembers telling all of my students, 'A school is only as good as the students it produces,' and our students were qualified to be good nurses. The work your students and your graduates do is a reflection on the school."

The Allied Health Department, which has been under the direction of Shirley McHaney since 1974, was recognized as one of the state's model programs during a glowing evaluation by Department of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education (DAVTE) representatives, who submitted a report that was "the most positive I have ever dealt with or read," according to the visitation leader. "We are asked by the state to identify special areas, if there are any, which represent 'the' programs others should look at, and your Nursing program certainly meets this standard," said the DAVTE team leader.

In addition to the LPN School, the RLC Allied Health Department offers an accredited Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program through the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market consortium as well as training in the areas of Nurse Assistant / Home Health Aide, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), EMT-Paramedic, Emergency Rescue Technician (ERT) and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). A successful Operating Room Technology program was eliminated a few years back because there were not enough jobs locally for graduates.

Ksycki, who was forced to take sick leave because of back problems and retire in August 1975, remembers the original intent of the Nursing curriculum.

"The purpose was to meet local community needs," she recalled. "There weren't enough nurses available locally to meet the needs of the smaller communities. Students were having to go to Chicago and the larger cities to get an education (in Nursing), and they weren't coming back to Southern Illinois. Undoubtedly, they were finding it more rewarding financially to stay in the larger cities and work after graduating."

A native of DuBois, Ksycki earned her Master's Degree in Nursing Education from St. Louis University in 1953 while teaching at St. Mary's Hospital. She spent the next 5 1/2 years coordinating a new School of Practical Nursing in East St. Louis before returning home in 1959 to care for her mother following the death of her father.

Ksycki was coaxed out of retirement by

Louise Daily of the Department of Vocational Education. "I was hesitant when she first contacted me in February 1961, because I had come home to be with mother and I really didn't think I wanted to leave. But she came back another time after that and convinced me," noted the first coordinator, whose first official day on the job was July 1, 1961.

There was no comparison in starting the program locally after her experience in East St. Louis, "because of the groundwork that had been done starting a similar program in East St. Louis and the excellent cooperation I had from everyone connected with this program.

"Everyone in the community who had anything to do with the program in any way was most cooperative. That made the position of coordinator much easier and, of course, the end results much better."

Between July 1 and the beginning of school that first year, Ksycki had to hire another full-time instructor, June Thompson, order textbooks and library books, establish a curricula and working relations with hospitals in Mt. Vernon (Good Samaritan and Jefferson Memorial) and Centralia (St. Mary's), and gain approval from the Department of Registration and Education, Nursing Division, and the Department of Vocational Education.

She also had to draw up floor plans and supervise remodeling of the school's new home, the former Butch's Cafe on the corner of 7th Street and Casey Avenue in Mt. Vernon, across the street from Mt. Vernon Township High School. Space and manpower limited the class size to 22 that first year. Students were chosen based on pre-entrance test results and committee review.

The first class began under the auspices of MVTHS, thanks to the efforts of Vocational Director Howard Jones and Superintendent Eltis Henson, but by the time the Class of '62 graduated they did so as part of Mt. Vernon Community College. Ksycki cites the efforts of Dr. Howard Rawlinson, College Dean, for his role in this transition.

By then, "We were the 17th Practical Nursing School in the state of Illinois," she remembers. "Between 1953, when we started the program in East St. Louis, and 1961, there were 16 new programs established." Today, that number has more than doubled.

"When she was hired, June Thompson didn't even have a teaching certificate; she had to get a provisional certificate. But she

was the Nursing Supervisor at Jefferson Memorial, and the same techniques she used to direct her floor she was able to use in the classroom. She was an excellent instructor," commented Ksycki.

"June knew the community and the people in the community. She was really a 'right hand' to me in meeting the community and community needs."

It did not take the program long to become established.

Two of the early classes overlapped with other classes in an attempt to meet public demands. This accounts for the fact the current class is the 27th to go through the program in 25 years.

A total of 945 area residents have graduated from the Practical Nursing School, with 73 others looking forward to capping ceremonies this summer.

Three current staff members joined the faculty during those formative years. LPN Instructor Sandra VanCleve, recipient of the Seventh Annual "Faculty Excellence" Award sponsored by the RLC Foundation last spring, was added to the staff in 1965. "She tells me I 'floored' her when I called to see if she might be interested in teaching here, because she had three pre-school age children at home at the time," Ksycki said. McHaney joined the faculty the following year and Shirley Yeargin, a past winner of "Faculty Excellence" honors, was added in 1968.

"In those days, we had a difficult time recruiting somebody with a Bachelor's Degree, so we looked for people we considered outstanding floor nurses. They had to take courses to qualify to become teachers."

McHaney, VanCleve and Yeargin have all received Master's Degrees in Education since becoming instructors and have earned additional college credit beyond that. They are typical of their profession. The two other full-time LPN instructors, Saundra Lipe and Sharon Beasley, hold Master's Degrees in Nursing, as do Rend Lake College's instructors in the ADN program, Paula Lainfiesta and Barbara Hicks. Part-time LPN Instructors Debbie Benns and Bonnie Tolbert have their BSN degrees.

The number of graduates climbed

steadily after the first 10 years. The Class of '71, for example, featured 32 graduates, with the class size increasing each year until reaching a peak of 57 in 1979. Last year's class, with 61 graduates, topped that figure and should be surpassed this July.

With the growth came changes in scenery. The "little green building," the converted restaurant, was abandoned in favor of a brick building to its north around 1968. Three years later, the program moved into a renovated restaurant/service station building on 10th Street in Mt. Vernon.

The ultimate move to the Ina campus occurred in August 1975.

"At the time we started planning the new facilities, we only had around 20 students per year in the program," Ksycki explained. "They wanted to know why, if we only had 20 in the program, we wanted classroom space to accommodate 60 students. But I knew from previous experience what had happened other places, and I was determined not to let that happen here. I knew that potential for growth was here."

Many individuals are responsible for that growth, according to Ksycki. She praises the efforts of hospital personnel Sister Claire, Sister Henrietta and Etta Stover in Mt. Vernon, Sister Miranda in Centralia and Beatrice Lott at the T.B. Sanitarium; Dr. Charles K. Wells, a longtime Advisory Committee member; John Howard, who served many years as an advisor for finances and student scholarships, and alumni activist Darlene Dycus.

The success rate of the Rend Lake College Nursing graduates is a reflection of the program, as Ksycki mentioned, and of its original coordinator.

Many students, no doubt, would say the 100-mile round-trip she made daily was well worthwhile. And Ksycki readily admits, "I cannot remember a single morning driving to work when I wasn't anxious to get to school. There were always so many things planned, so many things to do."

Her legacy? "The preparation of quality nursing care personnel," she replied. "I feel it is very important for the student not just to have the education but to be able to apply that knowledge in a safe, professional



RLC one of two best (cont.)

programs nationwide to be honored two years ago at the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges Annual Convention in St. Louis when it was first decided to recognize member institutions for exemplary cooperation with business and industry.

The Phase I survey points out that Rend Lake College, from January 1982 through August 1983 reached 3,446 students representing 15 area firms through 16 specialized courses and 34 workshops and seminars, including nine of which were offered either on- or off-campus.

In praising the BRAC staff, Vocational-Technical Education Dean Carroll Turner and Department Chairs, President Dr. Harry J. Braun said, "After analyzing the information, I believe you will agree that Rend Lake College has done an extraordinary job in meeting the needs of business and industry through specialized education and training programs."

Praise, likewise, was in order for the college's Practical Nursing Instructional Staff headed by Allied Health Department Chair Shirley McHaney. The mean score for those RC graduates who wrote the licensing examination for the first time was well above both the state and national averages. The 100 percent success rate compared to an 89 percent figure statewide.

"This is indeed a tribute to the students as well as the staff," indicated McHaney.



Fouts, Hobbs, Cross cited by Ag Advisory Council

DECEMBER 1989

Three individuals were recognized recently as 20-year members of the Agriculture Advisory Council.

The distinguished trio:

- Rex Fouts of Bloomington
- William Hobbs of Benton
- P.E. Cross of Dahlgren

Fouts has chaired the Ag Council since its inception and has never missed a meeting, despite living in Bloomington.

Hobbs is owner of Hobbs and Sons John Deere Dealership in Benton. Cross is the Regional Superintendent of Schools for Hamilton / Jefferson County.

One of 10 advisory councils to occupational programs, the committee's primary role is to provide an interchange of information for the purpose of developing and improving understanding of the district's vocational education needs.



Ag Volunteer Rex Fouts: 25 years and counting

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. MAY 1994

On a night when seven retiring staff members were saluted for a combined 144 years of RLC experience, an "outsider" was honored for some impressive credentials of his own.

Rex Fouts, Ag Advisory Council Chair since its inception, was given a plaque for his 25-Year Service Award at the Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner.

Fouts (Bloomington), who lived in Mt. Vernon previously and worked for F.S. Services GROWMARK for 33-plus years, has never missed a meeting in almost 26 years.

"I don't think there has ever been a better display of someone volunteering to help an organization than this," said RLC President Mark S. Kern.

manner and find satisfaction in that work.

"The human aspect is so important. We can't brag about how many nurses we are turning out; we have to be concerned about turning out nurses who are interested foremost in the welfare of their patients. That's what a good Practical Nursing School should do, and that is what we have always strived for at Rend Lake College."

NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES ▶ Prevention key to Health Care Coaches; motivation for positive behavioral change

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 2, 2014

For anyone interested in a career in health care, the new Community Health Care course at Rend Lake College is just what the doctor ordered.

The health care industry is rapidly changing from a system of treating diseases to preventing them from happening in the first place. Community Health Care gives interested individuals the foundation for a future career in the health care industry. It also provides great information for family members caring for elderly or sick relatives.

"The health care field is still seeing rapid growth in terms of occupations," said Kim Robert, RLC Allied Health Division Dean. "Health care coaching is just another aspect of that, as new jobs and disciplines emerge. St. Mary's Good Samaritan sees a need for health care coaches, and we are glad to work with them to develop the training for it."

Health care coaches, also known as wellness coaches or health coaches, will help individuals implement the activities and plans the patient creates with his or her nurse, social worker or other clinician. Ultimately, the goal of the health care coach is to motivate and lead his or her clients to positive behavioral change and better health.

At St. Mary's Good Samaritan, health coaches act as liaisons between patients and clinicians and help implement clinical changes to improve the daily lives of patients.

Community Health Care is a study of key issues and focuses on developing practical approaches to supporting patients. The class will be held from 1-4 p.m. on Mondays beginning January 13 and will run through May 12 at the Rend Lake College Marketplace in Mt. Vernon.

After completing the course, participants will work with one or two patients, under the direction and supervision of the clinical staff of St. Mary's Good Samaritan. This

semester internship provides invaluable real-world experience with people in need.

Topics covered will include: challenges of delivering adequate health care in communities; population medicine; specific problems posed by diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease; ethical dimensions of the concept of underinsurance; community medicine and the law; methods of improving compliance, and measuring outcomes.

The classroom course format is three hours of lecture, while the internship period with St. Mary's Good Samaritan is in-the-field and may include accompanying individuals to doctor's appointments, going to individual homes to assist in a healthy home set up and providing reinforcement of directions given by health care providers.

The class is a good fit for those interested in the growing field of health care coaching. It was developed in partnership with St. Mary's Good Samaritan.

According to Michelle Darnell, Vice President of Systems Improvement at St. Mary's Good Samaritan, "Health coaches are an extremely valuable addition to our health care team. They extend clinical care beyond the walls of hospitals and physician offices by assisting individuals to optimize their quality of life."

Darnell adds, "Because we believe the skills of health coaches are critical to our success and in keeping patients and our community healthy, we will be offering individuals who complete the course and internship a guarantee for an interview when they apply for a position in our facilities."

RESPONSIVE TO COMMUNITY NEEDS ▶ DAVTE submits 'most positive report' for 'outstanding' vocational programs

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 1984

A visit to the Rend Lake College campus earlier this month by a team representing the Department of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education (DAVTE) resulted in "the most positive report I have ever dealt with . . . or read," according to the group's leader.

"You should be very pleased," Tim Wentling told college administrators and a representative from the Board of Trustees at the exit interview following the week-long visitation which included 72 interviews with college personnel, 39 with RLC students and 10 others with local citizens.

The team, in its evaluation role, reviewed

a wide array of documents and observed facilities, equipment and instructional materials in addition to the varied interviews.

"We found many aspects of the total vocational program to be outstanding," added Wentling, a veteran of 14 years on such evaluation teams.

Singled out for praise in the report, when it arrives in its official form some time in March, will be a highly qualified, committed and motivated faculty, the college's ability to be "very responsive to the needs of the community," open and effective communications within the college and excellent support services for vocational students and programs.

Among vocational-technical programs offered by Rend Lake College, those in the Allied Health Department were cited as "exemplary programs. We are asked by the state to identify special areas, if there are any, which represent *the* programs others should look at, and your Nursing program certainly meets this standard," Wentling added. The program will be presented a separate citation noting this achievement.

Recalling a less-than-favorable report by a similar team a few years back, DAVTE Regional Vocational Administrator Harold E. Finn likewise praised the college staff and commented, "Many positive things came in the form of comments from industrial leaders in Mt. Vernon (during a concurrent evaluation of the area vocational center) in reference to Rend Lake College.

"We were here about five years ago, and I can honestly say we've seen movement. We commend you on that."

Wentling indicated the team concentrated on six major areas of concern – program management, planning and evaluation, vocational programs, community resources, personnel and student services – and was hard-pressed to make any recommendations for improvements. The only real concerns of the team, he said, were with the college's articulation of programs with secondary schools in the district and its current registration process.

"The fact that we were only able to identify two areas of concern, neither of which

is major, is an indication of the quality of things we saw," commented Wentling.

The seven-member team concluded in its evaluation of program management that it seems "people know what is going on at Rend Lake College and the people are 'together.'" The college was commended for its level of support from the Board of Trustees (most of whom heard about the report for the first time Tuesday night at their February meeting), administration and staff.

An "active" RLC Foundation also came in for praise. "It is crucial for the future of the college" in these economic times. "Rend Lake College faces the same dilemma as other Illinois community colleges financially and should continue to assess all sources of revenue and resources," such as corporation contributions, state and federal programs and sharing of facilities and equipment with other institutions, according to the report.

Rend Lake College's locally directed evaluation system, the report noted, "is something every college in the state could benefit from." Improvements in various programs, it added, are the direct result of past evaluations, something college personnel also should be commended for doing.

Placement is emphasized by student services, which has effective Financial Aid, Developmental Skills Center and Early School Leaver programs. "The current design for delivery of guidance services appears to be appropriate."

In terms of personnel, vocational instructors are "knowledgeable in their individual areas" and possess "positive attitudes toward the institution, with student-oriented motives. The college also recognizes the importance of staff development and actively encourages these activities," the report mentioned.

Rend Lake College's involvement with the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) "is commendable," as is the college's service to business and industry. "Advisory Committees are representative of the community and career fields."

Another area mentioned was the fact RLC "offers a variety of adult courses, day and evening, in a number of communities."



Part-time Associate Nurse class introduced in 1982

ANNUAL REPORT 1981-82

Practical Nurses or their equivalent may now enroll part-time in a new Associate Degree in Nursing program introduced this spring by the RLC Allied Health Department.

Qualifications for the program, limited to 18 students per year, are the same as those used in the full-time ADN program.

The part-time program offered through the SICCM consortia requires attendance 2-2 1/2 days per week and will enable students to complete degree requirements in two years while continuing to work.

Individuals who may qualify for the new part-time program include nurse aids, medics and waived practical nurses.



First class of part-timers results in 16 ADN grads

JUNE 1984

The first students to enroll two years ago in the part-time ADN Program through Rend Lake College have graduated.

The 16 RLC products are Pat Bullock, Colleen Clayton, Ruth Hill, Diane Mullins, Donna Quinn and Kay Severs, all of Mt. Vernon; Vickie Hughes and Donetta Reed, McLeansboro; Jo Schofield, Benton; Linda Beaver, Christopher; Debbie Collier and Marsha Steele, Salem; Cathy Howe, Iuka; Lisa Jackson, Centralia, and Linda Smith and Odell Stevenson, Pinckneyville.

The ADN program is part of the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market.

PROGRAM HIGHLITES

PETREA F.F.A. NATIONAL FINALIST

Freshman Richard Petrea (Iuka) claimed Future Farmer of America awards at every level - Chapter, Sectional, District, State, Regional and National - capping it before 13,000 FFA finalists in Kansas City. / October 15, 1970

1969 - 1970

1970 - 1971



Ag Freshman Petrea wins top FFA national award

PRESSING TIMES OCTOBER 1970

Richard Petrea, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Petrea of Iuka, won all National Future Farmers of America awards. Over 13,000 FFA finalists met in Kansas City, MO, on October 15 to observe this occasion.

Petrea was one of four outstanding regional winners to compete for National honors. The four finalists had previously won chapter, sectional, district, state and regional awards. Petrea not only represented 16,000 agriculture occupations students from Illinois, but FFA members from 12 other states in his region. Richard is a freshman at RLC, attending the Bonnie campus. Ardell Kimmel, Vocational Director, stated, "I am very pleased to have a boy in our Agriculture Department with this background and success in FFA organizations."

Petrea got his start in the dairy business at the age of 9 when his father gave him a heifer calf for a 4-H project. By helping with chores, Richard paid for the feed until his animal had a calf and started producing milk.

Petrea attended four years at Salem High School, where he participated in agriculture and also was a member of the Student Council and lettered in cross-country and basketball.

When asked what helped him achieve this National FFA honor, Petrea said, "I had to set a goal and work hard to achieve it. I had to keep records and figures for four years in high school to show assets and productions."

This is not only a great personal honor for Richard, but an honor for RLC to have the top FFA member in the entire United States as a part of our student body.

MASTER CERTIFICATION Auto program one of three downstate to gain NATEF/ASE national status

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 1995

The Automotive Technology program at Rend Lake College is one of a kind in Southern Illinois.

College officials received word this past week the training program has received master certification from the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation, Inc. (NATEF) and the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

Rend Lake College is one of just three schools in downstate Illinois to attain this national standard and the lone community college south of Champaign. Parkland College and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale share the distinction.

Obviously, full-time Auto Instructors Keith Kendrick, Nigel Thompson and Sam McCowen, along with Department Chair Terry Clark, Coordinator Doug Leeck and others are elated with the announcement.

To achieve this coveted recognition, the Auto program underwent rigorous evaluation by NATEF. Nationally accepted standards of excellence in areas such as instruction, facilities and equipment were used.

"It helped us to take a good look at the program and evaluate everything. As a result, we made several changes in courses and the program. It probably affected 90 percent of our courses in some manner," Kendrick commented.

The comprehensive self-study was accompanied by a two-day, on-site evaluation visit from a four-person team comprised of a NATEF representative and individuals from an auto dealership, an independent garage and another training program.

That group considered such things as tools and equipment, safety, staff qualifications, the curriculum itself and the number of hours required in the program, administrative services available (the college as a whole), etc.

"This is something we have prepared for the past eight months," Kendrick admitted.

"Students at five area high schools likewise stand to benefit as a result of the accreditation. Automotive programs at Christopher, McLeansboro, Mt. Vernon, Pinckneyville and West Frankfort will each be allowed to articulate one or two areas by ASE national standards.

Master certification goes only to those

elite training programs that qualify in all eight judging areas.

"This is the highest level of achievement recognized by ASE," President Ronald H. Weiner commented.

"Although many educational institutions strive for it, only a small percentage actually achieve this certification. Both the educational and automotive communities should be proud of this commitment to quality automobile training."

"This is great news for automotive-minded students," added Chuck Groves, NATEF Chairman, "because the program increases cooperation between local education and industry leaders. It gives added assurance that Rend Lake College's graduates will be employable, entry-level technicians.

"And as a result of the quality education provided by Rend Lake College, the motor-ing public will benefit since better repair technicians will join the work force."

Upon completion of the evaluation, NATEF recommended that Rend Lake College be certified by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence. ASE is a national, non-profit organization which tests and certifies repair technicians, in addition to certifying automotive/auto body training programs.

Added RLC Instructor Kendrick, "We have worked closely with NATEF to make certain our program would meet strict industry standards. And now we are delighted to join the ranks of the ASE-certified programs. Students will be assured of a quality education, and shop owners will be assured of getting quality job applicants."

Other benefits to the college could include increased enrollment and additional manufacturer donations. Some businesses require programs to have this certification before donating items or financial support.

"The major benefit to the student is that they can be sure they are learning relevant information," Kendrick said.

MEMORIAL DAY '76 Bicentennial celebration performance finds Collegiate Choir at White House

MEMORIAL DAY 1976

Members of the Rend Lake College Collegiate Choir will never forget their trip to Washington, DC, for a 9:30 a.m. Memorial Day performance (May 31) on the Ellipse in front of the White House in conjunction with the National Park Service Bicentennial Concerts. Accompanied by the RLC Brass

Ensemble, the talented singers were one of two groups picked to represent the State of Illinois during a series of outdoor concerts in celebration of the nation's 200th birthday.

The RLC groups performed several selections, including "The Songs of America," a survey history of the United States told by American poets covering American history from the sailing of Christopher Columbus to the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

Conductor Larry Phifer called the trip a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the students and the college," prior to embarking on the journey. "We are looking forward to the trip and the opportunity of representing not only Rend Lake College but also the State of Illinois."

Arrangements for this performance were through the Music Educators National Conference, which made recommendations to the National Park Service in Washington for groups to be invited. All 50 states will be represented during a nine-month celebration by a variety of performing groups, ranging from large choruses to small jazz ensembles.

The RLC Collegiate Choir and Brass Ensemble traveled by charter bus to the District of Columbia, where participants spent two hectic days trying to see as many of the historical sites possible in the nation's capitol. Following their performance, participants were escorted on a private tour of the White House.

The choir and brass ensemble, upon returning home, recorded their concert through the courtesy of MCA Records.

Choir members posing for a formal picture on the steps of the Capital Building, along with RLC Music Instructor Phifer and Narrator Cheryl Foley, RLC Speech and Theatre Instructor, were:

Gary Arnold (Mt. Vernon), Mike Avery (Mt. Vernon), David Biby (Mulkeytown), Barbara Bugal (Mt. Vernon), Judy Cole (Benton), Mark Craig (Mt. Vernon), Teresa Davis (Mt. Vernon), Rob Dycus (Waltonville), Hyla Farthing (Mt. Vernon), Lori Fields (Mt. Vernon), Mitch Fulford (Mt. Vernon), Elaine Galloway (Mt. Vernon), Greta Garbo

(Benton), Peter Harris (Valier / Benton), Jane Hinschen, Sheri Hobbs (Benton) and Cindy Hodge.

Also, Sarah Jones (McLeansboro), Kevin Martin (Mt. Vernon), Beki Mattingly (Mt. Vernon), John McGill (Mt. Vernon), Sheila McMahan (Mulkeytown), Tom Mick (Benton), Sara Partridge (Mt. Vernon), Charles Pendell (Mulkeytown), Steven Piotrowski (Tamaroa), Dan Reynolds (Mt. Vernon), Lesa Rhodes (Zeigler), Beverly Walker (Benton) and Alan Wilson (Mt. Vernon).

REND LAKE COLLEGE TODAY OCTOBER 1, 1976

The Rend Lake College Collegiate and Brass Choir will release a recording of their performances last May in Washington, D.C., around the first of October. The recording was made at Rend Lake College after the two groups returned from their Washington trip and is the same program as performed on the Ellipse in front of the White House.

Included on the recording is "The Song of America," a musical telling of the early years of the United States narrated by Cheryl Foley, RLC Speech Instructor, who accompanied the groups to Washington for the performance.

Also featured is "The Star Spangled Banner" for men's voices, arranged by Robert Dvorak, a work commissioned by the Illinois Music Educators Association. Also included are "God Bless America" and "Notes from Tom Paine," commissioned of Norman Dello Joio by the JC Penney Company for the Bicentennial Celebration.

The Brass Choir arrangements for the recording are by RLC Instructor Larry D. Phifer, Conductor for both groups.

FIESTA MUSICAL MEXICANA ▶ **Jazz Band spices up life on Mexico tour, claims Bronze in international contest**

THE REND LAKE COLLEGE PRESSING TIMES APRIL 1979

Two encores and a standing ovation from an audience of 1,000-plus in the city of Oaxtepec highlighted the Rend Lake College Jazz Band tour of Mexico April 16-23.

The band, which was the first Illinois community college band ever chosen to appear in the Fiesta Musical Mexicana, won a Bronze Medal with its peppery sounds in



Claxton Distinguished Advisor Award-winner

PRESSING TIMES OCTOBER 1973

Dr. Evelyn Claxton, RLC English Instructor and Advisor of The Pressing Times, has been notified she has won the Distinguished Advisor's Award for two-year college newspapers for 1973.

The award is granted annually by the National Council of College Publicans Advisors, a national organization made up of college publications advisors and devoted to improving the quality of college publications and teaching related to the publications field.

The honor will be officially given at the Awards Dinner at the Berghoff in Chicago Friday, November 2, as part of the annual national convention of the NCCPA.

College publication advisors from all over the nation will converge on the Palmer House for a three-day meeting November 1-3 featuring workshops on publication advising, teaching, new newspaper and yearbook techniques and tours of Chicago publishing companies and newspapers.

Dr. Claxton is beginning her fourth year at Rend Lake College, where she has been advisor of the Pressing Times since coming here. She was instrumental in beginning the college literary magazine and continues as faculty advisor. She also introduced and taught Journalism and Creative Writing. In the Journalism course, she regularly brings in professionals from various fields to talk to class members.

COSMETOLOGY "EXCELLENCE AWARD"

"The Excellence Award" will be presented to the "Outstanding Student" in Cosmetology each year. It will be presented by Tommy Johnson, owner/operator of The Hairdressers in Mt. Vernon. / October 1971

AG OCCUPATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The first RLC Vocational-Technical Advisory Council met to help steer the program in the right direction. It was comprised of 11 area professionals representing a variety of ag-related fields, plus college staff. / Fall 1972

PROGRAM HIGHLITES

1971 - 1972

1972 - 1973



Top-ranked PN graduates outscore average by 76.3

THE PRESSING TIMES MAY 1, 1970

Graduates of the Rend Lake College School of Practical Nursing ranked first in the state on licensing examination scores for the 1968-69 school year. There are 34 approved schools of practical nursing in Illinois.

Since the inception of the Mt. Vernon Community College / Rend Lake College School of Practical Nursing in 1961, its graduates have ranked high on the annual report – often near the top. Of the nine classes that have graduated since the school was organized, only three students have failed to pass the licensing test on the first attempt.

All graduates of practical nursing schools in the United States are required to take the State Board Test Pool Examination developed by the National League for Nursing. Rend Lake College graduates scored 76.3 points above the national average last year.

Full-time instructors in the School of Practical Nursing are Mary Ksycki, R.N., Department Chair; Judith Binns, R.N.; Shirley McHaney, R.N., and Shirley Yeargin, R.N. June Thompson, R.N., full-time instructor for eight years, in on leave of absence. Part-time instructors are Celia Allman, R.N.; Karen Muench, R.N., and Sandra Van Cleve, R.N.

A number of institutions have been helpful in providing clinical facilities for the students. These include Good Samaritan and Jefferson Memorial hospitals in Mt. Vernon; the Mt. Vernon State Tuberculosis Sanitarium; Hickory Grove Manor Nursing Home in Mt. Vernon; St. Mary's Hospital in Centralia, and Fireside Nursing Home in Centralia.

the international competition as the only jazz band to medal. Only seven groups from the United States were invited to compete.

Directed by Courtney Cox, the RLC Jazz Band played six concerts in Mexico City, Joljutla and Oaxtepec. When not performing, members toured the Museum of Anthropology and Chapultepec Castle, home of Maximilian and Carlotta in Mexico City.

To audiences in Oaxtepec, the government-owned vacation resort for Mexican residents only, members of the RLC Jazz Band were celebrities. Besides their enthusiastic reception of the group and its concert performance, diners in a restaurant there later recognized band member Sly Evans from a photograph in a Mexican newspaper. The front-page publicity caused the band to mob paper vendors, who sold out that issue.

RLC Jazz Band members in Mexico were Jessica Booker (Benton), Pam Bourland (Mt. Vernon), Joan Bourland, Cristi Brown (Mt. Vernon), Sly Evans (Freeman Spur), Brent Gann, Lora Goodman, Albert Gouge (Christopher), Kel Hamilton (Benton), Shawn McCauley (Mt. Vernon), Larry Phifer (Mt. Vernon), Karen Rye (Mt. Vernon), Ted Smith (Mt. Vernon), Brian Summers (Benton), John Upcraft and Kenny Williams.

Three singers from Rend Lake College – Susan Derry (Mt. Vernon), Shelley Leek (Coello) and Karen Woodfin (Benton) – also toured Mexico with the RLC Jazz Band.

Student members held fund-raising concerts throughout the district to help pay for half of the venture.

[Department Chair Larry Phifer informed Trustees at the May Board meeting the Presentation Trophy and Bronze Medal would exchange hands at the final May 18 concert, with Board, Faculty and Staff all invited as special guests.

According to Board minutes, "Mr. Phifer expressed 'muchos gracias' to the Board of Trustees for its participation in providing the opportunity for the trip. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many of the participating students. The Jazz Band played six performances in seven days and audience reception was excellent."]

MINING TECH APPROVED ▶ **Coal-rich RLC District fights for right to introduce Mining Repair program**

REND LAKE COLLEGE BOARD MINUTES MARCH 1973

Dr. Snyder stated that at present Wabash Valley is the only community college in the state that has been approved to offer a pro-

gram in Mining Technology. The Board of Higher Education has stated it will approve only one program in the state. At this time, Rend Lake College and Southeastern Illinois College are interested in this program.

(Trustee William) Moore stressed that Rend Lake College is situated in the middle of an extremely rich, high-quality (low sulphur content) coal deposit area.

(Dean of Vocational-Technical Education Ardell) Kimmel reported he had met with Harold Odle, Educational Director of the Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals, regarding an Associate Degree program in this field. Snyder stated that at this meeting it was brought out that, although Wabash Valley has a mine opening up in its district and that need is the most immediate, the RLC district has the greater need, as mining is the biggest industry in the district.

(Trustee Albert) Gulley moved that the administration of the college continue its efforts in seeking approval of a Mining Technology / Mining Repair program. Moore seconded and all voted "Yes."

REND LAKE COLLEGE BOARD MINUTES MAY 1973

Kimmel reported that an agreement had been prepared between Illinois Eastern, Southeastern Illinois and Rend Lake College to work as a consortium in regard to the Mining Technology program. He asked for approval of the consortium arrangement and of the program as specified. He stated the classes could begin next fall, with the new courses necessary available next spring. Mining Repairman Technology would be the specialty of Rend Lake College.

Gulley moved to submit the program for approval at the state level, contingent upon approval of the consortium agreement with the other institutions. (David) Skorch seconded and all voted "Yes" by roll call vote.

REND LAKE COLLEGE BOARD MINUTES JULY 17, 1973

Snyder stated that the Board had received copies of the Cooperative Coal Mining Technology Agreement. Kimmel stated Rend Lake College is not approved to offer all courses in the program in the fall. However, by the second semester, the entire program offered by Rend Lake College will have received approval by state agencies.

Part-time instructors, some on loan from the coal industry, will teach the courses. There will be no overall director of the program. Gulley stated there needed to be an overall director and he understood federal funds were available for this purpose in the amount of \$15,000.

He also questioned whether the mines had agreed to hire our graduates. Kimmel stated he had received verbal agreement from representatives of the coal mining industry to the hiring of our graduates. The coal mining industry in this area hires well over 300 people per year, which is a greater number of people than we can supply.

After some further discussion, Gulley moved to accept the agreement as presented. Moore seconded, and all voted "Yes." Gulley requested that the possibility of a federal grant to fund a directorship for this program be investigated.

(Trustee Dr. Allen) Baker stated that John Swalec of the Illinois Junior College Board had commended Kimmel for a "masterful job" on this program.

REND LAKE COLLEGE BOARD MINUTES AUGUST 21, 1973

Snyder stated the college had received very good cooperation from the State Department of Mines and Minerals regarding our Mining Technology program. He stated several mines in the area have offered to provide us with some of their most capable teaching personnel.

Kimmel explained briefly the high qualifications of the personnel offered to the college. The agreement would be with the mining companies at the rate of \$9 per hour. One instructor would be supplied by each company – Old Ben Coal Co., Freeman Coal Co. and Inland Steel Coal Co. The contract would be for one semester.

Apple moved to approve the recommendation of the administration in entering into a one-semester contractual agreement with the three companies. Gulley seconded, and all voted "Yes" by roll call vote.

MCDONNELL DOUGLAS LOAN ▶ **Simulated Continuous Miner brings 'real-life' experience to coal students**

THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 1979-80
/ REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

Mining students at Rend Lake College are really having to dig more nowadays,

CLAXTON NATIONAL ADVISOR OF YEAR

Dr. Evelyn Claxton, English Instructor and Advisor of The Pressing Times student newspaper, received the Distinguished Advisor's Award for two-year colleges from the National Council of College Publicans Advisors at the National Convention in Chicago. / Nov. 2, 1973

REND LAKE CIVIC SYMPHONY

Full-time RLC Music Instructor Keith Drayton will serve as Conductor. College also will provide \$700 as form of reimbursement for eight student-musicians involved for college credit. / November 1973

even though a one-of-a-kind teaching device is making life much simpler.

Since January, students and faculty alike have benefited from the presence of a part-task continuous miner, a computerized trainer on loan from developer McDonnell Douglas Corporation.

The project, which was funded by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Mines, is something special even to a department which is nothing short of something special itself, considering the tremendous growth in six years from eight students and one part-time instructor to a program today which serves more than 3,500 students annually and boasts almost one-third of the college's entire faculty.

It consists of a simulated continuous miner control panel and digital computer hookup. As a result, the student/operator is able to follow his or her progress through the layout of an imaginary mine while viewing realistic front and rear pictures which were taken in an actual underground setting and are projected on two large screens. This is accompanied by the same sounds an operator would experience down below.

"Personally, I think this is one of the greatest things ever to happen to the Mining Department," said Instructor Dwight Dame.

"Now we will be able to share with our students many of the things they will be exposed to underground. To my knowledge, this is the only such training device of its kind to be made and computerized."

Rend Lake College was selected as the training site for the computerized continuous miner thanks to a concerted effort on the part of several college officials.

Technical advice for the content of the course to be taught during a validation testing period was solicited from members of the RLC Mining faculty, along with the training staffs of the Inland Steel Coal Co. in Sesser and the Old Ben Coal Co. in Benton. The two coal companies made their facilities available for the collection of task analysis data relative to Coal Mining operations, while Rend Lake College provided the students and facilities required for formative evaluation of the preliminary course materials as they were developed.



Bonnie students 'protest' Prairie Farmer omission

THE PRESSING TIMES MAY 1, 1970
Gerald Knight, a Rend Lake College student from DuQuoin who is enrolled in the Agricultural Mechanics program, just had an article published in the April 4, 1970, **Prairie Farmer** – a farm progress publication with nationwide circulation. We naturally are proud of Gerald for this achievement and recognition. The article follows:
WE PROTEST

Usually, we students who attend the Bonnie campus of Rend Lake College are not of the protesting kind. But we feel slighted – especially those of us enrolled in Agricultural Mechanics. In your December 1969 issue you ran an article listing the various colleges that provide training in Ag Mechanics. Rend Lake College was not included. We protest! Maybe the reason you were not aware of the program in Ag Mechanics at Rend Lake is that the college will graduate its first classes in Agricultural occupations this June.

I am impressed with plans for the future. When the new campus is completed near Ina, both the Ag-related courses taught at Bonnie and the other courses now taught at Mt. Vernon will be transferred to the most modern facilities. The Ag Mechanics program will have its own field in which to do field adjustments of equipment. All of us in the Ag Mechanics program welcome any person interested in a career in the farm equipment industry to visit Rend Lake College's Bonnie campus.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING
New Associate Degree Nursing program started. / October 1974

PROGRAM HIGHLITES

1973 - 1974

1974 - 1975



Board approves proposal for 280-acre Ag Land Lab

MAY 1976

Agriculture Chair/Instructor Carroll Turner presented a proposal to the Board of Trustees for utilization of college land for educational and demonstration purposes, with a paid college employee to oversee the actual work on the 280-acre plot.

The Board approved financing the Ag Land Lab project out of the Building and Maintenance Fund; payback over a five-year period is projected.

The farm lab operation, Turner explained, will allow students to gain practical experiences in the field of agriculture. RLC students will be involved in all aspects of decision-making at every level, from crop selection to marketing the harvest. Students will recommend crop varieties grown, planting rates, fertilizer and tillage practices.

The college has estimated cost of the project to be around \$70,000 – \$25,000 of which will be used to operate the farm, the rest to purchase equipment.

Before the first crops are planted in the spring, students in Soil and Fertilizer will take a series of soil samples and conduct various tests to determine the soil's characteristics.

Students later will have the opportunity to gain knowledge in studying agricultural market patterns and sales methods, by receiving individual portions to determine if it should be sold or stored, according to what the market dictates.

The farm lab will be conducted on land presently owned by the college, in addition to about 150 acres leased from the St. Louis Corps of Engineers.

In the fall, 126 acres of corn, 126 acres of soybeans and 40 acres of wheat will be planted. About 90 students will participate in the land lab operation.

"We'll have the continuous miner at Rend Lake College for the validation process . . . about a six-month period," explained Dame. "Hopefully, we'll be able to keep it longer."

A continuous miner is a coal-digging machine, according to Dame, first introduced in Illinois around 1948. By itself, it is capable of mining the coal out of the vein and loading it, thus eliminating the drilling and breaking of the coal with compressed air. An actual continuous miner costs in the neighborhood of \$350,000.

Because of the prohibitive cost of a whole-task continuous miner and the frequency of on-the-job accidents, the Bureau of Mines supported the idea of a part-task trainer. At least 20 percent of the course will be devoted to mine safety, in general, and to safe operating procedures specific to the continuous miner as a result.

"After taking this course, a person should be able to go below and perform the functions required of an underground miner more efficiently and safely," Dame said.

Rend Lake College initially brought in three miners who were not continuous miner operators. As the first step in the validation process, McDonnell Douglas Engineer Bill Morris and Researcher Gus Conklin were interested in seeing just how far these three experienced miners could be brought in a 40-hour evaluation course.

Next, the plan calls for two established continuous miner operators to take the course, in order to give Rend Lake College Instructors Dame, Carl Jones and D.J. Johnson a basis on which to grade students.

Sixteen students will then begin the validation process starting January 29. They will be exposed to 12 different lessons, the first nine of which basically will consist of audio-visuals in the classroom and the last three where students will be involved extensively with the part-task trainer. Throughout the course, a great amount of emphasis will be placed on safety in operation.

RLC Instructors Dame and Jones are both former continuous miner operators and have taught classes in machine operations. "But we've never had anything like this before, nothing really practical to provide a hands-on situation except for homemade machines," Dame said

The configuration of the trainer's control panel is identical to that of the Joy 212 CM model in use at Inland Steel and is very similar to two other models commonly used, Lee-Norse and Jeffrey.

VIDEOCONFERENCING INCLUDED Continental Tire plant workforce benefits from RLC on-site training

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 2005

Employees of Continental Tire North America's Mt. Vernon plant are taking advantage of the benefits available through a new training center created by the company and Rend Lake College.

"Rend Lake College is very proud of the fact that Continental Tire chose us to play a major part in their training program," said RLC President Mark S. Kern.

The college equipped the center with computers and distance learning (videoconferencing) equipment, while CTNA provided the space and renovation work. The college hired Sharon Bowman to serve as Industrial Training Coordinator to work with CTNA officials and obtain the training needed by the plant's workforce.

Employees at CTNA often undergo mandatory safety and other types of training. The center, which is now in operation, contains a conference room, computer lab and the videoconferencing equipment.

Kern said the college needs to provide training to attract new industries and maintain existing industries. He said Rend Lake College is very aware of the economic impact Continental Tire has on the region.

A sampling of training conducted at the center includes welding safety, respirator training, forklift refreshers and lock-out / tag-out. Several employees have enrolled in RLC's German language classes, and in the spring RLC officials plan to begin offering the first two years of a four-year degree in general business administration.

In addition to training, employees of the plant can take advantage of the videoconferencing equipment to take regular credit classes offered by Rend Lake College. Employees also can enroll in classes with any other public four-year school in the state as well as schools in other states which have similar videoconferencing equipment.

Bowman said the training center was completed in parts, and as a section was completed, employees began using it. She said the center has been hosting full-semester courses, management classes and an average of two computer classes each week. Six full-time classes, two of which are distance learning classes, are already scheduled for Spring Semester.

Placement testing and counseling have

been made available for employees pursuing a college degree for the first time. She said 23 employees already have undergone counseling and more sessions are scheduled.

According to Bowman, a survey was issued in which many of those responding were interested in taking college classes but indicated they had a high school diploma or GED but had no college experience. In contrast, there were employees with four-year degrees who indicated they wanted to take specific classes to upgrade their skills.

"It just blossomed after the training center was completed. People here are responding very well to it. They are anxious to have the opportunity for training," Bowman said.

"We want to produce a world-class organization, in which our employees are involved and empowered with the processes in our plant," said Scott Cravens, Human Resources Manager at the CTNA Mt. Vernon plant. "We are very excited about having this partnership with Rend Lake College, in which we have created a training center which will allow us to train our employees in many of the new methodologies that are required to succeed in today's marketplace."

Hank Eisenga, Plant Manager, said global competition is fierce, but the new training center will help CTNA succeed. He said the goal is to teach every plant employee what is needed to succeed on a global basis.

"There are two ways to view a challenge. One is to ignore it and hope it goes away. The other is to view it as an opportunity to achieve levels of greatness. At Continental Tire, our vision is to become the best tire manufacturer in the world. We believe that vision will be achieved right here on Southern Illinois soil with an American workforce and in partnership with Rend Lake College and other agencies," Eisenga said.

Kern said the college has worked with Continental Tire for several years, but this is the most extensive partnership effort made thus far. Continental A.G., General Tire and GTY Tire was the first to step to the forefront with a lead gift of \$100,000 when the RLC

Foundation embarked on its first major fund-raising "Generations of Excellence" capital campaign in December 1994.

The tire manufacturer also awards scholarships annually to several children and / or spouses of Continental Tire employees attending Rend Lake College.

In past years, Rend Lake College and Continental Tire have worked together on multiple projects, such as sending students to CTNA through RLC's Cooperative Education and Employment Services program. This provides students with on-the-job experience and the company with temporary employees for special projects.

Rend Lake College has worked with Continental Tire to provide courses or training since the plant opened in 1974. That includes classes in personnel management and supervision, business communications, team building, industrial safety, quality control, motor alignment, industrial electricity / electronics and computer program applications, among others.

Kern said, "Continental Tire is in the business of building tires and it is something I have found that they do with a great deal of pride and excellence. Rend Lake College is in the business of providing education, and believe me, it is something we also do with a great deal of pride and excellence. There is no doubt this will make for an excellent partnership."

TECHNICAL RESOURCE MGMT. ▸ RLC, SIUC combine for two degrees from CTNA's Continental University

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 2007

Continental Tire North America continues to promote an educated workforce with its launch of Continental University today (July 20) at the Mt. Vernon plant.

MCKENDREE BRINGS CLASSES TO R.L.C.

Current students and graduates of RLC's two-year program now have the opportunity to stay on the Ina campus and pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Administration of Justice from McKendree College. Junior- and Senior-level Business and Management courses also will be offered at RLC Spring Semester '77 through McKendree. / 1976 - 1977

◆ - ◆ - ◆ Prep students visit campus for annual 'Press Day'

"Press Day," for high school Journalism students, became a popular event hosted for a number of years by Rend Lake College. It was co-sponsored on occasion by Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

The event, which began in 1968, was coordinated each year by RLC student newspaper Advisor Dr. Evelyn Claxton.

In October 1974, co-hosts RLC and SIUC welcomed around 80 to an expanded Thursday-Friday event which included the State Journalism Association conducting its annual meeting in conjunction with "Press Day" for the first time. A special dinner Thursday evening at the Mt. Vernon Ramada Inn featured speaker Tom Amberg, Springfield correspondent for the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*.

In February 1976, over 60 prep journalists from Southern Illinois schools attended. They were able to choose between workshops featuring "News Writing," presented by RLC graduate and *Mt. Vernon Register-News* Reporter Steve Korris; "Feature Writing," under the direction of Dr. Claxton, and "Photo Journalism," led in the morning session by RLC Public Information Officer Scott Mones and in the afternoon by former RLC employee Butch Nevious, a photographer with *The Southern Illinoisan*.

◆ S.I.U.C. BRINGING 3RD-4TH-YEAR COURSES

RLC and SIUC-Carbondale announce plans to bring third- and fourth-year courses evenings to the Ina campus. "Not just a few individual courses," said an SIUC official. This is a programmatic effort." / October 1975

◆ OLD BEN COAL AGREEMENT

RLC Board approved an agreement with Old Ben Coal Company to provide specialized training regarding Safety and its various aspects in the mining operation. / February 17, 1976

◆ BOARD APPROVES 280-ACRE AG LAND LAB

The RLC Board approved utilization of a 280-acre plot and financing for an Agriculture Land Lab farm operation for educational and demonstration purposes. Students will be involved in all decision-making phases. / May 1976

◆ COMMUNITY COORDINATORS INTRODUCED

Community Services Dean Mark Kern has appointed 18 Community Coordinators to help address unique needs, develop new course offerings and recruit evening students throughout the college district. / November 1975

◆ CHOIR IN BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The RLC Collegiate Choir and Brass Ensemble performed on the Ellipse in front of the White House at 9:30 a.m. on Memorial Day in conjunction with the National Park Service Bicentennial Concerts. / May 31, 1976

◆ INLAND STEEL COAL AGREEMENT

RLC Board enters into a new training agreement with Inland Steel Coal Company which will involve mining employees 40 hours weekly per session during the next 2 1/2 years, beginning November 29. / October 1976



Stage Band 2nd runner-up at annual EIU Jazz Festival

FEBRUARY 1971

The Rend Lake College Stage Band, under the Direction of William Hazelbauer, placed Second Runner-up in the 12th Annual Jazz Band Festival at Eastern Illinois University in February 1971. The RLC Stage Band was the lone representative from Southern Illinois in competition with other two-year bands across the state. Malcolm X College in Chicago finished first; Triton College in upstate River Grove was First Runner-up.



Twelve graduate from first Laborers training at RLC

JANUARY 1977

Twelve students comprise the first graduating class from a 192-hour training course offered by the Laborers International Union of North America in cooperation with Rend Lake College.

The technical training for currently employed construction laborers covers blueprint reading, surveying, welding, small equipment maintenance, safety and health issues.



Settle for AIME scholarship from Midwest Coal Section

MAY 1980

Dan Settle (Ina), a Mining Technology student at RLC who will continue his education at SIUC, is recipient of a monetary scholarship from the Midwest Coal Section. He was one of seven nominees from student chapters of the American Institute of Mining Engineers in Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky.

The local chapter of AIME boasts 36 members under the leadership of Jack Musgrave.

Together with Rend Lake College and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, Continental University will offer employees of its Mt. Vernon facility an on-site opportunity to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Technical Resource Management.

Classes will begin online this fall, and SIUC instructors will begin to teach on-site at CTNA by Spring 2008, according to CTNA officials. Tuition reimbursement from CTNA will be available to many employees who enroll in the Bachelor's Degree program.

Continental University builds on to the current tuition-free pilot program with RLC that gives all employees the opportunity to earn an Associate Degree around their work schedule.

"Rend Lake College is thrilled to officially join the Continental University network and to support CTNA's commitment to higher education and advancement of employees," said RLC President Mark Kern. "CTNA's Mt. Vernon facility is a mainstay in our community, and we look forward to a long partnership for many years to come."

Since 2005, CTNA and RLC have worked together to provide state-of-the-art equipment and space in which students can use it. In addition to earning an Associate Degree in Business from RLC, employees can earn course certifications, participate in Continuing Education classes and undergo employee training initiatives.

The announcement today solidifies CTNA's relationship with RLC by bringing this current program under the official Continental University umbrella and expands it by adding a new Occupational Certificate program in Tire Building.

"We've been pleased to make capital investments in our Mt. Vernon facility over the past few years totaling more than \$160 million, and today I'm equally pleased to announce a direct investment in the education and professional growth of our employees through Continental University," said Heinz-Gerhard Wente, Executive Board Member and Global Head of Human Resources for CTNA's parent company Continental AG. "It is a meaningful program that promotes higher education and advances employees' career paths at CTNA, and one that also promotes the exchange of knowledge and ideas and cultivates a high-performance culture in the workplace."

Thanks to a new partnership with SIUC, educational opportunities on the factory floor are expanded beyond the RLC com-

ponent of Continental University. Under the expansion, CTNA will offer all employees the opportunity to achieve a Bachelor's Degree in Technical Resource Management. A Bachelor's Degree in TRM is ideally suited for graduates of occupational training programs in accredited institutions of higher education, such as RLC.

The Bachelor of Science Degree in Technical Resource Management (TRM) from SIUC is designed specifically for the individual who has entered a career path for which a traditional baccalaureate degree is not available, according to the School of Information Systems and Applied Technologies at SIUC. The TRM curriculum builds upon an individual's educational and occupational experiences through courses selected to meet technical career objectives.

Continental University's mission is to contribute to the development and career advancement of employees and to align their studies with CTNA's business needs, according to CTNA officials. The concept was created by Continental AG's corporate headquarters in 2005, and universities have so far been launched in nine other facilities, including those in Mexico, the Philippines and Romania. The program at Mt. Vernon is the first in the United States.

"Our new program will provide CTNA employees with important knowledge and easy access to a Bachelor's Degree," said SIUC President Glenn Poshard. "This is an exciting announcement, and as a leading university in this region, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale is proud to partner with two other fine institutions of learning - Rend Lake College and Continental University."

There currently are 42 students at CTNA-Mt. Vernon working toward an Associate Degree, according to Sharon Bowman, RLC's Industrial Training Coordinator who works on-site at CTNA. The program for Associate-Degree-seeking employees of CTNA is in its third semester. Those who started in 2005 without any prior college credit are about halfway through the program, while others with past college credit have either graduated or are nearing graduation.

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE MAY 11, 2014

Did you hear the one about Continental Tire the Americas plant in Mt. Vernon? It is so big it has 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.

Rend Lake College has worked with Continental Tire the Americas 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 is 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 is 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. Hybrids are a blend of online and physical classes.

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

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

"If (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 completed their A.S. 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 A.S. through Continental University went on to earn their Bachelor's Degrees and have continued to advance."

- Billy McPherson and Nathan Wheeler

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ▶ Rep. Poshard turns to Dean Turner re: Fairness in the Clean Air Debate

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD - HOUSE MARCH 28, 1990

MR. POSHARD: "Mr. Speaker, our economic future, and our future as the leading society in the world, depends on our ability to adequately educate our children.

"But I am very fearful that doing that for the students of Southern Illinois will be infinitely more difficult if we are forced to live under some provisions of the clean air legislation being considered. So I am asking for just a moment of your time to consider arguments on behalf of fairness in the clean air debate.

"Without a more equitable formula for cleaning the air and spreading the costs more evenly, the Midwest will pick up a hugely unfair portion of the cleanup tab. We will pay with higher utility rates and higher unemployment.

"And our children will pay, because we will be able to offer them less due to a depressed economy.

"Here is what we fear. The clean air bill forces utility companies to reject the high

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Grade-schoolers 'stalk' productive banana tree

FALL 1975

More than 500 grade school students, accompanied by 50-plus teachers and adults, have visited the Rend Lake College campus in recent days to see the productive banana trees growing in the greenhouse, according to Science Instructor Dr. Eugene Estes.

Estes indicated the stalks have been quite prolific with over 120 bananas which have ripened and dropped.

Classes enjoying the unique experience have come from Bluford, Christopher, Dahlgren, Ewing, Mt. Vernon and Thompsonville, Estes reported.

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Collegiate FFA Chapter formed at student request

NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 5, 2014

The Future Farmers of America has taken root at Rend Lake College with the creation of the Collegiate FFA Chapter. The chapter formed last week on-campus is for students interested in professional development opportunities to help them get an edge in today's job market.

Kathy Craig, RLC Ag Associate Professor and FFA Sponsor, said the club was formed at the request of students, approximately 30 of whom were in attendance. Officers elected include President Eli Liske (Okawville), Vice President Tylor McGehee (Mt. Vernon), Secretary Kayla Mayberry (Norris City) and Treasurer Austin Hagene (Nashville).

FIRST INLAND STEEL CLASS 'GRADUATES'

Eighteen students who started February 28 completed a Coal Mine Maintenance class under the sponsorship of Inland Steel Coal Co. Included: mechanical repair, electricity, hydraulics and welding. / December 2, 1977

PROGRAM HIGHLITES

JAZZ BAND AWARD-WINNER IN MEXICO

The RLC Jazz Band, directed by Courtney Cox, won a Bronze Medal in international competition at the Fiesta Musical Mexicana. The group played in Mexico City, Jojutla and Oaxtepec, Mexico. / April 16-23, 1979

1977 - 1978

1978 - 1979



Eight RLC Music students chosen to represent state

JANUARY 1976

Eight students from the Rend Lake College Fine Arts Department will be appearing in the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Community College Chorus and Wind Ensemble at that organization's annual state meeting in Arlington Heights Friday, January 23.

They will be performing in a special presentation by the IMEA for the celebration of the American Bicentennial.

Included on the program are four choral works which were commissioned for this performance by the IMEA by Illinois Composer Robert Dvorka, who also will serve as conductor for the performing groups. This performance will constitute the world premiere of these compositions.

Selected to appear in these organizations were Rend Lake College students Margaret Skinner and Donna Knight, both of McLeansboro; Starr Alecci, Christopher; Robert Dycus Jr., Waltonville, and Kevin Martin, Hyla Farthing, Tom Nance and Gary Arnold, all of Mt. Vernon.

These students were selected from the top community college music students in the State of Illinois to represent community college music students at the state meeting. Larry D. Phifer, Chairman of the RLC Fine Arts Department, has served as coordinator to arrange this special Bicentennial concert for the IMEA state meeting.

"This is an extreme honor for all students involved from all over the state," commented Phifer. "It should prove to be an outstanding experience for all who are involved."

sulphur coal produced in my area. The companies don't need the workers and the local economy doesn't get the activity generated by the coal mines.

"Over the past decade we have lost 7,000 coal mining jobs in my district. But through technology and efficiency, production has remained basically the same. The damage has been severe, though in some ways controllable.

"But now we are looking at a situation where demand and production actually go down and the hundreds of businesses that supply the mines and their employees lose as well.

"So here we sit on top of America's most bountiful and dependable resource and no one wants it.

"People are forced to move away and look for jobs, accept jobs that don't pay near what they are working for now or accept the completely unattractive alternative of unemployment as their last resort.

"You are probably thinking they can just go get another job. But here is the reality, according to the Dean of Technical Careers at Rend Lake College, Mr. Carroll Turner.

"He says the challenge is to identify educational programs that have sufficient job opportunities once the training is done.

"The growth in the job market cannot keep pace with the current decline we're already experiencing and he does not foresee any improvement in the future. We have not recovered from previous coal job losses and now people face prospects that are even worse."

[A lengthy statement also was entered into the Congressional Record from Dr. Allan Patton, Superintendent of Benton Community Consolidated School District No. 47 (and a Rend Lake College Trustee, as well) regarding the potential affects of the clean air bill on the children of those losing their jobs and local schools. His remarks had been made during a subcommittee hearing in Poshard's district.]

JAMES RAMSEY ▸ **Ag Mechanics Contest champ follows with 'Student of the Year' title as well**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 1993

James Ramsey and Rend Lake College have proven to be a winning combination for a number of years.

Ramsey first visited the RLC campus five or six years ago as a Greenville High

School student competing in the annual "Ag Mechanics" contest hosted by the Rend Lake College Agriculture staff.

He went home a winner that evening, just as he did the next two or three years of competition as well, RLC Department Chair Terry Clark recalls.

In fact, his success in the "Ag Mechanics" competition resulted in a scholarship offer to attend the Ina-based community college.

Ramsey accepted the Ag program offer.

And Friday night (April 16), he left campus a winner once again. Ramsey was recognized as recipient of the 1992-93 "Outstanding Ag Student of the Year" Award.

Ralph and Virginia Smith, with whom Ramsey has lived the past two years while attending college, also were cited for their contributions to the program over the years. The Smiths have housed several out-of-district RLC Ag students.



"Karnack the Ag-nificent," who looked a lot like Instructor Doug Leeck might look if he were wearing a feathery gold headdress, wowed the audience with his humorous feats of fearless forecasting.

But - sorry, Karnack - the highlight for over 200 in attendance at Friday night's annual "Ag Banquet" was a talk in the RLC Theatre by Midwestern radio personality Derry Brownfield, cofounder of the regionally syndicated Brownfield Network which specializes in ag reports.

Brownfield provided his agriculturally minded audience with a lesson in economics. Among excerpts from his hour-long speech . . .

- The national debt did not get there overnight. "In 1983, according to an article in the *Rural Electric Cooperative Magazine*, the U.S. Senate voted to raise the debt limit to \$1.3 trillion. Today, it is \$4 trillion-something. We've gotten another \$3 trillion in debt in the last 10 years."

- Brownfield, born in 1932, says the country, "always sways back-and-forth between recessions, depressions and inflation. The pendulum is always swinging. It wasn't until the 1930s that government tried to do something about it."

- "America was founded on the belief that 'If you work, you get paid. The harder you work, the better the opportunities you have.' Government did not take care of anybody prior to 1934-35."

With the introduction of "relief," "We started teaching that if people didn't make

it on their own, the government would make it for them."

"We're going to pay people for not doing very much," he added later. "We let these people know 'the government will bail you out.' We have instilled in our people the belief you don't have to work very much."

• A farmer since 1947, Brownfield said there have been "three good years for farmers during that time - 1947, '48 and '49. Those are the only three good years I can remember as far as agriculture is concerned."

Corn was about \$2 a bushel then, the same as it is today. But back then, he recalled, a new John Deere tractor could be purchased for \$1,200 and "the best land you could buy cost \$100 per acre." "You could buy and actually pay for a farm back then. It hasn't happened since."

• Minimum wage factory jobs were plentiful. But then, between 1950 and 1960, "literally every major organized labor group went on strike at one time or another.

"As a result, when we got into the '60s, we had the highest paid work force in the world. Everybody was working, but that is when we started producing an inferior product.

"That's what we got into when we started raising wages. American industry had to make up the difference someplace, so we started cutting expenses by producing inferior-quality products."

• Today, "There are so many things we do economically that don't make any sense," such as the government subsidizing foreign manufacturers in one way or another.

"Anybody in any other country can produce things cheaper than we can because we've got the highest-priced labor force in the world.

"You can't just blame the present administration, or the last administration or the one before that. It all started back in the '30s and it has snowballed. At the end of World War II, America was the greatest economy the world has ever known, and we've slipped down the tube that bad in the last 40 years."

• "Agriculture's most pressing problem in 1993? Paying the bills. We've got to somehow pay the bills. It doesn't matter how many bushels of soybeans you produce, it is how many bushels it takes to pay for a combine that will help get the kids through school."

• "I've got the answer to all this. It's not too late. We can get this turned around . . .

"What's good for the goose is good for the gander. If a country like Japan won't take our products, then we don't want their cars . . .

"We've got to educate and empower Americans. If Americans today knew as much about economics as they should, if they understood our banking structure and how much our taxes really are, we wouldn't be in this shape.

"Once we understand economics like we do football, we'll begin to turn things around. If we have a losing football team, we form a booster club and fire the coach. All we have to do is get rid of the these people in Washington and get somebody in there with some common sense."

FUTURE FARMERS HONOR ▶ **Honorary State FFA Degrees awarded to Clark ('96), Kern ('06) and Bond ('07)**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 1996

Department Chair Terry Clark, who becomes Dean of Vocational-Technical Education on July 1, is scheduled to receive an Honorary State FFA Degree at the 68th Annual Illinois Association Future Farmers of America Convention June 4-6 in Springfield.

Clark likewise will receive a Gold State FFA Key.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 2006

Rend Lake College President Mark S. Kern was one of 28 people awarded an Honorary State FFA Degree at the 78th annual Illinois Future Farmers of America Convention in Springfield.

Kern, who was hired initially as an Agriculture Instructor in 1968, served as Chair of the RLC Agriculture, Automotive and Architecture Department in the 1970s and again in the '90s. He also operates a 698-acre



GED, other Skills classes benefit 689 in 1980-81

ANNUAL REPORT 1980-81

Rend Lake College's Developmental Skills Center continues to benefit a large number of district residents, as evidenced by comparing statistics as well as the many smiling faces when the program conducted third annual recognition ceremonies honoring the past year's General Educational Development (GED) grads.

Numbers tell the story . . .

GED, Adult Basic Education (reading), Shelter Care and English as a Second Language classes attracted 689 students during 1980-81, an increase of almost 20 percent over the previous year.

Eighty-two percent of students who took GED classes through the college's program and then took the GED test to obtain their high school equivalency were successful. This compares to a 64.5 percent rate statewide. It also represents three times as many students who received their GED (306) two years ago and a 22.4 percent increase over last year.

Developmental classes, coordinated by Pam Sharp, were offered on-campus, both day and evening, as well as in Benton, Mt. Vernon, Pinckneyville and Zeigler-Royalton.

Construction business owner Ralph Korte, a GED graduate during his Army days who is now Chairman of the National Education Committee for the Associated General Contractors of America, spoke to a full-house audience June 24 at the special GED ceremonies.

PROGRAM HIGHLITES

REND LAKE CIVIC SYMPHONY

Re-activated. / September 1980

SIMULATED CONTINUOUS MINER

Students are benefiting from a part-task, simulated Continuous Miner, a computerized trainer on loan from developer McDonnell Douglas Corp, thanks to funding by the U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Mines. / January '80

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSES PERFECT

RLC Associate Degree Nursing graduates from 1979 and '80 were perfect two years in a row - 11-for-11 and then 25-for-25 - sitting for NCLEX Board Exams to become Registered Professional Nurses. / 1979-80

BEAUTY CULTURE AGREEMENT

An agreement was approved by the RLC Board with Richland Academy of Beauty Culture in Mt. Vernon. / May 26, 1981

1979 - 1980

1980 - 1981



RLC obtains Arts grant, revives Civic Symphony

ANNUAL REPORT 1980-81

College representatives played a major role in reactivating the Rend Lake Civic Symphony last fall.

The RLC Arts and Communications Department, under Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Chair, was responsible for administering a grant from the Illinois Arts Council which covered expenses of a Business Manager to work with the Conductor in rebuilding community support for the orchestra.

Larry Phifer, a Music Instructor at the college and longtime member of the Civic Symphony, was named Conductor for the 1980-81 season.

A December 2 performance at Mitchell Museum in Mt. Vernon marked the debut of the newly reorganized group, with a repeat performance on the RLC Ina campus in early February. Rend Lake College and the Music Committee of the Mitchell Museum worked cooperatively in support of reactivation of the Civic Symphony.



Macintosh computers approved for English lab

BOARD MINUTES MARCH 20, 1990

Trustees approved a request from the Arts and Communications Department to establish a new Macintosh Computer Lab to be used in English Composition classes.

The purchase will include Apple Macintosh SE computers for 23 students, 10 additional ones for general lab usage and eight for faculty members who will be teaching the computerized classes. Total expenditure approved was for \$71,783.80.

beef cattle farm near Ewing in Snowflake.

Kern was the lone honoree from Southern Illinois

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 2007

Dr. Sarah Bond, RLC Applied Science and Technology Division Chair, was given the FFA's highest honor June 14 at the Prairie State Convention Center in Springfield.

She was presented with the Honorary State Future Farmers of America Degree by the Illinois Association FFA "for her outstanding service and support of agriculture, ag education and the organization."

AFTER STATE SWEEP Recent CAD grad Reu claims Silver at Skills USA-VICA National Contest

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 2002

Ryan Reu (Mt. Vernon), a spring graduate of Rend Lake College with an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Architectural Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD), brought home a Silver Medal in the Postsecondary Division of the SkillsUSA-VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America Inc.) national competition.

The 38th Annual SkillsUSA-VICA Championships were held in Kansas City, MO, June 25-28. This year, over 4,000 contestants competed in 73 separate Secondary and Postsecondary trade, technical and leadership events.

Nearly 1,500 judges and contest organizers from labor and private industry helped to make the national event possible.

Competitors work against each other and the clock in proving their expertise in specific job skills necessary in occupations such as electronics, technical drafting, graphic design and precision machining.

According to Thomas Holdsworth of SkillsUSA-VICA, contestants are presented with a problem consisting of background information, building requirements and a description of the drawings required. Contestants are then charged with developing an appropriate plan (within an eight-hour time limit), utilizing design notes and instructions. They are judged on criteria such as having the correct solution, line work, layout and accuracy. Safety practices and procedures also figure into the equation.

To earn the right to compete at the national level, Reu had to win at State, which he did in Springfield April 18-20. For the second year in a row, Rend Lake College captured the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in Architectural Drafting state competition.

"What is really special about Rend Lake College competing so well at this level is the fact we are a two-year community college," said Kevin Weston, RLC Architectural Technology Professor and SkillsUSA Advisor. "Our students are competing against students from four-year institutions and excelling."

"I think it is indicative of the quality of Rend Lake College's curricula and of the caliber of students we have in our program," he added.

Other RLC winners at the Illinois State contest were Jade Boren (Carmi) in Advertising Design and Larry Coale (Fairfield) in Carpentry. Rend Lake College also claimed two second-place finishes, two thirds, two fourths and a fifth at state.

This was Reu's second trip to State. In 2001, he earned a second-place finish in RLC's Architectural Drafting trifecta. He has worked at Wilson Hodge and Groh Architectural/Engineering in Mt. Vernon for the last year and will be attending Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in the fall.

ONE OF FIVE STATE CHAMPS Jones continues lofty CAD status in SkillsUSA Nationals with Bronze

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 2010

By taking a Bronze Medal, Randy Jones also placed third on the list of Rend Lake College's best finishes at SkillsUSA Nationals - all of which have been in Architectural Drafting CAD competition.

The RLC chapter was established in 2001 and a year later got its first medalist. Ryan Reu of Mt. Vernon, a graduate in Architectural Technology, took second place. His status as RLC's best stood for seven years before Michael Mosler, another product of the Architectural Technology program and the King City, became the college's first gold medalist at last year's competition.

Rend Lake College students took their award-winning state performances to the national stage at the SkillsUSA competition in Kansas City. The national finals featured 600 participants in 96 occupational leadership categories.

Five RLC freshmen who placed first at the statewide competition in April qualified for nationals, but only four could make the trip. The three others who did compete were Hailey Short (Broughton), 15th in Advertising Design; Nathan Guinzy (Ashley), 22nd in Carpentry, and Jeremy Hathaway (Harrisburg), 26th in Culinary Arts.

LaDonna Clardy (Harrisburg), the Illinois national qualifier in Commercial Banking, could not attend due to illness.

Jones finished behind only top finisher Victor Rocha (Texas State Technical College) and Brian Andaloro (Waukesha County Technical Institute in Wisconsin).

"I thought if we took a Top 10 that would be good, but Randy placed third as a first-year student, which is really good," said their coach, Kevin Weston, who is a Professor of Architectural Technology.

Although unable to repeat the national championship from last year, it was still a very good year for RLC in SkillsUSA contests. In addition to having five first-place finishers at state, local students got a top-three sweep in Advertising Design, a top-five sweep in Architectural Drafting and brought home another first-place trophy for College SkillsUSA Chapter Growth.

State results for RLC students included: Kathy Krutsinger (Bluford) second and Victoria Price (Ewing) third in Ad Design; in Architectural Drafting (CAD), Cody Wiggins (Mt. Vernon) was runner-up, Melissa Verdeyen (Hoyleton) third, Tyler Dunahee (Centralia) fourth and Cal Muehlenbein (McLeansboro) fifth, and Bryson Owens (Belle Rive) placed eighth in Welding.

STATE, NATIONAL CONTENDERS ▶ Fastest-growing SkillsUSA Chapter second largest in state after four years

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 2004

After winning gold medals in Illinois SkillsUSA competition in April, two Rend Lake College representatives placed among the Top 15 at the 40th Annual National Skills-USA Championships in Kansas City June 21-26, 2004.

Jamie Marlow (Mt. Vernon) claimed 11th in the Architectural Drafting category, while fellow RLC chapter member Chris Wright (Pinckneyville) placed 14th in Advertising Design.

• A third RLC competitor, Amber Hill, captured another first at state in Architectural Board Drafting but did not make the trip to Kansas City, where approximately 10,000 high school and college students

from across the nation as well as the Virgin Islands, Guam and Puerto Rico converged.

The competition which brings in the best of the best from those students who will soon be entering the nation's work force occupies the space of eight football fields, costs about \$20 million to put on and includes corporate sponsors such as Irwin Tools, Dewalt, Rubbermaid, Harley-Davidson, Chevrolet, Ford and Chrysler

• The Rend Lake College SkillsUSA Chapter, which was formed in 2000 and chartered in 2001, has walked off with the First Place Trophy for Chapter Growth every year since (through 2004) at the state level and by 2004 finished second for the largest postsecondary chapter in the state.

• In 2002, Ryan Reu (Mt. Vernon) was second in Architectural Drafting and Jade Boren (Carmi) 14th in Advertising Design.

• In 2003, Heather Sanders (Dix) was seventh in Architectural Drafting.

Architecture Professor Kevin Weston serves as RLC SkillsUSA-VICA Coordinator.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 1994

For the second time in four years, a Rend Lake College student has qualified for national competition by placing first in the Illinois State VICA Leadership Conference and Skills Olympics.

Pinckneyville's Brian Greer, who is finishing his first year as an RLC Agricultural Mechanics student, qualified for the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America Nationals by claiming top honors in the Post-Secondary Diesel Equipment Mechanics Contest at the Prairie State Capitol Convention Center in Springfield April 14-17.

The VICA Nationals will be held in Kansas City, MO. Approximately 600 students competed at the state level in nearly 50 areas.

Greer currently is receiving supervised occupational experience at Vergennes Equipment Inc.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 1990

Kevin R. Przygoda, an RLC Automotive student from Pinckneyville, recently qualified for national competition by placing first in Postsecondary Diesel Equipment Mechanics in the Illinois State VICA Leadership Conference and Skills Olympics.



Community Coordinators to develop evening classes

NOVEMBER 1975

Rend Lake College is undertaking a major expansion of its evening program in conjunction with 18 newly appointed Community Coordinators, who will cooperate with the college in developing new course offerings and recruiting students for evening classes. Classes will be started in each community within the college district.

"We selected educators and people who are active in their communities," said Mark Kern, Dean of Community Services. "We are counting on them to learn what courses are needed and wanted in each community so the college can reach as many people as possible."

Community Coordinators will be arranging course offerings for several weeks in anticipation of Spring Semester, which begins January 7. However, there will be variety in the starting dates, meeting times and lengths of classes. "We will try to set up evening schedules in such a way the most people will benefit," he said.

Courses to be offered will fall into three general categories: college transfer, vocational and general studies. Credits from all transfer courses and some vocational courses will transfer to a four-year college, while the general studies courses are strictly for self-improvement and lead to no degree.

Any prospective student or teacher with a course suggestion should contact a Community Coordinator or Kern.

PROGRAM HIGHLITES

● PART-TIME ASSOCIATE NURSE PROGRAM

Practical Nurses or equivalent may enroll part-time in a new Associate Degree in Nursing program introduced this spring. Students will attend 2 or 2 1/2 days per week for two years to complete requirements. / 1982

● FIRST HIGH SCHOOL WELDING CONTEST

Thirty-three in-district seniors took part in the first RLC High School Welding Contest on-campus. Winner Mark Williams (Pinckneyville) received a welder; the top five got partial tuition waiver offers. / Spring 1983

1981 - 1982

1982 - 1983



'Sohioan' magazine cites Mining orientation, repair

NOVEMBER 1975

Rend Lake College's Mining Technology program was featured in a three-page article in the October issue of "The Sohioan," the nationally distributed corporate magazine of Standard Oil Company of Ohio.

The article described the training provided by the college to employees of Old Ben Coal Company, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of Ohio. The first-year program for beginning miners was outlined, as was the mining machine repair program for experienced coal miners.

Old Ben Training and Education Manager Richard Sachoff, whose interview was the basis for the article, said, "The training will help us establish more efficient, safer mines. The new-hire orientation program prepares them for the day they start work below. They know what to expect."

Sachoff also said the mining machine repair program would help Old Ben reduce the time coal production must be suspended after a machine breaks down. "In the past, repairmen often traveled miles underground to get to a repair job. With almost 40 men under training, we can have a man in each section of the mine. They can get to the problem in short order so mining can start up again more quickly," he said.

"The Sohioan" pointed out American coal companies will hire 152,000 new employees in the next 10 years; Old Ben plans to hire over 1,500 more underground workers in the next six years. "In such an environment, it is more important than ever they get formalized, intensified training to ready them for jobs that grow more sophisticated every year."

Przygoda's winning performance earned him a second straight trip to the VICA National Skills Olympics and Leadership Conference to be held the last week in June in Tulsa, OK, according to RLC's Gary Wade.

The four-hour hands-on state testing covered material on all systems of heavy-duty trucks and some construction equipment, including brakes, electrical, engines and fuel systems, hydraulics, drive lines/drive trains, tool usage, welding and general knowledge of vehicles.

Przygoda also qualified a year ago. He was runner-up at state in the same competition and finished 24th nationally.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 2008

Rend Lake College's Josh Curry, 20, of Benton, finished fourth in the Criminal Justice Division of SkillsUSA – a national competition that starts locally, moves up to the state level and finishes with a nationwide contest among more than 5,000 participants in numerous fields.

Curry can boast of being the best RLC student ever to compete in the Criminal Justice Division; in fact, he represented the first local student to do so in that division.

RLC Freshman Michael Mosler (Mt. Vernon) finished eighth in Architectural Drafting and Sarah Lee (Mt. Vernon) was 12th in Advertising Design.

To even get to Nationals, students had to be a first-place finisher at state. Competition was even stiffer than previously since this is the first year students enrolled at four-year institutions were allowed to enter.

DISTANCE LEARNING, TOO ▶ **RLC Elderhostel debut in '95 includes Big Bands, Ballroom Dance, Wildlife**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE NOVEMBER 1995

With little fanfare locally, Rend Lake College made a successful debut on the national Elderhostel scene last week.

A total of 40 senior citizens from across the country took part in the six-day package arranged by Community Services Coordinator Dave Davenport.

Guests stayed at the Rend Lake Resort. The program included:

- "The Golden Age of Big Bands," taught by Bob Carlock Sr. of Hillsboro and Bob Killen of St. Louis.
- "Ballroom Dancing," under the direction of retired Health and Fitness Instructor Dorothy McClintock of Thompsonville.
- "Wildlife and Attractions of Rend Lake," with daily tours to various sites.

The visitors witnessed snow geese flying in at the Nature Preserve southwest of Bonnie on Monday; toured the Rend Lake Visitors Center and heard a presentation by the Corps of Engineers Tuesday; spent Wednesday on the Rend Lake College campus discovering "Distance Learning" and "Communications for the Next Century" with Barbara and Dave Davenport; enjoyed a walk around the Rend Lake Nature Trail on Thursday, and had a chance Friday to stop at the Southern Illinois Arts and Crafts Marketplace before heading home.

"One of the couples indicated they had been to over 60 Elderhostel programs and they would rate this one among the top three or four they had ever been to," said a pleased Dave Davenport.

For Gaylord Zimmerman of Silver Springs, MD, the Rend Lake College program represented his 81st Elderhostel experience. Others came from New York, South Carolina, Minnesota and Indiana, Davenport recalled off the top of his head. Many were from the Chicago suburbs.

"Several said they thought it was more enjoyable because it involved more couples than usual," he added.

Participants must be 55 years of age or older. The majority are retired professional people. Programs must be sponsored by a "learning organization," to fit the national motto, "Learning Never Ends."

"Everything went great all week. It could not have gone much better," added Davenport, who plans the same basic format for next fall's program, with minor variations.

There was even a waiting list of 13 for the first one. "One couple said if there was a last-minute cancelation to let them know and they would be here. Some of those who participated said they would be back next year even if it was the exact same program."

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE NOVEMBER 1996

The Elderhostel program, jokes RLC Coordinator Dave Davenport, is "just like 'College for Kids,' except their parents don't come pick them up at the end of the day."

Despite this lack of parental supervision, 52 participants were happy campers this past week (November 11-15) during Rend Lake College's second venture into the national program that encourages educational opportunities for senior citizens.

Mt. Vernon resident John Powell, a veteran of 24 Elderhostel programs, served as the host.

Carlock Sr.-Killen returned with a new

program, "Famous American Composers." Another difference from the 1995 introductory program was "Masters of American Painting," presented by Mitchell Museum representative Monique Desormeau.

"Sites and Attractions of Rend Lake" was repeated with field trips, as were a tour of campus for the Davenport's "Communications" presentation and a visit to the S.I. Artisans Marketplace.

New this time: golf at Rend Lake Golf Course, courtesy of Pro D.W. Davis, and trips to Players Riverboat Casino at Metropolis and Mitchell Museum in Mt. Vernon.

The Rend Lake College program is advertised nationally through Elderhostel, Inc. of Boston, MA.

'STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS' ▶ Participants like Mitchell, Bourland help Art Auction raise over \$12,000

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 2000

To say the annual "Students for Students" Art Auction sponsored by the RLC Art League benefits many people would qualify as a gross understatement.

The fifth annual event cosponsored by the RLC Foundation and held recently at the Rend Lake Resort Convention Center attracted a full-house of appreciative art patrons. When the bidding was over and the last hors d'oeuvre served, approximately 240 donated items had helped raise just over \$12,000 for a worthy cause - scholarships for future art students.

It was easily the most successful of the "Students for Students" Art Auctions, nearly doubling last year's total that was impressive in its own right. Support provided by the RLC Foundation the last three years has made a considerable impact in helping raise the quality of an event that has become one of the college's most anticipated and successful ventures.

Twenty different single works of art contributed by current and former students, faculty, staff and friends of the program brought bids of at least \$100 each. A painting and the promise of a portrait-to-come by former student, current part-time in-

structor and Professional Illustrator Melissa McClement-Engler were responsible for the highest bids, \$525 and \$450, respectively.

Nine major pieces by Auction Coordinator Therese D. Howard, easily the most prolific of the contributors, accounted for better than \$2,000 of that total. RLC Art Program cohort Sarah Capps, the best known of the bunch, raised the count considerably with her array of prints, original paintings and numerous pieces of ceramics and jewelry.

The most obvious of those many benefits: Part of the profits will be returned almost immediately to second-semester art students, while a large portion will go toward endowed funds to ensure ongoing scholarships for many years to come.

Among the other benefits: The exposure gained by the artists involved and the art lovers who will enjoy their purchases for years to come.

Meet Megan Mitchell, artist, and art patron, Dave Bourland.

Mitchell is a senior majoring in art at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. A native of Opdyke, Mitchell was recipient of the "Students for Students" special award for her contributions, both as a student in the program from 1996-98 and in her present position as a graduate/friend.

She donated art work - at least 13 pieces - that brought in over \$750, including a mosaic table that raised the bidding wars to \$135 and a gold-foil embossment worth \$125 to the purchaser. She also was a buyer, obtaining an Egyptian-motif head of a woman and jewelry, both created by one of her mentors, Capps.

Mitchell was representative of the many students who donate to help future students and as a thank-you to Capps and Howard "for the special nurturing they give to all of their students."

Nobody out-bid Bourland on a regular basis. He is curator of the Illinois Executive Mansion. He was buying in order to help decorate Governor's mansions in Springfield and DuQuoin (State Fairgrounds), as well as the offices of both Governor and Mrs.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

BUSINESS 'PLAN' CITED AS STATE MODEL
RLC's work with business and industry has been cited as one of two model programs statewide, along with that of Moraine Valley, following a survey of Illinois community colleges. From field tests at the two institutions, a model will be developed for others to follow, particularly in high-technology areas. / January '84

D. A. V. T. E. REPORT 'MOST POSITIVE'
A visit by the Dept. of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education resulted in "the most positive report I have ever dealt with . . . or read," noted the team leader. "We found many aspects . . . outstanding." / February '84

PRACTICAL NURSING GRADUATES PERFECT
Practical Nursing grads in 1983 were perfect - 47-47 - sitting for State Board Exams with a record 551.5 average score (513.1 State, 530 National). Two years later, 55 of 57 passed with a 554 average / 1983 & '85

DCCA Computer Grant to aid area farm families

NOVEMBER 1990

Rend Lake College is one of three community colleges in the state that will be helping educate area farm families thanks to an Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA) Grant.

RLC will offer computerized Business Management classes as a participant in the project designed to teach members of farm families business and management skills classes in accounting, computers, economics, finance, law, marketing and management.

Also participating are Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield and John Wood Community College in Quincy. Approximately 85 participants are expected to benefit from the series of programs to improve rural life.

The DCCA is distributing \$150,000 in Self-Employment Training (SET) Program funds to create this pilot program. The SET program is part of an overall DCCA Industrial Training Program meant to increase skills of the Illinois work force.

RLC's Practical Nursing grads buck national trend

BOARD MINUTES FEBRUARY 19, 1991
Practical Nursing graduates from Rend Lake College sitting for their State Boards for the first time have maintained a 92 per cent pass rate the last five years. Meanwhile, state and national percentages dropped 3 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively, from 1969-90.



READS volunteer Barham Points of Light recipient

FALL 2002

Rend Lake College America READS Volunteer Vivian Barham of Benton received one of only three Illinois Points of Light Awards presented by Governor George H. Ryan.

Barham and the two other recipients were honored for their dedication and countless hours of volunteering and service to their communities. The awards are administered by the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, a part of the Illinois Dept. of Human Services (DHS).

Barham has assisted Rend Lake College America READS student tutors for the last five years, helping them develop tutoring skills working with their afterschool programs. Her efforts in mentoring the student tutors have helped to improve many students' grades, test scores and confidence levels. America READS tutors typically spend 10-15 hours each week working one-on-one and in small groups teaching reading and literacy skills to grade school students. The program was an initiative of the Clinton Administration and tutors are paid under the Federal Work-Study program.

The primary goal is to have all students reading at their appropriate grade levels by the time they leave fourth-grade. RLC America READS tutors work in both Franklin and Jefferson counties.

"Vivian is an invaluable asset for us," said RLC's Mark Clark. "She is a mentor to my students, who in turn become better tutors under her direction. They go to Vivian when they are frustrated or can't seem to break through to a student and need her guidance."

(Continued at far right on next page)

George Ryan. Others will be given away as state art for state gifts.

Bourland did not become aware of the unique fund-raiser until the night before, when he visited with RLC Dean Bob Carlock at a Chief Financial Officers annual gathering hosted by Rend Lake College. He was curious enough to return to Springfield the next day for two meetings before coming back to Southern Illinois for the auction.

"A lot of things went way too low," he admitted. "The things I bought should have gone for twice the price, at least. It was too good to pass up."

"If I could buy like this all the time, we could save the state a lot of money."

Bourland alluded to a ceramic piece by Capps when he noted, "I've bought enough pottery over the years to know what the value is. I purchased one piece tonight I know people would pay as much as \$120 for, and I got it for \$20."

"I'm not the one who does the buying on a regular basis, but I can tell you when I have the opportunity to buy a piece of pottery or a painting by an artist with the statewide reputation of a Sarah Capps, I'll buy that all day long."

Works by Capps & Friends can be found frequently in public buildings throughout Illinois, as part of the arts program which allows one-half of one percent of the cost of public facilities to be used to purchase art work by Illinois artists for interior decorating and landscaping purposes.

"Capps already is in those collections, which are heavily juried. She's very well known throughout the state."

Bourland is a former gallery owner and antique store owner/operator. He has been involved with restoration work, as well.

"I was bidding many times tonight to help get the price up on some quality pieces. Believe me, I would have been just as happy to have bought half of what I did and the bidding tripled. But I'm thrilled with what I got," Bourland added.

More than likely, he will be back, too. As will Mitchell and most of those who enjoyed an annual event that continues to get better and better for all concerned.

FLOORED BY QUICK SALE ► Watercolor USA 2002 helps Capps see the 'Morning Light' differently

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 26, 2002

The summer itinerary for semi-retired Rend Lake College Art Professor Sarah

Capps did not include a trip to Springfield, MO, earlier this month.

But plans can change.

A lot of things do not go as originally planned, a delighted Capps would have to admit.

Capps recently completed her latest watercolor painting, entitled "Morning Light," just in time to show in the annual spring Student-Faculty Art Exhibition on the Ina campus. Then it was off to Watercolor USA 2002, one of the two most prestigious watercolor competitions in the country, to test its competitive value.

Capps called the large masterpiece one of the three best paintings she had ever done, in her estimation.

Imagine then, her thrill, when notified "Morning Light" not only was chosen for inclusion in the 41st annual exhibition at the Springfield Art Museum, it also was named winner of the Joe Manning Memorial \$350 Cash Award.

Never in her wildest imagination, however, did the highly respected Midwest artist from Belle Rive expect to have to part with the artwork so soon. An unusually high price tag on the entry – an indication Capps was not ready to give it up anytime soon – did not deter some art patron from appreciating Capps' talents and meeting her asking price.

"Morning Light" was selected as a major Patron Purchase award-winner as well.

"Watercolor USA 2002 is the finest exhibition of its kind in America and recognition as the recipient of these awards serves you and your work well," Springfield Art Museum Director Jerry A. Berger said in his notification letter. "Please accept my sincere congratulations on this achievement."

"I'm thrilled, obviously," commented Capps, who will continue to teach part-time for the college for at least the next three years after her official retirement as a full-time instructor was accepted earlier this spring.

"But I'm also sad in a way, because I am going to miss the painting. I wasn't planning on selling it right away – that's why I put a big price on it – because I like to show my work at exhibits for awhile and share it with others."

Before anyone starts feeling sorry for the award-winner, it should be pointed out she readily admits she "started running around in circles after being notified of the Patron Purchase Award. I was really floored by it. I couldn't believe it."

"I have had a couple of other pretty big ones before, but this probably is the biggest one to date that I have ever sold." A contributor to Watercolor USA receives 75 percent of the purchase price.

A Preview Reception was held June 7, with the show scheduled to run from June 8 through August 4.

Watercolor USA is a national juried exhibition open to artists 18 years of age or older residing in the United States or its possessions. Entries must be painted on paper or "paper derivative" using a water-based medium. Each year a different judge from around the country is asked to review and select paintings for the exhibition.

A total of 523 artists representing 45 states and the District of Columbia submitted 979 watermedia artworks for consideration by this year's juror, Kenneth L. Schuster, Director and Chief Curator of the Bradford Brinton Memorial in Big Horn, WY. He chose 118 paintings by 113 artists for inclusion.

Since 1962, the primary purpose of the exhibition has been to recognize and encourage watermedia painting, as well as to further stimulate collecting original works of art. Approximately \$40,000 in cash, patron and Springfield Art Museum purchase awards were included this year.

"Morning Light" was the second piece accepted from Capps into this prestigious exhibit. The first was in 1997. "There Were Giants," depicting a large sycamore tree, is now in a private collection.

The other member of Capps' personal favorites, "Awakening," represents another view, a different time of day, of the same tree. She still owns that piece, which was displayed as part of the Illinois Women of Arts Exhibition, "New Millennium."

The setting for "Morning Light" is a familiar one for the photo-realist painter. She has done numerous scenes of the creek which runs through Franklin County with a bluff of her native Belle Rive in Jefferson County in the background. Even more meaningful to her, the serene setting features part of three acres of land inherited by the artist on one side and land owned by her good friend and Snowflake resident, RLC President Mark S. Kern, on the other.

"It probably is my 'signature' painting," she admits. "It is a subject I probably have painted a dozen times. All different seasons. This one is a scene from early spring - my favorite time to paint it - with Blue Belles in it and touches of green. The water is really clear . . . I like painting water."

Added Capps, "It is a place I enjoy going to when I want to get away from the rest of the world for a brief time."

Just as the peaceful surroundings continue to inspire her, so does the recognition of her work. Inspired by her largest purchase award in a long career? "Yes," she conceded. "I set up my palette the other night and started thinking about what I want to work on next."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 1984

[Eighteen years before her latest recognition, Capps earned one of four \$1,500 Purchase Awards in the Second Annual "Realism Today" competition at the Evansville (IN) Museum of Arts and Sciences and took time to reflect on her craft to that point in her career. Excerpts from that story . . .]

Known throughout the Midwest for her metalsmith pieces, the artist noted, "It has only been in the last four years - since returning home to Southern Illinois - I have again pursued painting seriously.

"I have been continually inspired by the local people," she added, "many of them desperately poor but retaining a simple dignity and independence. I also have a deep love for this area and the kind of beauty you find only in midwestern landscape. These are the sources of most of my paintings."

Capps has taught at Rend Lake College the past four years (full-time the last two). Prior to returning to the area, she was an Assistant Professor for seven years at Eastern Kentucky University and spent time as a lecturer on crafts-jewelry and metalsmithing at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and was a Teaching Assistant at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale as well as a scientific illustrator at SIU, where she received both her Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts degrees.

Her works have been shown in 37 exhib-

* - * - *

Juror: RLC Art 'head and shoulders' above others

SPRING 1989

Michael Onken, the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Art Professor who served as the lone juror for the 1989 RLC Student Art Exhibit, stated in a follow-up letter to college administrators: "In my view, the Art program at Rend Lake College stands head and shoulders above its peers and, in some cases, well above many institutions of higher learning."

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READS Barham (cont.)

In addition to volunteering for READS, Barham has volunteered at Benton Grade School for five years. She tutors students and helps them develop stronger study skills. Barham also discovered a group of first-graders who needed someone to listen to them read because they were not receiving individual attention at home.

According to teachers of those with whom she has worked, students now come to class better prepared and ready to participate in class discussions. Teachers, tutors and students alike agree Barham plays an integral role at Benton Grade School and RLC.

Barham was nominated for the award by Clark, RLC Cooperative Education and Employment Services Specialist, and Sharon Clements, Reading Recovery Teacher at Benton Grade School and on-site coordinator for Rend Lake College America READS.

AEROBICS FITNESS CENTER APPROVED

Trustees approved an Aerobics Super-Circuit Fitness Center consisting of exercise machines and bicycles in series for the purpose of maintaining overall physical conditioning on an individualized basis. / March 18, 1986

R.L.C. HEADED TO MENARD CORRECTIONAL

Trustees approved a Department of Corrections contract June 17 to provide academic and vocational credit programs for inmates in Menard Correctional Center in Chester, as early as September 1. / Fall 1986

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

1985 - 1986

1986 - 1987



Metro-East PIC salutes Truck Driver Training

OCTOBER 1995

The Truck Driver Training program was recognized by the Metro-East Private Industry Council (PIC) during its annual awards ceremony September 20 at the Collinsville Holiday Inn. PIC honors individuals, companies and programs that "made significant contributions to local Jobs Partnership Training Act accomplishments."

In 1994, the local SDA referred 28 people to the program. All 28 earned certification and CDL licenses, and 23 obtained training-related employment.

RLC's Brian Fulton and six others earned Participant Awards for their determination and perseverance while overcoming barriers to reach academic and work-related goals.

JTPA programs in a seven-county area to the east of St. Louis were recognized.

The synopsis provided for Fulton's success story . . .

"It is not easy for a young, recently married, high school dropout with dyslexia and a court record to 'turn things around,' but Brian Fulton has succeeded.

"His JTPA assessment indicated that truck driving would be a suitable training and career match for him if he could just get by until he could overcome his visual perception difficulties and complete training. The Illinois Department of Public Aid assisted with food stamps, the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services provided glasses, Rend Lake College provided special tutoring during the JTPA-funded training and Court Services agreed to wait for payment of court fines. As a result, Brian completed his training and was hired in April 1995 as a truck driver at the hourly wage of \$10.50."

its in 12 different states, including a "Best of Media" award recently in the "Southern Illinois Artists Open Competition" at Mitchell Museum in Mt. Vernon.

Capps has had several of her works published in trade magazines and newspapers such as *The Atlanta Journal* and *The Atlanta Constitution* newspaper, the *Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal and Times* and *Metalsmith*.

"Although I have had considerable painting experience in the past, I had hardly picked up a brush during my metalsmithing days (nearly 10 years)," the artist informed exhibit officials.

FINE ARTS IN 1976 ▶ Parallel two-year Music curriculum viewed as model program for others

PRESSING TIMES JANUARY 22, 1976

Rend Lake College has several characteristics that set it apart from other two-year institutions in Illinois . . .

One honored distinction is the Fine Arts Department and the two-year University Parallel curriculum.

RLC's two-year program is viewed as a model program in music throughout the

state. Plans are being made for similar programs in the areas of Speech-Theatre and Art. Courses are available to people not majoring in these areas, as well as those who want to continue further study at a four-year school.

The Fine Arts Department does not confine itself to the classroom. College performers travel to other communities, and performers from other communities are brought to the campus by the Fine Arts Department, Illinois Student Music Educators Association Chapter and the Collegiate Choir.

In a recent report prepared by Larry Phifer, Chairman of the department, he said, "An interesting point in the majority of these performances (presented by Fine Arts Department students) is that even with the exceptional number of performances presented by these groups, the cost to RLC has been practically nil, as students have provided their own costuming, handled their own set construction and the majority of concert and show set-ups, and have received no mileage for travel from RLC."

Members of the Community Chorus

R.L.C. TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING HISTORY ▶

Year	No. of Classes	Weeks/Class	Students		Students Total	Students Completers	Success Rate
			Male	Female			
FY1991		3					
FY1992		3					
FY1993		3					
FY1994		3					
FY1995		3					
FY1996	16	3	136	14	150	149	99.3%
FY1997	16	3	139	20	159	157	98.7%
FY1998	17	3	126	26	152	150	98.7%
FY1999	15	4	85	19	104	103	99.0%
FY2000	12	4	91	18	109	106	97.2%
FY2001	21	4	74	7	81	76	93.8%
FY2002	23	4	106	9	115	114	99.1%
FY2003	22	4	68	10	78	78	100.0%
FY2004	19	4	58	5	63	59	93.7%
FY2005	23	4	73	4	77	74	96.1%
FY2006	22	4	71	9	80	78	97.5%
FY2007	21	4	75	6	81	78	96.3%
FY2008	21	4	63	6	69	67	97.1%
FY2009	20	4	71	2	73	70	95.9%
FY2010	20	4	72	3	75	70	93.3%
FY2011	19	4	60	5	65	64	98.8%
FY2012	14	4	44	2	46	41	89.1%
FY2013							
FY2014							
FY2015							
TOTAL						1,534	

give at least three performances a year. Collegiate Choir, a group which started in 1969 with 16 members, has now grown to a 30-member choir and has given approximately 18 performances in six years, according to Phifer's report. Both the Concert Band and Symphony Orchestra have given many performances on- and off-campus, and the Stage Band plays at all home basketball games as well as regular performances.

The facts and figures show Rend Lake College music students produce while they are enrolled here, but how do they perform when they compete with four-year college students their junior year?

Four RLC students who graduated last year – Carol Dilley, Brad Burzynski, Kendra Cook and Cathy Mattingly – have had successful moves from RLC to four-year schools.

Burzynski, a junior trumpet major, attends Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, where he has first chair in Concert Band and University Orchestra, and solo trumpet in the IWU Stage Band. Cook is a junior Voice major at Thomas Road Baptist College in Virginia and recently appeared on a nationally televised broadcast with a college group.

Mattingly and Dilley are enrolled at Illinois State University in Normal. Mattingly is majoring in Music Therapy. Dilley's major is Voice. They are both members of the ISU Madrigal Singers, a select group of 16 students.

Dilley's sister, Nancy Gibbs, and her husband, Brett Gibbs, are graduates of the RLC University Parallel program. In his report, Phifer quotes Brett and Nancy Gibbs on their feelings regarding RLC's program: "We both felt after Rend Lake College we were completely prepared for our third year as Music majors at the university where we transferred."

Brett Gibbs is currently Director of Music at Shawnee College. [He later joined the highly regarded Music program at Mt. Vernon Township High School as Orchestra Director.] His wife is a substitute teacher.

Courtney Cox, another RLC Music graduate, transferred to Illinois Wesleyan University and is a Graduate Teaching As-

sistant in Music Theory at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX.

Cox is quoted in the Fine Arts report: "When I left Rend Lake College and went to a four-year school as a junior, I was afraid I would be behind those students who had entered as freshmen, but this was not necessarily the case . . . Stressing individual attention is what makes a junior college program strong."

Rend Lake College's distinction as a leader in the two-year University Parallel program is an honorable distinction.

~ Sherri Hobbs

110 STUDENTS ENROLLED ▶ Non-majors still find Music program to be attractive alternative for studies

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN MARCH 16, 1977
BY MERRILL PERLMAN

Gayla Eubanks is studying to be an accountant. Yet she admits she spends more time with her flute or piccolo than with her Accounting books.

Ms. Eubanks, 19, from Mt. Vernon, is one of more than 110 students in the Music program at Rend Lake College in Ina.

Mike Avery, 20, also of Mt. Vernon, is another student in Rend Lake's program. He is one of the 16 students in the program who is planning a career in music. He is a composer and a vocal student.

Ms. Eubanks and Avery said there are few differences between them.

Ms. Eubanks said she practices five to six hours a week, in addition to her two instrumental ensembles and private lessons.

Avery said he practices about seven hours a week, in addition to his two vocal ensembles, private lessons and composing.

"When we do stuff like that, it is not practicing," Avery said. "It's more enjoyable, relaxing. I compose because it's more enjoyment."

Avery said he and Ms. Eubanks are treated the same in all of their classes, although he is a Music major and she is not.

"There is no wall between us. A lot of people who aren't Music majors who enjoy music and want to learn more about it are taking it," he said.

That is one of the pluses of Rend Lake



Concert Choir joins JAL for Disney Magic Music

JUNE 2008

ORLANDO – Members of the Rend Lake College Concert Choir recently took their sound from Southern Illinois to the Magic Kingdom.

Eight students and RLC Music Director Sara Alstat performed June 5 with students from John A. Logan and their director, Nathan Arnett, at Walt Disney World's Magic Music Days.

RLC participants were Jay Meagher (Geoff), Brittanie Graham (Woodlawn), Savannah Harrell (Mt. Vernon), Eric Wakefield (Benton), Matt Coble (Mt. Vernon), Britt Fullerton (Ashley), Julie Faling (Christopher) and Jeremy Adams (Creal Springs).

The students performed three selections from "The Great Collaborators" Spring Concert. They sang under a pavilion for visitors to Disney's Magic Kingdom.

"I was so happy they were able to have that opportunity," she said. "Most college students don't get to experience how it feels to perform at Disney."

They also met Disney's most beloved character, Mickey Mouse, during a workshop with a Walt Disney World veteran sound engineer. In the workshop, students learned how music is recorded and put to digitally animated movies. They rehearsed and performed two Disney songs from the Lion King, which were put to animated footage.

"We performed all the background music and sound effects for segments of the Lion King," Alstat said. "It was neat."

PROGRAM HIGHLITES

S.I.U.E. AWARDS 22 M.B.A. DEGREES

Twenty-two students comprised the first graduating class in the Master of Business Administration Degree program offered by SIU-Edwardsville on the RLC campus since Summer 1986. / January 1989

1987 – 1988

1988 – 1989



Earliest Ag alumni reunite hoping to start a tradition

JULY 2008

More than two dozen Agriculture alumni reunited Friday night (July 25) inside the Mark S. Kern Applied Science Center at Rend Lake College in what hopefully will grow to become a tradition of alumni engagement with the college.

The reunion was limited to RLC alumni who graduated from the Agriculture program when it was located at the old Bonnie Grade School. The invited guests reminisced and caught up on three decades of phylogeny since graduating.

Retired RLC President Mark S. Kern talked with the group before they enjoyed a catered dinner sponsored by the RLC Foundation. Kern spoke about starting the Ag program in July 1968 with the first Department Chair, Ardell Kimmel, and Dean, Carroll Turner, both of whom attended the reunion. Kern started as an Ag Instructor and became head of the department before moving into administration and assuming the role of President in 1991.

The curriculum was written and textbooks and equipment were ordered while the college was still in Mt. Vernon. The program – mechanics, production and business in the agricultural field – occupied three classrooms and the gym at the old Bonnie Grade School.

“We had, probably, the only shop with a hardwood floor,” Kern said. “By Christmas, we had broken through that hardwood floor.”

There was some discussion as to how many students took classes in the first year. Kern said they had nine in one class. “I think we hit double digits,” Turner replied.

“I don’t remember it being that
(Continued at far right on next page)

College’s program, said Courtney Cox, one of the instructors and a graduate of the program.

“I expect the same quality of the non-music majors in the ensembles that I expect of the Music majors,” he said.

Rend Lake’s program is designed for Music majors who plan on continuing at a four-year school, said Larry Phifer, Chairman of the Fine Arts Department.

Students who graduate from Rend Lake College are prepared to start their junior years at a four-year college without having to take any extra courses.

Keith Drayton, another instructor, said, “The Music program we offer is the same as a student would get at a four-year institution – as good as any four-year institution.

“I think we really have some advantages here,” Drayton said. “The classes are small and it gives us the opportunity to help the student who doesn’t have the background he really needs to go to a four-year school.”

Cox said, “We have a special thing to offer here that the four-year school doesn’t in that we have special attention here.”

Avery said he will miss that attention when he transfers to Illinois State University at Normal this year.

“I like the smallness,” he said. “I don’t think I’d get that much personal attention at Normal my first two years.”

Ms. Eubanks will be transferring to a private college in Tennessee to finish her accounting education.

That college, however, is “very big on music,” she said, which partly figured in her choice.

The instructors said most of the Music majors who graduate from Rend Lake College go on to four-year schools.

Cox said the program is not designed as a two-year program, and most people planning careers in music need four years of college education.

Phifer said Rend Lake College attracts between 60 and 80 percent of the students from area high schools who major in Music.

Cox said there are some students who plan to major in Music who should not attend Rend Lake College.

“The student who shouldn’t come here is probably the person who is an excellent performer,” Cox said. That student would not get to perform as much as in a four-year college program.

Rend Lake College has six performing ensembles – Concert Band, Stage Band,

orchestra, Collegiate Choir, Community Chorus and an eight-member Vocal Minority.

These groups perform mostly at the college or local high schools.

The orchestra is a group separate from the college – it receives no college funds except for the use of an instructor and practice rooms.

The orchestra is the Rend Lake Symphony, which originated in Mt. Vernon years before the college was formed. It is open to anyone who can pass an audition, and only a few Rend Lake College students.

It is supported by proceeds from concerts and paid memberships in the Rend Lake Symphony Society.

Drayton directed the symphony for several years and Cox now is directing it.

“It is a tough organization to keep going in this area,” Cox said. One problem is only one high school in the college district – Mt. Vernon – has a string program. That means the orchestra has to hire outside string players while other members play for free.

The lack of string programs in the other high schools is indicative of deficiencies in the high school programs, Cox said.

Too much emphasis is put on performances in the high schools rather than theory, Cox said.

The instructors, Avery and Ms. Eubanks all said the facilities at the college help make the program better.

Five private, soundproof practice rooms are available, as is a \$14,000 grand piano the college bought for \$7,000.

In one of the classrooms is a \$13,000 electric piano that has 12 other pianos connected to it for class work – the instructor controls the other 12 and can listen in on all or one while students are playing.

The college also has spent about \$1,200 on clarinets and \$800-\$900 on brass instruments. Each time a group performs, the music costs about \$250, Phifer said.

The college Theatre is equipped with a hydraulic stage section that can be raised to the level of the rest of the stage or lowered eight feet below floor level to become an orchestra pit.

Phifer added, “The Board did not skimp when it equipped us. That is to its credit.”

FIRST OF ITS KIND ▶ **Two-week ‘Spring Fling’ celebrates Fine Arts thanks to 22 special events**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 1976

“Spring Fling ’76: A Celebration of the

Arts," will be held on the Rend Lake College campus beginning Tuesday, April 20. Sponsored by the RLC Fine Arts Department, the festival will be comprised of 22 informative as well as entertaining events dealing with numerous areas of the arts.

Larry Phifer, Chairman of the Fine Arts Department, said the celebration is the first of its kind to be held at Rend Lake College. "There will be something for everyone in the community to enjoy," he said.

Workshops featuring several artistic techniques, musical presentations, literary readings and a quilting display are some of the events on tap for a celebration which has been dubbed an area-wide "salute to the arts." It will conclude May 3.

Opening the busy schedule April 20 will be a concert by the Benton High School Chorus and Madrigal Singers at noon, a rug-hooking demonstration by Benton's Marlene Webb from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and a Bicentennial musical entitled, "Let George Do It," by the Mt. Vernon Casey Junior High Chorus at 7:30 p.m.

Poetry buffs will not want to miss the "Poets Corner" scheduled for Wednesday, April 21. Dr. Howard Rawlinson, College Dean, will conduct the noon session.

Thursday, April 22, will be highlighted by a Quilting Workshop with Genevieve Bakel of Mt. Vernon from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; a concert by the Mattoon High School Robed Choir and Green Wave Singers at 3 p.m., and a Piano Master Class with Terry Martin, RLC Piano Instructor, at 7:30 p.m.

The following day, Friday, April 23, will feature a noon concert by the RLC Choir and Brass Ensemble, including their version of "Song of America." A Silkscreen Demonstration will be conducted by Art Instructor Susan Kolojeski from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

A gala concert by the Rend Lake Civic Symphony will be presented Saturday, April 24, at 8:15 p.m. in the RLC Theatre. The weekend will conclude with "A Survey of American Song" performed by June Johnson and Alan Aulabaugh, both Eastern Illinois University instructors.

An original film entitled "Tarzan," pro-

duced by Rend Lake College Student Tom Winston, will be shown Monday, April 26, at noon, and a Voice Master Class will be conducted from 9-11 a.m. by June Johnson.

Those interested in literature, poetry and creative writing will want to attend the "Words in Play" Workshop from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The session will be directed by Bob Randolph and Bob Seiters, both of Carbondale. A Reader's Theatre will be held at 7:30 p.m., with original selections by Rend Lake College Student Tom Nance.

The Reader's Workshop will be continued at noon, Wednesday, April 28, and a Cyanotype Demonstration with Barbara Hogansen will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Thursday, April 29, will feature a Photo-Silkscreen Workshop with David Gilmore, a Photo Instructor at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The film, "Tarzan," will be shown at noon, with a concert by the RLC Wind Ensemble and Stage Band concluding the day's events at 8:15 p.m.

The final two days of "Spring Fling '76: A Celebration of the Arts," will salute classical music with the Central Illinois Bach Society's presentation of two short operas at 8:15 p.m. Friday, April 30. Featured will be Mozart's "The Impresario" and Menotti's "The Telephone."

The schedule concludes Monday, May 3, with a concert by the Rend Lake Civic Symphony and the RLC Community Chorus at 8:15 p.m.

"We are hoping people in the area will participate in this first-of-a-kind event, which will have a Bicentennial flavor to it," said Phifer. The public is urged to attend.

KEEP ON TRUCKIN' ▶ RLC Truck Driver Training program continues to thrive in changing times

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 1999

The Truck Driver Training program is not what it used to be when it started at Rend Lake College in June 1990.

• For one, the program now takes four weeks to complete instead of three. Contact hours required are at 160, up 10 hours, and the training day is shorter, from 8 a.m.-5

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Ag alumni reunite (cont.)

good," Kern chuckled.

The program quickly gained steam and enrollment increased. "People would drive from Salem and Nashville to come to the Rend Lake College Ag program," Kern said.

Dan Tinsley – one of the event's co-organizers with Kern, Wayne Hails, David Scott and Bill South – gave some insight as to why the program may have been attractive to young men in the late 1960s and early '70s.

"It wasn't a fox hole in Vietnam," Tinsley said.

However, on one evening in April 1973, the Ag Mechanics shop was a dangerous place to be. A tornado ripped through the school, bringing the shop's roof to the floor and destroying the Ag facilities.

"Thank goodness it happened at night because some people would have been hurt, maybe worse, if it would have been during the day," Kern said.

He added faculty and staff were able to get the program back up and running without missing too many classes due to students being close to the internship phase of their training. The program soon moved onto the Ina campus where it occupied the maintenance building – a "far cry" from the \$2.7 million, 22,000 square-foot Mark S. Kern Applied Science Center where it is housed today.

Of the 80 alumni on the list for Friday night's festivities, 70 are surviving and about 28 showed for the reunion.

'PROJECT FIRST CLASS' FUNDED

Tutoring services and motivational programs for minority students will be backed by a \$60,000 HECA Grant funded by the Illinois Board of Higher Education for RLC, which will hire a teacher/counselor and offer programs. Project backers: Mt. Vernon Grade School and High School Districts and SIUC. / September 13, 1989

TECH PREP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

"Schools are going to have to change," 44 educators from eight area high schools, three state universities, host RLC, local industry and other agencies were told at the initial Tech Prep Advisory Committee meeting. / October 2, 1990

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

1989 - 1990

1990 - 1991



Beauty Culture program in Benton and Mt. Vernon

FALL 1977

Rend Lake College offers Beauty Culture (Cosmetology) classes at two off-campus sites – the RLC School of Beauty Culture, located in the Wood Building on the Benton square, and through Richland Beauty Academy in Mt. Vernon.

Classes are concerned with principles of beauty culture as well as general education, including Communications and Psychology. A total of 1,500 contact hours are required.

After completing the one-year program, students are eligible to sit for the state exam required to become a licensed Beauty Culturist in Illinois.

The Cosmetology program got its start in Benton in 1969. It was located then at a facility at 114 West Church Street.



Little Egypt Theatre unique training for regional youth

FALL 1977

A unique program for economically disadvantaged youth is designed to provide students with multifaceted educational experiences involved in the crafts of staging a theater production.

Eleven students ranging in age from 14-20 are benefitting from funding through Title III of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973.

Under the direction of Pat Patterson, members of the Little Egypt Regional Theatre will present "I Do! I Do!" on August 5-7 and "Never Too Late" August 26-28 in the RLC Theatre.

p.m. The increase in length adds up to fewer graduates each year, down considerably from the peak of 159 just two years ago.

- Approximately one in five students the last few years is female.
- Classes are offered for college credit, taught by college instructors who are certified through the Secretary of State Office.

But then again, some things never change: It is safe to say nearly 100 percent of those successfully completing the program can find employment in the trucking industry if they want to go to work.

"We advertise our placement rate at '80 percent or higher,' but that is because some really don't want to work and others take jobs not related to truck driving," explained Lisa Payne, Director of the Center for Business and Community Services and Coordinator of the Truck Driver Training program.

"For those who want a job in the truck driving field and have a clean driving record, I'd say our placement rate is very near 100 percent. We do a lot of work regarding placement with those in the industry and get a lot of cooperation with them in return."

Where else, Payne asks, can a person be trained in four weeks and be making \$30,000 soon thereafter? "There is a tremendous demand for drivers. There aren't enough to go around," she added.

What type of individual is taking advantage of truck driver training? Suffice to say, it takes all kinds.

The program was started to satisfy Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) needs of coal miners who were experiencing layoffs in Southern Illinois. Today, about 40 percent of the college truckers receive financial support through JTPA or the Department of Rehabilitation Services.

That means six out of 10 are attending at their own expense. "From the beginning, we had so many people from the area calling to say they wanted to take classes, too; that is why we opened it up to the general public," Payne said.

The influx of women drivers can be attributed in large part to single parents seeking to earn a living and wives or girlfriends who want to drive with their husbands/boyfriends and keep the combined income in the household.

In addition to dislocated workers, RLC Instructors Mark Ford and Russ Clendenin are seeing more and more retirees looking for a change in lifestyle.

"We have trained people from all walks

of life," Payne commented. "I know of two with Doctorate degrees and another who had his Master's Degree. Many of the women are the wives or girlfriends of former students we have trained; as a team, they can go on the road for extended periods and be happy because they are together. It makes for better employees. The older ones we get usually have no more daily responsibilities, due to divorce or loss of a spouse, and have decided they want to go on the road and see the country."

Many are turning to truck driving because the other opportunities they are finding locally are minimum-wage positions. Drivers earn much higher salaries without having to relocate.

According to Payne, "One company we work with is guaranteeing their drivers they will be home weekends and at least once during the week. You may see more of that. Conversely, we used to see some of our graduates later as small-business clients after they have saved up their money to buy their own rig. We probably will see less of that now with all of the increases in licensing fees and regulations."

Many current students are enrolled to earn a CDL Class "B" license, which is required to even be considered for state jobs.

Competition has increased tremendously since Rend Lake College opened its first cab door. Yet the program still offers many advantages, noted Payne. Among those cited:

- The program is operated by Rend Lake College employees, and thus carries the same quality and reputation as other college programs. A majority of the other truck driving programs around are leased through other operations.
- Because the RLC program is certified by the Illinois Secretary of State, as are both instructors, representatives from that office come to campus the last two days of classes each session to test at the training site.
- Only newer-model equipment is used. "That is what they work with from Day One," Payne added. "What they learn on is very similar if not the same as what they would begin the job with through a trucking company."
- Cost. Although the \$2,200 fee might seem steep, it is relatively inexpensive in comparison to what most other training schools charge.
- RLC Instructors Ford and Clendenin boast more than 20 years of experience between them. Ford has driven trucks "all

my life." Clendenin is a graduate of the RLC program.

• In addition to the larger, national firms that utilize Rend Lake College graduates and the annual RLC Truck Driving Job Fair to fill their ranks, several smaller local companies have been started in Mt. Vernon, Nashville, Highland and the area. "They try to keep their drivers for a long time, but they will hire four or five or six a year," Payne commented.

Over-the-road companies do not accept applicants under 21 years of age. Some require the minimum age to be 24.

"Most of the people we have who take the class," reiterated Payne, "could take the test on Monday and Tuesday and then go to work as early as Wednesday. Most wait until the following week, but they could go to work immediately if they wanted to."

REND LAKE COLLEGE BOARD MEETING APRIL 2000

Ten students, paying \$2,200 apiece, comprise RLC Truck Driver Training classes taught by two full-time instructors.

The program was certified by the Secretary of State in 1998 and boasts a 99 percent completion rate and 85 percent placement rate. Employment opportunities include over-the-road motor carriers, ag businesses, state/local government and self-employment as owner/operators.

JTPA funds about 68 percent of the students; self-pay students number 30 percent. New initiatives include a joint venture with Southwestern Illinois College and teen accreditation and driver remediation programs.

The RLC training is the least expensive of area community colleges and considerably less than in nearby states. An unemployed person can land a job after four weeks.

BRONZE MEDALLION AWARDS ▶ **New RLC Clock Tower logo a 'winner' along with Wheeler for 'Dey Journey'**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 2010

Rend Lake College and a member of its staff were honored with Medallion Awards last Wednesday during the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District 3 Conference in Indianapolis.

Hundreds of contest entries from college marketing and public relations professionals in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and the Canadian province of Ontario were collected by the organization for Medallion judging.

Rend Lake College was awarded bronze for its new logo featuring the Ina campus clock tower. The logo was developed by college staff, faculty and students, in collaboration with Arthur Agency as part of a rebranding campaign.

"Many of the awards presented that night were the product of one or a few individuals in a department somewhere," RLC Director of Marketing and Public Information Chad Copple said. "It felt great to walk onto that stage and collect an award that represents the hard work and creativity of individuals from all across our campus."

Also receiving a NCMPR Bronze Medallion of Merit was Nathan Wheeler for his feature story, "The Long Journey of Dey Tuach Dey." The story was published in the July issue of *Southern Illinois Sports Connection*, a magazine from High Road Publications. Wheeler is Assistant Director of Marketing and Public Information.

"I am really honored," Wheeler said. "A lot of stories come across my desk. And while most are good in one way or another, none have compared to Dey Tuach Dey. His story is wrenching and uplifting, and I'd like to think he shares this honor with me. I mean, he lived it. I just wrote about it. And that was enough pressure, just to get it right and write it well. I really thank him for telling it to me. It's one of those stories with great lessons around every turn."

Dey Tuach Dey is a cross-country and track runner on full scholarship at the University of Arkansas who graduated from RLC in July. He was an All-American at RLC who helped the Warriors to a National Cross-Country title last year.

When he was just 7 years old, civil war entered his village in Sudan, causing him



Upward Bound students aid needy with food, toys

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. APRIL 2004

Organizers and participants in Rend Lake College's Upward Bound program hope to make a tradition of helping the Benton Ministerial Alliance provide food and toys to needy families.

According to Nicki Bowlin, Student Advisor/Coordinator for Upward Bound, students in this college preparatory program collected food and toys, then helped package the items at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Benton and delivered them to families throughout the city the weekend before Christmas. This is the second year in which Upward Bound students helped make the holidays a little brighter for those in need.

"It is a wonderful event that provides a positive impact on the community," Bowlin said. Students from Benton, Sesser-Valier and Zeigler-Royalton high schools took part.

Sara Van of Mulkeytown, a freshman at Sesser-Valier, said the first stop during the December 20 delivery was the home of an elderly woman who indicated it was her birthday. After dropping off her food, the group continued to deliver to other families until coming across another box with the woman's name on it.

The group returned, gave her the package and sang "Happy Birthday." "I really hope we get the chance to do this again and feel the same joy we experienced that day," said Van.

S.I.U.C. INDIVIDUALIZED 2+2 PROGRAM

Southern Illinois University-Carbondale partners with Rend Lake College to offer transfer students-to-be the "Individualized 2+2 Program." It enables certain courses at RLC to fulfill major requirements for SIUC programs. / Spring 1993

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

PRACTICAL NURSING GRADS NEAR-PERFECT

In a three-year period, Practical Nursing graduates sitting for State Board Exams for the first time were nearly perfect - 64-for-67 (95.5%) in 1991, 59-61 (96.7%) in '92 and 54-55 (98.2%) in '93. / 1991-93

Q. WHY DID R.L.C. CROSS THE ROAD?

A. To get across Interstate 57 to educate inmates at Big Muddy River Correctional Center. The DOC contract calls for the college to provide seven Vocational programs and 12 Baccalaureate classes. / Spring 1993

1991 - 1992

1992 - 1993



Art holiday baskets net \$600 for two charities

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. APRIL 2004

The Easter baskets created by Associate Art Professor Therese Howard's students were not the typical candy-and-chocolate bunny types, but they did help raise money for two local charities.

These novelty Easter baskets were conjured up by Howard's Art Appreciation and Art History classes. Each year, students complete similar projects around Easter/Spring and Halloween-Autumn themes and the baskets are sold in a silent auction to benefit charity.

This spring's silent auction raised \$600. Half of the total will go to the Amy Schulz Child Advocacy Center in Mt. Vernon and the other half will benefit the Benton Humane Society.

Each semester, students put their art skills to the test, combining all they have learned about elements and principles of design. Art Appreciation students are required to write an essay on their projects; Art History students must provide precedents describing how projects pertain to actual events or icons in art.

Howard said she usually advises her classes to spend no more than a couple of dollars on their baskets, but the students tend to go over that limit.

"They always do more, but that is good because the students are thinking beyond themselves," Howard commented. Contents of these baskets certainly were creative. They ranged from "Precious Memories" pieces to a picnic basket containing everything needed for an outdoor repast. A medium cooler had necessities for a beach party. Two were cakes, one decorated with hard candy and one iced to resemble stained-glass windows.

to flee with another family. Separated from his own family, Tuach and the group began a perilous hike across unforgiving African plains. Four months later, they arrived at the Ethiopian refugee camp that would prove to be his gateway to America and a better life.

Just this spring, he discovered his family is alive and still living in Sudan. However, his father is gravely ill, leaving Tuach torn between living his dream or finding a way to reunite with a family he once thought lost.

Wheeler said they are considering entering the logo and story into the council's national contest in March.

RELEVANT ISSUES ▶

Partnerships in Education combines GED classes with parenting skills

MT. VERNON FAMILY INVESTMENT EDUCATION CTR. OCTOBER 1996

The Mt. Vernon morning and afternoon General Education Development (GED) classes are dedicating a portion of each class period to focusing on relevant parenting, family and life issues. As a component of the Partnerships in Education, Even Start Adult Education Grant, the curriculum allows parents to prepare for the GED test and employment while learning good parenting skills.

Being an effective parent is a challenge! Using a whole language, cooperative learning model, the Mt. Vernon GED classes have been involved in activities aimed at helping improve parent-child relationships. Parents are looking at old experiences in a whole new way. Discussing how to show children you care, and learning how to use everyday routines as opportunities to help children explore and learn about themselves and the people and things in their world are integrated into daily classes. One parent commented that the class field trip to the car wash to introduce the Science concept of "Rainbows" was something she had never considered before, but one she felt comfortable teaching her daughter.

Family issues impact upon most GED students. Working with real life needs involving budgets, child care, living arrangements, transportation and employment are incorporated into class time spent in Math, Reading, Writing, Social Studies and Science. Hard times come to us all. Helping parents learn to *solve* problems instead of *learning about* problem-solving is a key goal of the programming. Working with parents to arrange the child care, to find the transportation and to prepare for the

job interview are as pertinent, if not more pertinent, to the GED student as preparing for the GED test itself.

The home is a kind of school in which the parents teach their children many lessons simply by being themselves. This is why knowledge of self and perception about oneself is so important. Parents coming into GED classes have been surprised to learn more about birth order's impact on personality development, embarrassed to give themselves credit for past efforts and achievements, and relieved to be assured that life stresses, daily as they are, do not have to defeat us. By becoming sensitive to one's own deepest feelings, parents in turn teach their children the most lasting lessons of life.

Staff and students are working together in a unique context for learning which includes the basics as well as focusing on relevant parenting, family and life issues. By addressing the unique needs of the whole person, the Mt. Vernon GED classes hope to empower students with knowledge and confidence to pass the GED, find employment and meet the challenge of being an effective parent.

~ Lyndy Girten / GED Instructor

CURRICULUM CHANGES ▶

High School Equivalency (HSE) classes will prepare students to take GED Test

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 14, 2014

Big changes are in the midst for Rend Lake College's Adult Education and Literacy program to better prepare students for the new GED® 2014 test. The new curriculum will be taught through High School Equivalency (HSE) classes, formerly known as GED® classes.

HSE classes are eight weeks long and help students improve in language arts, math, science, social studies, computer skills and problem-solving. Students entering into HSE classes will be pre-tested and placed in one of three smaller sections: HSE Plus, HSE Test Prep or HSE Success.

Christina Hutcheson, RLC Adult Education and Literacy Director, said the new HSE classes are divided into the three sections to benefit the individual student and his or her learning needs.

"Our curriculum is now aligned with Illinois Common Core and with College and Career Readiness Standards," said Hutcheson. "We had to make adjustments in the curriculum to benefit the students when changes were made to the GED® test.

After our students pass the GED® test, our coordinators work closely with them on transitioning to college or job training."

The first class, HSE Plus, is a new option designed for Rend Lake College-bound students testing at a higher grade level. Students attending this course will also be enrolled in the First-Year Experience orientation class to improve academic, personal, social and career skills. Students may also qualify for assistance with transportation and tuition for the FYE Orientation course.

"First-Year Experience is a great way to familiarize the new students on campus with all the different student services, activities, clubs and programs available to them," said Hutcheson.

Students placed into HSE Test Prep will prepare to take and pass all four parts of the GED® test with a strong focus on computer and technology instruction. They will also have unrestricted access to online learning sites while enrolled. RLC Adult Education and Literacy coordinators will work closely with the students on transitioning to college or post-secondary job training after passing the GED® test.

Finally, the HSE Success section is designed to help students build on reading and learning practices with additional support in math and problem-solving. The course is a way to improve on basic skills needed for success in the workplace, in the community and for continued education.

Among the biggest changes to the 2014 GED® test are options to take and pay for one test at a time, a new website to serve as a one-stop resource and registration portal for students, immediate notification of test results and the option to choose a convenient test site.

Students can begin pre-registering this month for RLC HSE classes that start September 2. Classes will be held 9 a.m.-noon and 6-9 p.m. four days a week in Benton,

Christopher, Ina, McLeansboro, Mt. Vernon and Pinckneyville. Transportation will be provided to class sites, dependent on the number of enrollees.

RLC's HSE program is funded by the federal and state governments, making it free for students age 16 and up who are not in school and do not have a high school diploma. The Adult Education and Literacy Program also offers tuition waivers for students who meet specific criteria and who want to continue their education at RLC for up to 48 credit hours.

PROJECT FIRST CLASS ▶ Good education for minority students includes college for borderline pupils

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 13, 1989

Tutoring services and motivational programs for minority students will be boosted by a \$60,000 grant funded by the Illinois Board of Higher Education for Rend Lake College.

College officials were notified recently of the Higher Education Cooperation Act (HECA) grant, which will allow Rend Lake College to employ a teacher/counselor and offer programs for prospective students who have the potential to do college-level work but who may be performing below grade-level standards at the present time in grades 7-10 in the Mt. Vernon school systems.

Representatives from Mt. Vernon Grade School District No. 80, Mt. Vernon Township High School District No. 201 and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale also were responsible for cooperating in the project. The grant was written by RLC Director of Resource Development Bob Ross and Associate Dean of Student Services Pam Smith.

Community leaders in Mt. Vernon met



Numerous activities slated for RLC class of 'Seniors'

NEWS RELEASE SUMMER 1977

Rend Lake College offers its area senior citizens a comprehensive program of activities which includes specialized courses for retired persons and activities set up for recreational and social purposes.

Sponsored by Community Services, headed by Mark Kern, the program was initiated two years ago and now serves about 500 senior citizens.

The program was designed to satisfy the needs and interests of in-district residents 60 years of age or older, according to Kern. "Senior citizens make up a large percentage of the population in the district, and since it is our philosophy to serve the community we put forth a lot of effort to set up this kind of service program."

Among benefits offered is a "Gold Card" program. Any district resident 60 or older is issued a Gold Card upon request. The card entitles the individual to free use of college facilities, admittance to athletic events and selected musical and theatrical presentations.

A variety of classes is offered. Trustees approved a tuition waiver for senior citizens. Courses at Senior Citizen Centers are scheduled.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

EASTERN ILLINOIS JOINS R.L.C., D.A.C.C.

RLC and Danville Area C.C. will team with Eastern Illinois University in a \$150,000 "Minority Teacher Identification and Enrichment Program" funded by an IBHE HECA Grant. It will help identify potential teachers among minority students and help enhance necessary skills. / November 1994

VOLUNTEERISM TURNS INTO CREDIT

Students this fall will be able to earn college credit for the first time for their volunteer efforts. "Volunteerism" will reward 32 hours of community service with .5 credit, 64 with 1 credit. / August 1993

AG ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR CITED

Rex Fouts, retired F.S. Services GROWMARK employee, was recognized at the Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner for 26 years volunteering as Chair of the Ag Advisory Council. He has never missed a meeting. / May 1994

AUTO PROGRAM EARNS COVETED STATUS

Auto Technology program is one of only three from Champaign south to merit Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) recognition from NATEF after evaluation of instruction, facilities and equipment. / May 1995

EISENHOWER SCIENCE GRANTS TOTAL \$123,000

Improved science instruction for in-district high schools and establishment of a state-of-art lab on-campus should result from two IBHE Eisenhower Math/Science Education Program Grants totalling \$123,000 awarded RLC - "Biotechnology for High School Faculty and Young Women" for Dr. Sue Trammell and Lisa Reed and a continuation of "Videolab Science" for John Fisher. / February 1994

CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION'S CONSTRUCTION OCCUPATIONS NO. 1

Big Muddy River Correctional Center Instructor John Duncan and RLC Program Director David Vinyard dined at the Governor's Mansion thanks to their Construction Occupations program, selected by the Illinois Council on Vocational Education as the outstanding program in the state. They were joined by RLC V-P Steve Tietz, Director Bob Ross and Assistant Warden Donna Rich-Murdock. / May 9, 1995

CAREER EXPLORATION CAMP

About 40 prep students were introduced by college instructors to 10 vocational fields during the free "Career Exploration Camp" offered by RLC thanks to a Building Fairness Grant. For five days, participants received hands-on learning in two two-hour sessions. / June 1995

1993 - 1994

1994 - 1995



Lifelong learning count up to 33 for Santoro

NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 5, 2007

Ann Santoro is a living definition of lifelong learning.

A resident of GreenTree Assisted Living Center in Mt. Vernon, the 86-year-old RLC student has participated in 33 non-credit courses over six years with the Institute of Lifelong Learning. For her achievement, Santoro was named the Institute's "Student of the Year" during a reception at the One-Room Independence School.

"My advice to anyone who wants to enjoy a happy senior life is simple," said the mother of RLC Professor Dr. Susan Santoro Tomlin. "Stay active and keep learning new things. Your community college can help you with both of these."

By attending Rend Lake College, she has made new acquaintances, stimulated her mind and gained knowledge through the Institute. In addition to her noncredit involvement, Santoro went out on a limb and joined "Topics in Social Science," which earned her three college credits this past summer. She also interacted with traditional students in an intergenerational study, "Generations Connect."

Trustee Hunt Bonan said, "Ann is a true ambassador of Rend Lake College. Her enthusiasm encourages lifelong learning for students of all ages."

"It is a blessing Rend Lake College has so many classes for senior citizens," Santoro said. "I believe it is important to keep your mind active at all ages, but it is especially important as you reach your golden years. I've read learning new things and challenging your mind are important to staying mentally sharp as you age. The programs offered here help me do exactly that."

with Rend Lake College officials Wednesday afternoon to announce the grant approval. Among individuals recognized for their efforts are Dr. Nick Osborne, District 80 Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Pat Garrett, District 201 Superintendent; P.E. Cross, Regional Superintendent of Schools for Hamilton/Jefferson Counties; Odie Farris III, NAACP representative; Rev. James Gordon, SouthTown Youth Project, and Dr. Seymour Bryson, Affirmative Action Officer for SIUC.

"Project First Class," according to Smith, "will focus on raising academic skills and improving the self-esteem of 50 minority students.

"It will encourage students to complete high school and attend college. The project emphasis will be on professional tutoring, parental development and involvement, role-modeling and academic and enrichment activities to increase student success."

Students in the program will be identified by school counselors and others. They will be students who, without intervention, might not progress to the college level.

Available funds also will provide summer opportunities in such classes as mathematics, science and reading at Rend Lake College and weekend enrichment activities on the SIU-Carbondale campus.

At Tuesday night's RLC Board of Trustees meeting, permission was given to advertise and fill the position of "Project First Class" Counselor.

Initiative for "Project First Class" was started last fall in response to concerns articulated by a campus Long-Range Student Recruitment/Retention Planning Committee. Statistics indicate a large number of minority students were not continuing their education through post-secondary programs.

Added Smith: "The college has met several times in the past year with Mt. Vernon minority community leaders and administrators from the school districts. 'Project First Class,' consequently, has broad-based support as it attempts to resolve these concerns. It also complements tutoring initiatives begun by SouthTown Youth Project and the Grade School District 80 in Mt. Vernon. The SouthTown Project, a community-action group, emphasizes excellence in academics by offering free peer-tutoring services two evenings a week to minority and disadvantaged grade school children."

Project funding is through August 31, 1990.

MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS JANUARY 1991
BY KATHLEEN DEBO

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream.

A good education for minority students was part of that dream.

Programs like Project First Class help to achieve that goal, but lack of long-term funding could hamper the program's success, according to Camille A. Jones, Coordinator of the Rend Lake College grant program.

Project First Class is designed to get more minority students into colleges and universities, Jones said. The first goal of the program is to get borderline pupils in high school and junior high to improve their grades.

"You have to look at the strengths and weaknesses. You may find a student getting A's in writing, but below-average grades in other subjects. There's something there that can be tapped," Jones said.

Another goal is to build participants' self-esteem by providing positive role models.

"There are students who have the potential to go to college, but perhaps aren't performing as though they have the ability. The idea is to expose them to as many positive role models as possible and give them good information about college. We hope to foster a desire in them to go on to college," Jones said.

The program, established in August 1989, is funded by the Higher Education Cooperation Act grant provided by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The program has to re-apply for the grant every year, Jones said. "Nothing is guaranteed. You never know how funding will go. You take advantage of the program for as long as it lasts."

The program has not been around long enough to have achieved many long-term goals, but some results are immediate.

"Parents and teachers come in and say they can see the improvement. One mother said her son's grades haven't improved that much, but his attitude has. She said he is trying more and he's more cooperative at home," Jones said.

In some cases, the primary goal has been achieved. Of the eight graduates who participated in the program last year, five are in college and two are in the military; those in the military intend to attend college later, Jones said. Those figures are promising.

However, time – or lack of it – could make all the difference.

New Forensic Science lab helps to examine evidence

NOVEMBER 2007

A new forensic science (crime) laboratory is being used at Rend Lake College. Criminal Justice students now have the opportunity to examine a variety of physical evidence commonly found at crime scenes in the lab facility.

The increasing application of scientific principles to difficult criminal cases has given rise to the general field of forensic science, or science applied to legal problems. That particular area of forensic science which describes the services normally provided by crime labs is known as criminalistics.

"Students using the new crime laboratory will be introduced to the various ways a crime lab examines physical evidence," said RLC Criminal Justice Professor Ed Heischmidt.

A crime laboratory is dedicated to aiding the process of criminal justice. It does this by answering, or helping to answer, vital questions of whether a crime was committed, how and when it was committed, who committed it and who could not have committed it.

There are two distinct activities involved in lab work – gathering evidence at the scene and the scientific analysis of the evidence. The effectiveness of the lab analysis depends on the efficiency of gathering evidence, explained Heischmidt.

Classes using the new lab include Criminalistics - An Introduction to Forensic Science, Crime Scene Investigation and Criminal Investigation.

"This is a good program, but it needs to be around longer than a year," Jones said.

The program's greatest emphasis is on quality time now.

"Even if the program doesn't last, we hope to make enough of an impact on the kids they will carry on their own, though I don't know," Jones said.

Similar programs with longer operation have had good results.

Project Upward Bound, in Carbondale, is one of the oldest minority education programs in the United States, Jones said. That program has been around since the 1960s.

Jones, who used to work with youths in that program, added, "The majority of them attend college. I was a teaching assistant at SIUC, and I actually saw some of the students I had tutored in the program come through my college classes later."

The Mt. Vernon program works with junior high and high school pupils. The seventh- and eighth-graders have tutoring after school at the Kenneth Martin Center, and the high school students are tutored during their study hall periods.

Tutors, some of whom are volunteers, are teachers, staff members and doctoral students.

Pupils also spend time working on computers in the high school library and at the Kenneth Martin Center. They learn computer skills, prepare for exams such as the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, and study physics, math and writing.

"I don't buy computer games," Jones said. "Often, they have fun while learning, but if they are getting ready for college, they don't just learn the easy stuff."

In addition, students take trips each year to Southern Illinois University-Carbondale to get them acclimated to a university environment.

The trips, part of the Regional Career Preparation program at SIUC, bring together approximately 250 youth from throughout the region.

"They are exposed to positive role models, in most cases black, though some are white. The kids also get career and aid information and tips on how to prepare for the ACTs and SATs (college entrance exams)," she said.

Though government regulations only require that the trips occur during the year, Jones said she usually schedules them all for Spring Semester.

"August through December, I see some grades. That tells me who has been going to tutoring and who hasn't," she explained.

Exposing the youth to good role models increases their confidence and belief they can go to college, too.

"Kids need to know that minorities who go to college do exist," she said.

That exposure includes planning cultural events, seeing plays or attending workshops.

In February, students attended a Black History Month program at Rend Lake College, where positive role models gave workshops.

Another cultural event was a program honoring those participants who had good attendance at their tutoring sessions.

Participants also saw a play at SIUC.

Participants go on an annual educational field trip to St. Louis," Jones said. Last year, they went to a science museum.

By and large, students in the program have improved their grades, Jones indicated before adding, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. Some students try harder and some just do better than others."

Jones, who is a doctoral student at SIUC, said she enjoys working with college-preparatory programs. However, she admitted, despite the rewards, there are limitations.

"I have to pull it off by myself. In the black community, there are not enough people with the background and experience to go around," she said.

"AMERICA READS CHALLENGE" ACCEPTED

Rend Lake College is the first downstate community college to respond to President Bill Clinton's "America Reads Challenge" to help ensure every child in the country can read well and independently by the end of third grade. Benton students will benefit. / March 1997

TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING, FULTON SALUTED

The Truck Driver Training program and JTPA student Brian Fulton were recognized by the Metro-East Private Industry Council (PIC) during its annual awards ceremony at the Collinsville Holiday Inn. / September 20, 1995

\$90 SCIENCE LAB A 'BRIGHT IDEA'

Science Instructor Barb Davenport claimed RLC's second "Bright Ideas" Award in three years from the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators for her \$90 Science Lab, a kit with equipment for Microbiology Distance-Learning classes. / Oct. 8, 1995

SUCCESSFUL ELDERHOSTEL DEBUT

Forty senior citizens from across the country enjoyed RLC's debut on the national Elderhostel scene. They stayed at Rend Lake Resort and enjoyed "Golden Age of Big Bands," "Ballroom Dancing" and "Wildlife Attractions of Rend Lake," among offerings. / November 1995

HIGH SCHOOL HONORS CREDIT PROGRAM

High School Honors Credit Program provides unique opportunity for 30 academically talented students to accelerate their college educations. Prep Juniors who qualify can earn 17 pre-college credits in Art, Biology, English, Psychology and Speech. / Summer 1997



Student-prisoner contact via Inside-Out Exchange

NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 2007

The second installment of a unique program at Rend Lake College recently concluded at the Jefferson County Justice Center in Mt. Vernon.

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program takes RLC students and JCJC inmates and asks them to look at issues outside the cell block. The two groups meet face-to-face, six hours each week in a semester, and discuss the criminal justice system – as well as relative, current events in politics, economics and society.

Piloted by Temple University Criminal Justice Instructor Lori Pompa in 1997, Inside-Out has spread nationwide and was introduced to the area earlier this year by RLC Professor Sue Tomlin and Instructor Dave Junkins. It is the first program of its kind in Illinois.

The second Inside-Out class included more nontraditional students and a younger group of detainees. By the end of the course, six inside students and seven outside students had learned more about each other and themselves than they ever thought possible.

Every participant from the outside reported a change in the way he or she views accused or convicted criminals.

Aron said the class helped him realize his prejudices and address them.

"I will not pre-judge a person based solely on being incarcerated," he stated. "(Inside-Out) has given me an opportunity to see inmates as people. Some, under different circumstances, would be friends."

"... After this class, you will never look at crime, the justice system or yourself the same again," stated Cherrish.

(Continued at far right on next page)

That dearth of minorities with advanced education is the reason for the program. The origins of the program go back to the concern of school administrators and community members, Jones said.

"Mt. Vernon clearly had a drop in the number of minority students attending college. School administrators wanted to know why. People here have been working a long time to get this started," according to Jones.

Reasons for the relatively few minorities in college are varied.

"I think some people think they can't afford it. We try to build a scholastic edge so they can compete for scholarships," she said.

Most minority college students are the first generation in their families to go on to higher education.

"Some have had aunts or brothers or cousins, but most are first-generation. Some of the potential first-generation college students are now seventh-graders. That's why a program like this is so beneficial," Jones explained.

Most participants are referred to the program by teachers, though sometimes the youth seek Jones out on their own, and sometimes school administrators call Jones.

"A teacher will say, 'Is this student in the program?' When I say, 'No,' they will say, 'Well, he should be,'" commented Jones.

"Project First Class" tries to work with the parents as well as the pupils, and perhaps for that reason, parental enthusiasm is strong. Parents and youth pick tutoring times convenient for both.

Ultimately, though, no matter how much other people are enthused, the one who really matters is the pupil.

"All you need are kids who want to make the grades. It depends on how much they want to give," Jones said.

Jones stated negative peer pressure is sometimes a problem.

"The kids have to want to do this. Sometimes you get a kid who doesn't want to do a lot, and he tells his friends, 'Don't do that. Oh, don't listen to her.' You have to work around that," she admitted.

Though some students may not be interested, plenty of them are.

"If a student isn't interested, I'll find one who is. But sometimes, with kids, they are not interested one day, but the next day it's 'Miss Jones, Miss Jones, can I talk to you about the project?'" Jones said.

"I try to be optimistic; the children are the future," Jones said, concluding with a

paraphrase from King . . .

"If we don't have a dream, what do we have?"

MINING SCHOLARSHIP GROUP First Inland Steel Maintenance class of 18 coal miners 'graduates' in '77

INLAND STEEL COAL COMPANY INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS 1977
BY R.K. SCHOLES, SUPERVISOR

A "graduation" occurred on campus December 2 when 18 students completed a Coal Mine Maintenance class under the sponsorship of a scholarship from Inland Steel Coal Company.

Starting on February 28, the nine-month class included study and application of coal mine mechanical repair, electricity, hydraulics and welding. Certain instruction concerning mine environment and work habits also was provided.

According to Inland officials, the course was designed to prepare students for careers in mine equipment and systems maintenance, a skill in short supply in the area.

The students will be considered for employment opportunities at Inland's Mine 2 under construction near McLeansboro.

In a program unique to the area, the students selected by Inland personnel in highly competitive evaluation attended classes 40 hours per week and were awarded Inland scholarship stipends. The students, some of whom had previous coal mining experience, came from throughout the Rend Lake area.

A second class of 18 students was started on the college campus December 5.

Inland Vice President E.M. Pace said, "Coal mining is a dynamic, engineered industry requiring skilled, technically oriented employees. These students, as well as those to follow, will be extremely valuable in helping Inland stay abreast of the rapidly advancing technology in mining equipment design and maintenance.

"Inland is committed to fulfill its obligation in the challenge to meet America's energy needs through increased emphasis of coal, and it looks to sources like Rend Lake College for assistance in filling its manpower requirement," Pace said.

ANOTHER WINNER Davenport's '\$90 Science Lab' kit claims second 'Bright Ideas' Award

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN OCTOBER 8, 1995
BY NICK MARIANO

Bright ideas sometimes can be found in the simplest places.

Rend Lake College Science Instructor Barb Davenport knows that. She has been named one of three community college instructors who will receive a statewide award for "Bright Ideas" next month.

It is the second time in three years that a program from the college in Ina has won the "Bright Ideas" award from the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators. Rend Lake College's 1993 "Bright Ideas" award was for a recycling program.

Davenport, 44, of Johnston City, won the prize this year for her "\$90 Science Lab," a kit comprised of laboratory equipment for students taking her Microbiology course via distance learning.

Distance learning is a system linking students to classrooms through monitors and telephone lines that permit two-way communication and visual contact. Rend Lake College installed the system last year, but this is the first year Davenport and several other instructors have used it.

The general belief about distance learning, however, was that classes involving a lab could not be taught except on campus.

Davenport and her portable lab kits proved the naysayers wrong, according to college Vice President Stephen B. Tietz, who nominated Davenport for the award.

"Ever since we heard about distance learning they kept telling us we couldn't teach lab courses. I just thought she was a good example of somebody not being talked out of something without trying," Tietz said.

He also said he believes other science courses at the college and elsewhere will develop similar kits for distance learning. As far as either Davenport or Tietz knew, RLC is the only Illinois college now teaching a laboratory class via distance learning.

Davenport realized that she would have to provide equipment to students taking her course off-campus - at Good Samaritan Regional Health Center in Mt. Vernon - so they could follow the experiments being conducted, she said.

She walked around her lab to decide what equipment they would need. In some cases, she had to be innovative: She knew

the students would need a sink in the kits so she included large plastic dishes.

There also are inoculating loops, sterilized tweezers, Bunsen burners and other standard laboratory tools.

"I just took basic, every-day lab supplies and put them together in a transportable container," she said. "I made four kits for \$90, so we did it very economically."

One kit can be used by four students. She has six students taking the course this semester; three of them in Mt. Vernon. There is no additional fee to students beyond the established laboratory fees that they pay to take the course, Davenport said.

With the kits and distance learning, more students will be able to take her class, she said. Some students have been unable to enroll on campus because of work, children or the lack of transportation.

"It's going to enable us to reach students who might not otherwise take college courses," she said. "Eventually we may be able to reach students in remote areas."

Sharon Bradwisch-Miller, who chaired the "Bright Ideas" committee for the state association, noted Davenport's innovation as one reason she was selected.

But she also said that the low cost of the project helped score points. Other categories in judging include how easily the project could be duplicated at other schools, the appropriateness of the project to a targeted audience and the project's uniqueness.

There were 19 nominations this year.

The "Bright Ideas" awards will be presented in Springfield on November 9, when the winning instructors will give 20-minute presentations on their projects. The two other recipients are from Joliet Junior College and Kankakee Community College, Bradwisch-Miller said.

LOG-ON ▶ Science Associate Prof. Davenport at it again: 'Microbiology' on Internet

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 1998

Microbiology, taught by Associate Professor Barb Davenport, continues to be at the

* - * - *

Inside-Out (cont.)

Likewise, detainees reported their expectations of being judged by outside students dissolve more with each meeting. "It's made me feel like I'm not being judged just because I'm locked up," Adolf stated.

"It changed me 'cause I thought I would be looked at different because I'm locked up," wrote Cino. "There are people out there who want to help you change the way you live. I thank God for Inside-Out because it showed me not to judge a book by its cover."

At the close of the second semester, Tomlin stated, "I'm once again amazed at the intelligence, wit and kindness inside the walls."

"This is, by far, the best class I've taken for understanding human behavior," said Tammy. "You learn as much about yourself as you do about others. If you have a problem finding what is in your heart, this class will help you find it. You may be surprised at what you learn."

Safety is a concern. According to Tomlin, measures are in place to provide a safe environment for all students. There is a strict, first-name only policy. No contact information is exchanged during or after a class is over. Charges against detainees are never divulged.

"The detainees are taking this very seriously," Sheriff Roger Mulch said during the group's final meeting. "This class has been here for two semesters and we have had no problems." Steph stated, "This was the most rewarding eight weeks I have ever spent in school."

PROGRAM HIGHLITES

S. I. C. C. M. CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

The Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM) consortium is celebrating 25 years providing shared health-related programs - Health Information Technology (1988), Medical Laboratory Technology (1993), Surgical Technology (1993) and Occupational Therapy Assistant (1994). / April 1998

BASIC MICROBIOLOGY FIRST ON INTERNET

"Basic Microbiology," taught by Associate Prof. Barb Davenport, will be available over the Internet when Fall classes begin... a first for RLC. At least three more classes are slated for Spring '99. / August 1998

FIRST SCIENCE TEACHERS CONFERENCE

RLC and the Illinois Assn. of Chemistry Teachers sponsored the inaugural "Science Teachers Conference" for middle and high school instructors. Dr. Melvin Webb of Clark Atlanta U. was a featured speaker. / April 1999

1997 - 1998

1998 - 1999



Distance Learning includes Microbiology lab package

BOARD MINUTES APRIL 11, 1995

With the Board meeting at Good Samaritan Regional Health Center in Mt. Vernon, Science Instructor Barb Davenport presented a Lab Science demonstration, assisted by Department Chair Larry Williams. The Spring 1995 class will expand to McLeansboro and Pinckneyville Distance Learning sites if successful. Davenport has devised a self-contained lab kit to accompany the course. "Preparing Microbiology Laboratory Experiment for Distance Learning" was nominated for a Bright Idea Award to be given by the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators in November.

BOARD MINUTES AUGUST 12, 1997

Barbara Davenport taught 12 SIU-Carbondale students this summer via Distance Learning. She was commended for her new lab kit in a letter to college administrators from SIUC's John Martinko of the Department of Microbiology.



'Agri-Achievers' include T. Wilkerson and Newell

MAY 1991

Ten RLC students have been designated as "Agri-Achievers" by the Agriculture staff in recognition of academic performance and demonstration of leadership skills. They will represent RLC at ag functions throughout the districts.

Honorees: Daron Fox (Coulterville), John Helmers (Steeleville), Chad Kern (Ewing), Mike Neal (Ina), Jason Newell (Belle Rive), Mike Reichmann (Okawville), Kevin Trader (Scheller), Ron Wellen (McLeansboro), Terry Wilkerson (Dahlgren) and Christopher York (Enfield).

forefront as Rend Lake College's new-age technology pacesetter.

"Basic Microbiology" will be available over the Internet when Fall Semester 1998 classes begin the week of August 24-29. For future reference, just call it courses.rlc.cc.il.us/wcb.

At least three other Rend Lake College courses are expected to be ready for Internet transmittal by next spring, but MICR 1111-N1 – its old-fashioned moniker – is a first for the progressive institution.

While the majority of classes are still taught on the Ina campus to 18- and 19-year-old recent high school graduates, RLC today features many evening and weekend classes, a Times Square Campus in the Mt. Vernon Mall, Adult Learning Centers in three area communities, on- and off-campus fitness centers serving all ages, off-campus classes in 8-10 area communities each semester, telecourses and satellite downlinks and on-site training for area industry.

The average age of all Rend Lake College students – where a Fitness Center student taking one credit hour counts the same as a full-time 19-year-old registered for 16 hours per semester – is nearly 35.

Davenport is a veteran of the latest in teaching methods, having delivered a similar class and "wet" lab via distance learning. Included among her students previously were Southern Illinois University-Carbondale students, a unique situation to say the least whereby a community college faculty member was asked by the four-year school to provide instruction to its students in the Department of Health and Nutrition and the College of Agriculture.

"Having taught on the Distance Learning system for several years, I have found students really enjoy the new methods of delivery through technology," commented Davenport.

"I think it is a really unique experience for students, for whatever reason they may prefer to take a class over the Internet. Any number of things may make it difficult for them to come to campus on a regular basis – work, family, illness – but they can access this course from their home."

"The major advantages, of course, are time-shifting and location-shifting," according to RLC Title III Grant Educational Technology Specialist David Wicks Jr. "Students can sit down at their computer at home or from the library or on campus and cover the materials at their convenience. It should

really be good for adult learners and non-traditional students."

Assignments are set up to be covered over a typical 16-week period. Students will be expected to attend four concentrated lab days – 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, September 22-23, and November 17-18 – and two additional testing dates – Tuesday, October 20, 11 a.m. and the final Tuesday, December 15, 8 a.m.

"Materials covered are the exact same as for the traditional classroom setting," Davenport said. "The textbook is the same, and some Internet research also will be required. The hands-on lab will be working with the nonpathogenic bacteria; that is the reason for the back-to-back lab days, because we will be setting up the experiment one day and reading the results the next.

"Students do need to be aware they are expected for each of the lab days. They may have to work other classes around this." Two papers will be required. There will be four tests, including two on lab dates.

Davenport estimates it took over 200 hours just to enter the data for the student guide, which includes some audio portions, and the quiz set bank.

But the class offers the best of both worlds. Comparable to an Independent Study class, it is accessible all hours of the day – students can log-on at any time – and the instructor is accessible, also. Students may contact Davenport, the new Math and Science Department Interim Chair, in person on campus, by telephone, e-mail or fax.

Tuition and fees for the Internet course are the same as for other Rend Lake College classes. The five-hour course is transferable to SIUC and other colleges.

Do students learn as much through new-technology methods of delivery as they would in a more traditional setting?

"Yes. I am convinced they do," replied Davenport. "I feel they are going to learn exactly the same things as they would in a classroom.

"One big concern of faculty with Internet classes is that instructors are never in contact with the students, but that's not true with this class with the lab and testing dates. We will still have the opportunity to get to know each other."

Other courses Wicks has helped Rend Lake College staff develop through the "Strengthening Institutions" grant project include "Logic," with Steve Kennett; "Developmental English," with Ro Hoar, and

English "Rhetoric and Composition," with Rob Little. All three, and possibly others, are likely to join "Basic Microbiology" on the web this spring.

BIG MUDDY RIVER C.C. ▶ Construction Trades program rated best in state Vocational Education

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 1995

Instructor John Duncan, Directors David Vinyard and Bob Ross and Vice President Steve Tietz were among the honored guests Tuesday (May 9) for a special luncheon at the Governor's Mansion in Springfield.

They were invited because Duncan's Construction Occupations (Building Trades) program at Big Muddy River Correctional Center was selected by the Illinois Council on Vocational Education as the outstanding vocational education program in the state.

Also recognized were three outstanding vocational education students from around the state and two businesses that have given exemplary support to education. In addition to the luncheon, a short program and presentation program were planned, according to Kathie J. Womack, chair of the ICove Awards Ceremony.

Accompanying Duncan and his wife, Brenda, were RLC Director of Educational Programs at BMRCC Vinyard; Director of Planning, Research and Correctional Education Ross; V-P Tietz, representing President Mark S. Kern, and Donna Rich-Murdock, Assistant Warden of Programs at Big Muddy River Correctional Center.

While most Building Trades classes in other educational settings take advantage of the opportunity for hands-on experiences by building a home, Duncan has had to improvise in this unique atmosphere. His students have built a three-room house to scale inside the prison walls.

"They do wiring, plumbing, sewer traps . . . you name it, they do it. They have come about as close as you can to making a realistic class out of it," Vinyard commented.

"John has done a wonderful job with the program."

Added the proud Director: "People on the outside who have never had the opportunity to see what is going on over here may not realize we've got a staff doing a great job.

"We've got an auto shop that operates from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and a lot of the workers here bring their cars in for repairs; any time we have important people visiting, our Culinary Arts class is asked to cater a meal for them, and the Horticulture program supplies plants to institutions all over Illinois, even one which has a Horticulture program of its own. I think people would really be surprised to see what's going on over here."

The Construction Trades program consists of 33 semester hours of postsecondary education and includes units of instruction in Technical Math, Blueprint Reading, Masonry, Carpentry, Plumbing, Electricity and Painting and Finishing. Students are in class six hours per day, Monday through Friday.

Explained Vinyard in his letter of recommendation: "The students served in this program are nontraditional, to say the least. Many have never had a job of any kind and dropped out of school at an early age. The instructor motivates the students to take pride not only in what they do but who they are.

"Although it is a vocational program, many of these students show academic progress as well as the acquisition of employable skills. One recent graduate raised his math skills score from 6.4 to 9.2 and his reading comprehension scores from 9.6 to 12.9 (Test of Adult Basic Education).

"The instructor stresses the importance of attitude, work ethic and persistency as the keys to overcoming the stigma of incarceration. It is mandatory students work in team units and learn to mediate their differences rather than argue and quit.

"Students often comment that before be-



RLC Adult Ed one of 10 chosen for Project STAR

NEWS RELEASE MARCH 2005

Rend Lake College has been selected as one of 10 sites in Illinois to participate in an effort to gather research on improving the reading skills of more than 2.6 million adults in the state who lack basic reading abilities.

This facet of Project STAR will focus on a group of adult learners whose reading skills fall between the grade levels of 4 and 8.9, according to Jay Brooks, RLC Director of Adult Education and Family Literacy. Yvonne Hallam, Workforce Coordinator for Adult Ed and Family Literacy, will be heavily involved in the project.

Illinois is one of only six states selected to participate in this research-gathering effort, along with Pennsylvania, Ohio, South Dakota, Connecticut and Maine. Three of the Illinois sites represent the Southern Region - John A. Logan College in Carterville and Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville, in addition to RLC.

Brooks indicated there has been extensive research on how best to teach children and adolescents, but little research on this particular group. Project STAR is aimed at providing that research to create more organized and effective ways of teaching adult learners.

PROGRAM HIGHLITES

"SERVICE LEARNING" COMES TO R.L.C.

Several sections of various courses are emphasizing "Service Learning," a new educational concept which applies skills acquired in the classroom through community service activities. I.e., learning is more meaningful when applied in a practical, workplace-like environment. The concept was introduced last spring. / August 1999

MURRAY STATE AG PROGRAM AGREEMENT

Rend Lake College and Murray (KY) State University have entered into a one-of-a-kind agreement . . . Students graduating from RLC in Agriculture can complete Bachelor's Degree requirements with just two additional years at MSU. Previously, additional course-work was required. No other Illinois community college has such an agreement. / June 2000

R.L.C., M.U.M.S. AND KEYS TO WORK

Matsushita Universal Media Services has contracted with RLC to administer WorkKeys testing and training for employees . . . identifying up to eight skills a job requires, testing to see if employees measure up and suggesting specific training, if needed. / September 2000

STUDENT ART AUCTION: SOLD FOR \$12,000!

The Fifth Annual "Students for Students" Art Auction sponsored by the RLC Art League, with assistance from the RLC Foundation, raises over \$12,000 for scholarships thanks to top bidder Dave Bourland, Curator for the Illinois Executive Mansion, Almus Megan Mitchell and Art Instructors Melissa McClement-Engler, Therese Howard and Sarah Capps. / October 2000

CHILDREN'S CENTER N.A.E.Y.C. ACCREDITED

The RLC Foundation Children's Center is the only community college in Southern Illinois and the lone day-care in the district to receive National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation. The college also offers the Illinois Director Credential Level I rank for two-year program grads. / April 2001



Correctional Education at Menard approved in '86

BOARD MEETING MARCH 1986

President Harry Braun informed Trustees in a memo "Rend Lake College has recently been contacted by the Department of Corrections as to our interest in operating the lower-division college education program at Menard Correctional Center.

"Funding," he added, "would be on a cost-plus-overhead basis" from various sources. "This would be a restricted account using no local resources."

BOARD MEETING JUNE 1986

The RLC Board of Trustees Tuesday night (June 17) approved a contract which has been submitted to the Department of Corrections in regard to an educational program which could begin at Menard Correctional Center in Chester September 1.

Under terms of the DOC contract approved, Rend Lake College "agrees to administer and provide academic and vocational credit programs for inmates confined in the Menard Correctional Center," with a first-year budget not to exceed \$309,275. Vocational programs will be offered in Welding; Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning; Construction Technology; Office Machine Repair, and Appliance Repair, as well as 30 baccalaureate transfer classes.

Approval was given at the May meeting to advertise for a full-time Director to administer the program. Full- and part-time faculty also must be hired.

The same contract has not yet been approved by DOC.

"I move we actively seek this program," said Trustee Kirby Browning. "And I would second that," added fellow educator Allan Patton.

coming involved in the program they were sure that upon being released they would again commit crimes. They state the program has given them a skill they are confident will provide them support and gainful employment. Often the very appearance of the student will change. Students who had unkempt hair and personal appearance often change their habits because they identify themselves as 'college material.'"

As for the program itself, Vinyard says Duncan in two years "has taken a bare room and built a viable program that boasts 25 program completers since its inception."

This program, he says, "is in a setting that requires a great deal of creativity on the instructor's part. It is a true construction trades program.

"It would be easy to allow this program to slide into a 'hobby shop' program that makes birdhouses, picnic tables and rocking horses. In spite of the institution's limitations, the instructor has managed to teach a viable construction trades program even though 'outside' jobs are not a possibility due to security demands. The instructor uses every bit of the resources available to him to do so, and the program utilizes all available floor space to simulate a work site."

Some of the students, upon completion of the program, are finding work in the institution's maintenance department, applying many of the skills learned to help in the upkeep and maintenance of the facility.

Students likewise are taught interviewing skills and prepare résumés.

Those who finish "leave the program as more compete individuals," noted Vinyard. "They walk away with a variety of skills not possessed when they entered. For some, the program is an awakening to abilities not previously recognized. For many others, the success they experience is the first positive involvement they have ever had with an educational institution."

"The persistency of students and instructor to provide a realistic educational experience is of outstanding merit," Vinyard said in praise of the Building Trades program under Duncan. "It truly is a program that must be seen to completely appreciate the work and effort that occurs on a daily basis."

1975-76 RLC hosts Southern Illinois University upper-level courses on Ina campus

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 1975

Rend Lake College and Southern Illinois

University will cooperate next spring to make third- and fourth-year college courses available on the Ina campus.

Dr. Edward O'Day, Course Coordinator in the SIU-Carbondale Division of Continuing Education, said one course is being offered by SIUC at Rend Lake College this semester, but several other courses are contemplated for Spring Semester.

O'Day said the two colleges have discussed offering such courses as American Foreign Policy, Taxation, The Great Depression, Criminology and Religion and Culture in America. Courses would meet in the evenings, with SIUC faculty members serving as instructors.

Rend Lake College Dean Dr. Philip Ward said upper-division SIU courses have been offered at RLC for the past year and the arrangement between the schools "has worked out very nicely." Ward said the program was designed to make SIU courses more convenient for students who do not wish to commute to Carbondale.

O'Day said complete Bachelor's Degree programs eventually would be offered at Rend Lake College. "I want to stress these are not just a few individual courses," he said. "This is a programmatic effort."

The SIU representative indicated degrees might be available in such areas as University Studies, Science and Technical Careers and/or Human Resources.

Both Ward and O'Day said they would measure public interest in the courses and invite course suggestions before completing plans for Spring Semester.

Inquiries regarding the SIU-RLC cooperative program should be directed to RLC Dean of Student Services Robert Graham.

1976-77 Administration of Justice B.A. degree from McKendree College comes to RLC

REND LAKE COLLEGE TODAY WINTER 1976

A recent agreement between Rend Lake College and McKendree College, a four-year liberal arts college in Lebanon, will provide students with the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Administration of Justice while attending classes on the Ina campus.

Myron Foley, Chairman of the Business and Social Science Department, said the program is designed for those persons presently enrolled in the two-year degree program at Rend Lake College or for those who already have completed their two-year

degree requirements and plan on pursuing a four-year degree.

After students complete their Bachelor's Degree requirements, they will receive their degree from McKendree College, the oldest private college in Illinois.

Gary Tucker, RLC Law Enforcement Instructor, played a major role in developing the program. He said the sequence of study is designed for both in-service police officers and those who are planning a career in law enforcement.

Foley said one of the main advantages of the agreement is that a person can further his or her education without having to leave the Rend Lake College area.

Officials from both institutions believe offering junior- and senior-level classes locally will bring a favorable response from those interested in a Law Enforcement education.

Tucker pointed out a recommendation by the National Advisory Commission of Criminal Justice Standards and Goals calls for all police officers to have earned a Bachelor's Degree by 1982 in order to upgrade the quality of police service around the country. He also expressed the opinion a great amount of interest in the RLC-McKendree program has been generated by those who are nearing completion of the Associate Degree program this year at Rend Lake College.

McKendree College will provide instructors and course materials and will conduct registration for classes under the agreement. Rend Lake College will schedule classes as well as provide the facilities.

"This is RLC's first effort for this kind of pioneer program, and it is the first of its kind in our area," Foley said.

The first two courses will be offered at Rend Lake College beginning next semester. Criminal Justice and the Community will meet Mondays from 1-4:30 p.m. for 15 weeks beginning January 10. Criminal Justice Organization and Administration, which deals with the principles and theories of top-level police management, will meet Tuesdays, noon-3:30 p.m., also for 15 weeks.

McKendree College tuition is \$72 per semester hour, but those presently employed

as police officers may qualify for financial assistance under the guidelines of the Law Enforcement Education Fund.

Foley also announced a similar program with McKendree College is in the planning stages for students wishing to complete requirements for a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration by attending classes at Rend Lake College.

"This is a new concept for the college. I think it provides a valuable opportunity for many to further their educations," commented Foley.

SPRING 1977 ▶ **McKendree Business, Management classes expand junior-senior lineup**

JANUARY 1977

Rend Lake College has announced that McKendree College will be offering junior- and senior-level courses in Business and Management on the RLC campus this spring.

Through a recent agreement with McKendree, the courses will be offered for the first time beginning this week when Spring Semester opens.

Myron Foley, Chairman of the RLC Business Department, said the arrangement gives students an opportunity to participate in a four-year Business degree program without having to travel outside of the Rend Lake College area. Recently the college announced the same type of agreement had been worked out with McKendree College for junior-and senior-level Law Enforcement courses.

The McKendree classes being offered are all four-credit courses which are part of the Business degree sequence of study.

The classes are Financing Business Enterprises, Tuesday evenings; Management and Collective Bargaining, Wednesday evenings; Introduction to Investments, Thursday evenings, and Human Behavior in Organizations, Saturday mornings.

Students may register by attending the first class sessions. The cost is \$72 per semester hour of credit.

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McArdle re-appointed to head Menard program

JULY 1986

The head of the new RLC educational program at Menard Correctional Center will be a familiar face to participating inmates at the Chester-based facility. Reappointed to the position was George McArdle, who has served in a similar capacity at the prison for the past 11 years as an employee of Belleville Area College.

McArdle was one of 35 applicants. He holds Bachelor and Master's degrees from Illinois State University and the University of Illinois, respectively, and has done graduate work at Eastern Illinois, Illinois State and Southern Illinois.

Interviews for the recently created position were conducted by RLC administrators Mark Kern and Carroll Turner, along with representatives from the Illinois Department of Corrections, School District No. 428.

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Correctional Education at BMR, Pinckneyville

- RLC contracted with Big Muddy River Correctional Center to provide seven full-time Vocational programs and 12 Baccalaureate classes on-site. David Vinyard, who held a similar position at Menard for RLC from 1988-90, was hired as Director of Educational Programs. / January '93
- BMRCC opens. / March '93

- Gov. Jim Edgar announces Pinckneyville will be awarded a new Correctional Center and its anticipated 450 jobs. / October '95

● "READS" VOLUNTEER BARHAM HONORED
RLC America READS Volunteer Vivian Barham (Benton) received one of three Illinois Points of Light Awards presented by Gov. George H. Ryan. Barham has assisted America READS student tutors five years. / Fall 2002

PROGRAM HIGHLITES

2001 - 2002

2002 - 2003



'There Were Giants,' 'Cat Nap' selected for Watercolor USA

NEWS RELEASE APRIL 1997

Two works on display in the Student/Faculty Art Exhibit (through May 6) are regarded among the finest in the nation and are headed for the Springfield (MO) Art Museum.

They have been accepted into the Watercolor USA 1997 national competitive exhibition, considered by many to be the premier watercolor show in the United States.

Both RLC entries should be familiar to area art patrons. "There Were Giants," by Art Professor Sarah Capps, and "Cat Nap," by student Jennifer Kashycke-Melton (Mt. Vernon), already have won more than their share of awards.

"For a student who has only been seriously painting for about three years, this is a phenomenal achievement," Capps said of Kashycke-Melton. "She is one of the best students we have had come through the program in several years. She is good not only in watercolor but in several other media as well. I can't tell you how proud I am of her. I was in my 40s before I was accepted into a national exhibit, and this is only my second one!"

"Cat Nap," depicting a man in bed surrounded by five cats, took first in Watercolor at the Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibit in Kankakee. It also took top honors – the Southern Illinois Artisan Shop Award – in the Student/Faculty Art Exhibition. The art major, 24, is a full-time student. "There Were Giants," a painting of a tree as it comes to life in the spring, won the Barbara Bishop Werden Best Traditional Watercolor Merit Award from the Drawing/Watercolor: Illinois 11th Biennial Exhibition at Eastern Illinois University.

2004 / 2005 ▶ McKendree 'RN to BSN' with RLC; Business Admin., M.A. for Teachers

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 2004

Registered Nurses looking to advance their careers and current RN students wishing to move straight into a Bachelor's Degree in the field may soon need to look no further than Rend Lake College.

McKendree College hopes to begin offering its Bachelor of Science in Nursing curriculum (dubbed "RN to BSN") at Rend Lake College, according to Kim Niebling, Assistant Director of Transfer Admissions for Nursing at McKendree.

She said all that is required is at least eight students signing up for the program. If necessary, the Bachelor's Degree program could be up and running by Spring Semester, she commented.

Niebling indicated she has had requests from numerous former RLC students to set up the satellite Bachelor's program here. The BSN program is perfect for working Registered Nurses or for the RN graduate looking to move directly into a Bachelor's Degree program.

"I am listening to people telling me they would prefer to go to Rend Lake College. It's a perfect location," Niebling said. There is a large number of RNs with the Rend Lake College district, as well as several hospitals, which makes feeding the BSN program to the RLC campus an obvious goal, she added.

Through this program, McKendree's instructors will travel to Ina to teach the courses. The format of the curriculum is quite flexible, normally set up for one night each week and suited well to both the full-time student and the working nurse. Niebling said other format options, such as every-other-weekend classes, may be available in the future depending on the needs of the students.

Students choosing a full-time program of study can have a Bachelor's Degree in as little as three semesters (one year). The part-time option results in a Bachelor's Degree in just five semesters. Some on-line classes also are available, according to Niebling.

In addition, students in the Nursing program receive about a 50 percent discount in McKendree College's tuition rate, Niebling said.

For students receiving financial assistance from hospitals to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, there is one less paper-

work hurdle. Rather than taking payment for classes up front, McKendree will defer the payment until the semester is completed and will work out payment arrangements with the participating hospital.

Students also have the option of getting core classes completed through Rend Lake College and transferring the credits into McKendree's curriculum.

REND LAKE COLLEGE FEBRUARY 2005

Through an exciting partnership with McKendree College, Rend Lake College continues to open new educational paths for the residents of the district.

This August, McKendree College will begin offering Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Arts Teacher Development degrees at the Rend Lake College MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon. Applications are now being accepted.

The Bachelor of Business Administration degree is being offered through McKendree's Accelerated Instruction with McKendree (AIM) program. Students taking advantage of the program at the MarketPlace will enjoy significantly reduced tuition from the main McKendree campus, according to Melissa Meeker, Director of Student Services for External Programs at McKendree.

"At Rend Lake College, we feel it is our responsibility to open doors to educational opportunities to the citizens of our district," said Jim Hull, Vice President of Instruction for RLC. "We do this with our Associate Degree and Certificate offerings, but we need to expand our access to higher education."

According to Hull, the Bachelor of Business Administration program will be led by instructors from McKendree's main campus and will meet one evening each week, with students having the opportunity to complete two courses every two months. Classes will be a combination of live and on-line instruction.

"This partnership gives residents of our district the opportunity to continue their college careers or to retrain for new careers without having to travel to a university. Students will receive quality instruction from a well-known institution of higher education," said Hull.

"We feel like this is a win-win situation for everybody," Hull added. "It opens up new doors for our residents and helps Rend Lake College achieve its mission of bringing education to our district."

"This is an excellent opportunity for students of Rend Lake College as well as

those that live in the surrounding areas," said Meeker.

The Master's program in Teacher Development is designed for teachers who want to continue developing their professional commitment and competence, according to the McKendree Web site. In order to make the Master's Degree in Development easily accessible for educators, the classes will be offered in the evenings and on weekends.

BY 2008 ▶ Mid-Continent, McKendree, SIUC, SIUE offer classes on-campus, MarketPlace

REND LAKE COLLEGE SELF-STUDY REPORT 2008

... Rend Lake College has formed educational partnerships with four-year institutions which allow students to pursue higher degrees on campus or at the RLC MarketPlace.

On campus, Mid-Continent University (KY) offers an accelerated Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management.

The following programs currently are offered at the RLC MarketPlace:

- Weekend Bachelor of Science Degree program with a major in Workforce Education and Development by Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.
- Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education by Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.
- Teacher of English as a Second Language Certification by Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing curriculum by McKendree University.
- Bachelor and Master's degrees in Business Administration by McKendree University.

The college also maintains several reciprocal instructional agreements with neighboring community colleges, allowing students from other districts to enroll in programs at RLC when their home district college does not offer that specific program and vice-versa.

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. NOVEMBER 6, 2003

A Weekend Bachelor's Degree Program

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

TITLE CHANGES

Deans become Vice Presidents and Departments - Advanced Technology, Allied Health, Applied Science, Liberal Arts and Math/Science/Business/Education - evolve into Divisions, with Division Chairs. / July 1, 2003

49 GRANTS = \$5.3M + 78 F-T EMPLOYEES

Total of 49 outside grants / contracts add up to \$5.3 million in funding administered by college and pays for all or parts of 78 full-time salaries. Grants Office has 70% success rate in applications, 2001-05. / FY 2005

CLAXTON LIFELONG LEARNING HONOREE

Called by one of her "mature" students "a teacher who inspired all of us to continue," Dr. Evelyn Claxton was given the 2005 Outstanding Instructor Award from the statewide Lifelong Learning and Service Coalition at its Winter Meeting in Bloomington. / February 2005

LEARNING ENHANCEMENT CENTER

RLC's academic enrichment program already was "second to none in the college ranks," said A.D. Tim Wills, and that was before the Learning Enhancement Center expanded into remodeled facilities on the ground floor of the Academic Building. / April 2005

for Working Adults sponsored by Southern Illinois University-Carbondale will be offered at the Rend Lake College MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon beginning Spring Semester 2004.

According to SIU Weekend Program Coordinator Bill Shields, individuals who have completed or are in the process of completing an Associate in Arts, Associate in Science or Associate in Applied Science Degree may qualify to pursue the Bachelor of Science Degree majoring in Workforce Education and Development (WED), with a specialization in Education Training and Development (ETD).

The WED program enables students to work full-time and still earn a Bachelor's Degree in just two years, attending classes every other weekend but keeping their summers free.

Other advantages include possible credit awarded for work experience, credit for non-graded training, Capstone option with an AAS Degree and completion in just four semesters.

NOW IN EXPANDED FACILITY ▶ A.D.: 'Academic enrichment program second to none in the college ranks'

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 2005

Athletic Director Tim Wills is on record as having said the academic enrichment program at Rend Lake College "is second to none in the college ranks."

And that proclamation during last spring's All-Sports Athletic Banquet was before Learning Enhancement Specialist Tara Sullivan and her support program moved from its cramped, one-room facility on the "outskirts" of the Ina campus to newly renovated digs in the center of student activity.

The expanded facility is not only easily accessible on the ground floor of the Academic Building, it is Student Friendly as well featuring: a quiet study room offering individual study carousels to help eliminate



CNA Training Center opens at MarketPlace

PRESIDENT'S REPORT OCTOBER 2006

In an effort to make Certified Nurse Assistant training more accessible and to help fill a growing demand for qualified CNAs, Rend Lake College has opened a new educational facility at the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon.

A dramatic increase in the number of credit hours in RLC Nursing programs - Practical Nursing, Associate Degree Nursing and CNA - in recent years has made scheduling of CNA programs more difficult due to the number of students using the Nursing Lab on campus. Consequently, there has been a growing waiting list of students wanting to enroll.

The center, which helps alleviate this situation, features two classrooms and a Nursing Lab. St. Mary's/Good Samaritan Inc. donated six hospital beds and Man-Tra-Con Corp. donated overbed and bedside tables, as well as a Gerichair and Hoyer lift.

CNAs, also known as Nurses Aides, Orderlies, Patient Care Technicians and Home Health Aides, work under the supervision of a Nurse and provide assistance to patients with daily living tasks.

The program is tuition-free for in-district students. Financial aid may help pay for textbooks and uniforms. Day and evening programs are available.



Ag program first to start Career Advisory Council

FALL 1972

Career-Technical programs at Rend Lake College . . . need Vocational-Technical programs . . . would never be the same again after a meeting that was held Fall 1972.

That is when the RLC Agricultural Occupations Advisory Council met for the first time. Those in attendance included Chairman Rex Fouts, Jerry Behimer, Keith Ferrier, Murland Foster, William Hobbs, Mitchell Hopkins, Roger Hull, Jerry Ruemmler, Frank Shelton, Ray Storch and Roger Webel.

Also, Dr. Thomas Stitt and Eugene Allen, plus Rend Lake College staff Ardell Kimmel, Dean of Vocational-Technical Education, Department Chair Mark Kern, David Scott, Leavell Swink and Carroll Turner.

The group of ag-related professionals was comprised of personnel from production agriculture, machinery dealerships, ag representatives and four-year educational institutions.

The RLC Ag Occupations Advisory Council was formed to serve as a liaison group between the community served and the Ag Department, with the primary goal to help develop an improved understanding of the district's agricultural needs.

Dr. Phil Ward, College Dean, was the guest speaker. Kern, who was responsible for the concept and makeup of the advisory group, summarized the program's on-the-job training opportunities and the current enrollment.

outside distractions; six computer stations, including two Internet-connected PCs for research; group tutoring tables and space for one-on-one tutoring/mentoring sessions; TV/VCR equipment to view telecourses or review speech video tapes, plus sign-in and waiting areas. Sullivan can oversee it all in an office surrounded by windows.

By definition, the Learning Enhancement Center is part of the ultra-successful Student Transfer and Retention Support (STARS) program and "is an extension of the college's firm commitment to values of industriousness, honesty, respect and accountability." It provides academic support and transition services to students in an environment conducive to learning. Tutors assist in core subject areas and workshops provide transition assistance.

Second to none in the college ranks? Some of the numbers are startling . . .

- Student-athletes, who comprise the largest number of participants, have posted composite grade-point averages of 3.0 and 3.1 (on a 4.0-point scale) the past two semesters, compared to 2.79 for all students.

- Different teams have earned top honors each of the last three years for both men and women. The Warrior baseball team earned a standing ovation at the athletic banquet two years ago for winning the award, with Men's Basketball taking last spring's distinction with its 3.03 GPA. The Women's Tennis Team won in 2003 with its 3.53, followed by the Lady Warrior Softball squad in 2004 at 3.45.

- The Female Student-Athlete of the Year could not attend the most recent awards night. Carissa Hallam (Mt. Vernon), with her 3.94 GPA, was competing in the college's third straight National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Tennis National Championships last May.

- Male Student-Athlete of the Year designee Shane Garner (Sesser), a two-sport participant with a 3.71 GPA, later was named recipient of the prestigious Fornear Family Scholarship to cover his education the next two years at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

College personnel recognized student-athletes "already possess the attributes to make them successful in athletics," noted STARS Director Julie Mumbower. "We're trying to teach them how to transfer those skills to academics and achieve their short- and long-term college and career goals."

"Certain groups, like athletes, can be

mandated to attend academic tutoring sessions, but we encourage any student needing individualized support to attend. The Learning Enhancement Center really is for everyone," Mumbower concluded.

According to Sullivan, who hopes the recent move will increase the number of non-athletes taking advantage of the opportunities available to them, every freshman student-athlete is required to spend a minimum of three hours per week in the Learning Enhancement Center.

Participation varies after that. Students with GPAs under 2.5 must continue three hours or more per week; those between 2.5 and 3.0 attend two hours weekly; those maintaining GPAs of 3.0 and higher are no longer required to attend but are still welcome.

"Time management is a big issue for all freshmen. We want to make sure they've got that aspect of college life down, especially when you consider all the time they also have to spend practicing, traveling and playing with their respective teams."

"That first semester also gives them a chance to get familiar with me," continued Sullivan, the person responsible for helping student-athletes plan their schedules each semester, "and to find out about the services available to them."

Student-athletes who are well-grounded academically typically utilize time spent in the Learning Enhancement Center doing independent study or assigned homework, "they might have me proofread a paper or they might help other students with their classes."

More numbers to consider . . .

- STARS students – limited to 150 per year – are encouraged to attend. Ten inter-collegiate sports teams boast another 165 possibilities, divided between freshmen and sophomores. Attendance is mandated for less than a dozen others on Financial Aid Probation. In less than two months after moving into the new facilities, a total of 170 students had logged 1,492 hours.

- The help team includes STARS Academic Specialist Jared Conner; STARS Counselor Glenn Box; 10 paid tutors, many of them part-time instructors; two paid student tutors, and others like Rend Lake College Controller and Part-Time Accounting Instructor Angie Kistner, who volunteers her time when schedule permits. Full-time RLC instructors like Mike Mullen (English), Jeannie Mitchell (Psychology), John Fisher

(Chemistry) and others may be invited to lead study groups.

• Tutors are available at 8 a.m. and throughout the day five days per week, including the lunch hour. The LEC remains open until 8 p.m. Mondays, 6 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays and offers study groups until 6 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday each month.

Sullivan calls the All-Sports Banquet "my favorite time of the year," because she gets to publicly recognize those student-athletes who have benefitted most from the center.

She has introduced a "Student of the Month" recognition program, with nominations coming from faculty and staff. The year-end ceremony allows her to salute those with Improvement Awards for raising their classroom standards and freshmen for demonstrating "Academic Promise."

"They are not all going to be 3.0-plus students. I really like the Improvement Award, because it let's me recognize students who have worked hard to make strides as students," Sullivan said.

Just before Spring Break, college officials learned the Women's Volleyball team, coached by Rhonda Carlton, had merited honors as one of the NJCAA Fall Academic Teams of the Year thanks to its composite GPA of 3.27. Sullivan expects all four other Lady Warrior teams to gain similar status following the spring campaign - Basketball, Golf, Softball and Tennis.

Coaches, as much or more than anyone, appreciate the accomplishments of the Learning Enhancement program. "They let me be the boss (in terms of academic eligibility). It takes the responsibility off of them," she said. "I have complete cooperation from each and every one of them, which makes my job a whole lot easier."

Sullivan's goal is "to have as many of the general student population in here as we do the student-athletes. Getting the word out this is the main resource for them to get help, too, is the key. The new location and facility are perfect. We are in a high-traffic area, and we are having more and more instructors bringing in their classes to show them the services we have available."

A former student-athlete herself? "I was

the most non-athletic person in the world," laughs Sullivan, who was absorbed in drama, the arts and literature. "In the four years of this program, I have found out these kids are just like any other kids, and they have turned me into a real sports lover."

"I love my job," added Sullivan. "I get to see these kids succeed. They already know they can succeed on the court or the playing field, and they discover by working at it a little more they can be successful here (in the classroom), too. There are all kinds of success stories on every team."

Some final numbers to ponder . . .

• Seven student-athletes posted perfect 4.0 GPAs in the fall, with cager Kyla Parker (Marion), and softball player April Gibson (Tilden / Sparta) maintaining cumulative 4.0 stats after three semesters. Over half - 89 students, 54 percent - claimed fall GPAs above 3.0, and 79 percent rate 2.5 or better.

• All eight members of Coach Diane Metzger's Tennis program boasted fall GPAs well-above 3.0, with freshman Lisa Parker (Centralia) and sophomore Sarah Dixon (Benton) both posting 4.0s and the team average at 3.62 (3.52 cumulative).

• A total of 31 student-athletes earned their way on to the President or Vice President academic honors lists for GPAs of 3.5 and above.

• Graduation rates for Rend Lake College sophomore student-athletes has been between 72-80 percent since the inception of the Learning Enhancement Center in the 2001-02 academic year. The rate was 41 percent the spring prior to that. Enough said?

FITNESS CENTER ▶ Aerobics Super-Circuit approved; needs 570 students/year for payback

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MARCH 1986

Approval was given Tuesday night (March 18) for the establishment of an Aerobics Super-Circuit Fitness Center at Rend Lake College.

The aerobics super-circuit consists of exercise machines and bicycles in series for the purpose of maintaining overall physical conditioning, including the heart, respiratory system and muscle tone, on an individualized basis.



HECA Grant funding for 'Science Saturdays'

FALL 1990

Rend Lake College has been notified it will receive HECA Grant funding in support of "Science Saturdays."

Written by RLC Math and Science Department Chair Larry Williams, Director of Resource Development Bob Ross and Dr. Nick Osborne, Assistant Superintendent of Mt. Vernon City Schools District 80, "Science Saturdays" will bring district teachers together with Rend Lake College Math and Science Instructors to develop curricula for grades 3-8.

Elementary teachers will be able to enhance their science and math skills, and their students will benefit from a cycle of four "Science Saturdays" conducted on-campus. Initially, eight elementary teachers will be invited to participate.



Model literacy program with 'Ready for Reading'

BOARD MINUTES JANUARY 15, 1991

According to a Literacy Report presented to the RLC Board of Trustees, 160 students were served during FY90, (42 in the summer months), thanks in large part to 99 active volunteers.

The RLC "Ready for Reading" program has been recognized by the state as a model program. In addition, Adult Ed Director Barbara Bauernfeind will be attending the White House Conference in July 1991.

CONTINENTAL TIRE TRAINING CENTER

RLC has established a Training Center in Continental Tire North America's Mt. Vernon plant, with computers and distance learning equipment, as well as Industrial Training Coordinator Sharon Bowman. / December 2005

TOMLIN LIFELONG LEARNING HONOREE

RLC again boasts the Outstanding Instructor saluted by the statewide Lifelong Learning and Service Coalition. Dr. Sue Tomlin has taught for the Institute for Learning in Retirement since its 1999 inception. / March 2006

C.N.A. MOVES INTO MARKETPLACE

To fill a growing demand, eliminate a waiting list and make training more accessible, the RLC Certified Nurse Assistant program moved into two new classrooms and a Nursing Lab at the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon. / 2006



RLC-Murray State agree to unique Ag agreement

R.L.C. NEWS RELEASE JUNE 2000

Rend Lake College and Murray (KY) State University have entered into a one-of-a-kind agreement which could prove very beneficial to the local agricultural community.

Students graduating from RLC with an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Agriculture can complete Bachelor's Degree requirements with just two additional years at Murray State, according to a joint announcement recently by Ed Billingsley, RLC Department Chair, and Blaine Corners, a Murray State Ag Instructor.

Also present were RLC President Mark S. Kern and Dean of Vocational-Technical Education Terry Clark, both former Ag Instructors and Chairs of the Agriculture, Automotive and Architecture (AAA) Dept. Previously, additional coursework was required, making it almost impossible to graduate with a four-year degree in two years after transferring.

"We are the only community college in Southern Illinois that Murray State is entering into this kind of arrangement with," noted Billingsley. "It's unique. We're proud they thought enough of our program and our graduates to want to do this."

Rend Lake College has a similar agreement with SIUC. Transfers from the two-year college have done extremely well in the SIUC Ag program over the years, claiming three of the department's top honors given a year ago at graduation. "This latest arrangement just gives our students the option of another quality program to consider," added Billingsley.

MSU has over 600 Ag students. Illinois students from Salem south pay the same tuition rate as in-state students.

Equipment bids will be sought following the Board's authorization to enter into a five-year lease-purchase agreement with the Peoples National Bank of McLeansboro and a successful bidder for a principal amount not to exceed \$50,000 at an interest rate of 6.45 percent. The RLC Foundation initially had agreed to seek such a loan, but officials discovered the college could borrow money at a lower interest rate due to its tax-exempt status.

A \$20 lab fee per student utilizing the fitness center will be used to pay off the loan, according to College Dean Mark Kern. Approximately 570 students would need to be enrolled per year to meet the five-year pay-back plan, Kern indicated.

A similar facility established at nearby John A. Logan College has been extremely popular, and the pay-back is expected to be much sooner than anticipated.

Four new courses to be offered through the fitness center likewise were approved.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 29, 2006

Unbeknownst to most on the Ina campus, they spent the summer celebrating a 20-year anniversary of sorts at Rend Lake College.

Little fanfare accompanied the celebration. Anyone expecting cake and ice cream would have been disappointed. That would just not have been appropriate.

Rend Lake College has been in the fitness business – the Aerobic Super-Circuit Fitness Center business, that is – since the summer of 1986.

The low-key party could have included 10,400 Fitness Center enrollees (unduplicated count) who have generated reimbursable credit hours totaling 32,241 at the rate of one credit per student per semester since 1987, according to Dean of Student Services Mary Bornheimer.

Those figures represent students enrolled in the Wayne Arnold Aerobic Super-Circuit Fitness Center on-campus, the original site since remodeled and increased in size; a larger version in Mt. Vernon located in the St. Mary's Good Samaritan Sister Joanne Building since 1994, and the newest on-site facility serving students, faculty and staff of Mt. Vernon Township High School the past two years.

The average enrollment from 1987-94 was 1,235 per year; with the advent of the SMGS facility, that average jumped twofold to 2,467 from 1995-98. [In FY98, a total of 2,515 hours generated. Approximately half of those in the 20-29 age group use on-

campus facilities; the largest categories of exercisers in Mt. Vernon are the 30-39 and 40-49 age groups.]

The centers attract all types of fitness enthusiasts, from the student-athletes of a dozen or so Warrior and Lady Warrior sports teams to Physical Education classes through MVTHS, middle-age zealots attempting to ward off temptations of too much cake and ice cream over the years and senior citizens who find workouts an ideal way to maintain a healthy lifestyle and improve their level of energy. Also served are the physically challenged and others who must rehabilitate sports or work-related injuries.

"There are two kinds of life," says the namesake of the on-campus center, Wayne Arnold. "There is quantity of life and there is quality of life.

"Some people just think they feel good, but if they would get in better shape and in good health, they would discover how much better they could feel. Cardiovascular activity actually gives you energy. You feel tired when you finish a workout, but it is a good tired. You feel better in the long run."

Circuits intersperse 12 Universal weight machines with 11 stationary bikes. Individual workouts are determined by a percentage of pre-enrollment maximum test results (40 per cent). Extra equipment at each center includes computerized bikes and rowing machines, treadmills and step machines. The public facility in Mt. Vernon also features an Equalizer machine used by the physically challenged.

There is no doubt who is the "godfather" of the RLC Fitness Centers.

Arnold, who at age 74 weighs perhaps 10 pounds over his "playing weight" as a young player, coach and educator, was introduced to the fitness circuit at a conference in Joliet in 1981. He later toured and learned from experts at an aerobic research center in Dallas and a wellness program at Oral Roberts University.

But he still had to convince higher-ups at Rend Lake College "people would come out here in the middle of a cornfield to work out."

Arnold and then-Dean of Instruction Mark S. Kern, now the college President, can chuckle today at the thought of the college borrowing \$45,000-\$50,000 to start the on-campus fitness center, which needed about 250 students per semester to succeed.

When asked how long they were going

to give it to succeed, Kern replied, "Three years."

Why three years? "I knew that would give Wayne and I long enough to find other jobs if it didn't succeed," Kern could recall his reasoning years later.

Arnold was gone three years later, but he left behind a thriving fitness center when he (officially) retired for the first time in July 1989. He was succeeded as Director of the RLC Aerobic Super-Circuit Fitness Center initially by Health Education Instructor Cindy Corn, followed by Women's Basketball Head Coach Ronnie Ressel and most recently Cross-Country and Track and Field Head Coach Brent McLain. Meanwhile, Arnold returned part-time in 1990 and has served in a variety of capacities since, including Health/P.E. Department Chair and Rend Lake College Coordinator of the Aquatics Center and Fitness Centers.

Among part-time lab assistants who have become familiar faces to workout participants over the years are retired Mt. Vernon Township High School Teacher/Coach Sonny Ellis, Dennis Richardson of Mt. Vernon and Lisa Swan of Mt. Vernon.

"The staff here has always been very supportive and very helpful," commented Benton resident Margot McAfoos, 82 years young and a part-time Rend Lake College student since Spring 1977. She has been a Fitness Center advocate since the beginning.

Over the years, McAfoos has worked out between one and three times weekly, combining a half-hour walk on the treadmill with a complete trip through the circuit. She also is in the Aquatics Center twice a week for Arthritis Aerobics classes.

Exercising "makes me feel better the rest of the day," McAfoos commented. "Invigorated, I think you would call it. I encourage everyone I know to do it, regardless of age. It is important to keep yourself both mentally fit and physically fit.

"It has helped keep me going over the years. I am in relatively good health, except

for arthritis, and I think the Fitness Center makes that better, also. My doctor tells me I am pretty fit for my age."

Ellis long ago learned to expect a few regulars waiting for him when he arrives at 5:30 a.m. for the scheduled 6 o'clock opening at the SMGS building in Mt. Vernon. And, yes, he lets the faithful in for an early start to their healthy lifestyle.

Most doctors, nurses and hospital staff who take advantage of the on-site facility do so over their noon hour or after hours.

Early-morning regulars on the Ina campus, for the most part, represent senior citizens of surrounding communities. They give way during the day to waves of student-athletes and college employees.

Back to Mt. Vernon, where high school juniors and seniors may sign up for Dual Credit classes to help jump-start their college careers while likewise fulfilling high school physical education requirements. Fitness Center workouts are scheduled two times per week in the P.E. curriculum. MVTHS staff and underclassmen may use the center, located in "H" Building, after hours.

Bikes have to be replaced on a regular basis. The same can be said for various pads, cables and chains. Yet the machines on-campus and elsewhere are the original ones. They have passed the test of time. "It is good equipment," Arnold commented.

Hundreds of area residents would agree.

TECH PREP Advisory Committee of educators, industry reps prepare for changes

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 2, 1990

Educators from eight Southern Illinois high schools, three state universities and host Rend Lake College shared ideas last week with representatives from local industry and other educational agencies during the first meeting of the Tech Prep Advisory Committee, according to Barry Kohl, administrative agent, and Betty Musgrave, grant director.

BUSTER LIFELONG LEARNING HONOREE

"Buster" Leeck gave RLC its third Outstanding Instructor Award-winner in four years from the statewide Lifelong Learning and Service Coalition. Leeck is a full-time History Instructor who volunteers with the ILR. / April 2008

CONCERT CHOIR PERFORMANCE MAGIC(AL)

Eight members of the RLC Concert Choir and Director Sara Alstat and their John A. Logan College counterparts combined talents to perform under the Visitor's Pavilion at Disney's Magic Kingdom in Orlando during Walt Disney World's Magic Music Days. / June 5, 2008

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINENTAL UNIVERSITY LAUNCH

RLC and SIUC helped Continental Tire North America launch Continental University, which will allow employees on-site opportunities to gain Associate (tuition-free) and Bachelor (Technical Resource Management) degrees. Classes begin online in fall. / July 20, 2007

Therapeutic Massage goes evenings starting Fall '13

APRIL 18, 2013

Rend Lake College will begin an evening Therapeutic Massage program in the fall.

Massage Therapy is a profession that provides personal and business benefits. Reasons for pursuing this avenue of professional growth are as individual as the student.

"Part of the college's mission is to make educational programming as available as possible to anyone who wants to pursue it," said Kim Robert, Dean of the Allied Health Division. "We understand many students struggle to balance family, work and school. It's unfortunate when those responsibilities cause someone to decide to drop out of a program or not go back to school at all. Hopefully, by offering this program at night, they can pursue an education on a schedule that fits."

The Therapeutic Massage program is designed to provide a basic education in the profession of therapeutic massage, including classroom theory, laboratory practice and clinical experience in the public setting. Instruction in CPR / First Aid, business and ethics also is included.

This program prepares individuals for careers in massage and bodywork. Practitioners use their hands to apply various scientific principles to the muscles and soft tissue. Therapeutic massage is used to facilitate relaxation, health improvement and pain relief.



Minority Teacher program unites RLC, Eastern Illinois

R.L.C. NEWS RELEASE NOVEMBER 1994

Rend Lake College is one of two community colleges involved with Eastern Illinois University in a "Minority Teacher Identification and Enrichment Program."

The project was recently funded for \$150,000 by an Illinois Board of Higher Education "Higher Education Cooperation Act" (HECA) grant.

According to RLC Coordinator Camille Jones, the project will help identify potential teachers among minority students at both Rend Lake College and Danville Area Community College and their feeder schools.

"Once identified, these students will be provided with opportunities to enhance mastery of the many skills prerequisite to success as teachers. Ultimately, the goal is to increase the number of minority teachers in the state," Jones added.

Phase I is the creation of a network of chapters of the Minority Teacher Education Association (MTEA).

Phase II will be to develop and implement a three-week summer session on the Eastern Illinois University campus. EIU faculty members and the two community colleges will provide instruction emphasizing reading, writing, computing and mathematical skills for students in junior high, high school and community college.

More specifically, summer will permit students and teachers of different ages and abilities to interact in a learning-living environment designed to enhance the preparation of minority teachers.

Jones will be Southern Illinois Field Representative, assisted by Gloria Oliver at RLC, Bob Brown at MVTHS and Michael Bryant at Casey Jr. High.

"Schools are going to have to change," the 44 individuals gathered were told by Regional Vocational Administrator Jim Henry of the Illinois State Board of Education. "The problem is that education is still doing the same thing that it was doing 20 years ago and still expecting it to be effective.

"Potential employees have to know a lot more now than they did 20 years ago. Tech Prep is one of the projects designed to provide the reform in education that will solve some of the problems. This reform must be incremental, carefully done and well-planned," he added.

Tech Prep is a national movement representing an educational track that integrates college preparatory coursework with a rigorous technical education concentration. It is a planned sequence of courses, both academic and technical, beginning at the ninth-grade level and articulated through post-secondary experiences.

The intent of the program is to provide students with skills and competencies necessary to meet employers' performance standards for entry-level jobs as well as for career advancement. Tech Prep also will enable students to continue their education at the four-year college level.

Locally, \$38,090 was awarded by the State Board of Education to begin helping prepare students for advanced technical careers.

One of 17 grants awarded statewide, the local Tech Prep program encompasses those high schools in Franklin, Hamilton and Jefferson counties, along with Rend Lake College.

Henry used the first advisory meeting as an opportunity to discuss the need for change, to address the Tech Prep movement "as something that's happening to improve education" and "how it fits into the whole picture" and to cover specific expectations by the State Board.

Federal guidelines require the program to operate as a vocational agreement between secondary and post-secondary education, consisting of at least two years of each, with a common core of proficiency in math, science, communications and technology which leads to an Associate Degree or certificate. It must include curriculum development, in-service training for teachers and counselors, equal access for all students and remediation when necessary.

"When this grant was developed, the planners went beyond what the project required and included secondary schools,

Rend Lake College and also the universities," commented Harold Finn, RLC Industrial Technology Department Chair.

In addition to preparing students in the local feeder schools and regional delivery systems for programs at Rend Lake College, the project "should also include planning to allow the students to come out of our programs and go into universities, and at the same time, account for those people who don't come to the community college but go straight to the universities out of high school," Finn said.

Tech Prep graduates, added Finn, "should leave Rend Lake College ready to go to work. The committee's role . . . is to work with the agencies involved to eliminate some of those deficiencies that are evident in high school, community college and university graduates so that when they exit a program they are ready for employment."

The Industrial Technology program planned "is a model sequential technical preparation program," Musgrave noted; the concept "would be usable in many other areas - agriculture, home economics, health and business, for example - and not just industrial education. This is not the end. It is just the beginning of Tech Prep programs."

Kohl, Regional Superintendent of Schools for Franklin County, spoke of the need for cooperation among educational institutions, business and industry, "cooperation which hopefully will be enhanced through the Tech Prep grant to help produce the kind of qualified applicants businesses in this area are seeking."

Dr. P.E. Cross, Hamilton/Jefferson Counties Regional Superintendent of Schools, expressed his appreciation for the cooperative spirit that exists. "An important component of the Tech Prep planning period is to get business and industry involved in order to give direction and advice in developing program," Cross commented.

Among those in attendance at the Tech Prep Advisory Committee meeting were representatives from Benton Consolidated High School, McLeansboro High School, Mt. Vernon Township High School, Thompsonville High School, Wayne City High School, Webber Township High School, Zeigler-Royalton High School and West Frankfort Community High School.

Rend Lake College also welcomed Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, University of Illinois and Illinois State University.

Members of the full-time RLC staff on

hand were Math Instructor Sandra Cox; Science Instructor Linda Denton; Electronics Instructor Don Lynch; Dr. Keith Lape, Vice President; Vocational-Technical Education Dean Carroll Turner, and Finn.

Educators other than those representing individual schools or institutions, included Henry, Kohl, Cross and Musgrave, plus Harold Hood, Franklin County Regional Vocational Education Delivery system; Joe Wilkerson, Regional Superintendent's Office in Benton; Pat Burt, Educational Service Center #17 in Olney, and Ronald Davis, West Frankfort CUSD #168.

Individuals associated with business and industry: Guy Coons, Mariah Boats, Inc., Benton; Don Dame and Francine Williams, Freeman Coal Company, West Frankfort; Jim Davis, Department of Employment Security, West Frankfort; Widney Hertenstein, Western Temporary Services, Mt. Vernon; Ted Lawrence, Productive Products, Inc., Benton; Dennis McEnaney, Illinois Power, Mt. Vernon; Mary Ann Mode, NASCOTE Industries, Nashville; Charles Morris, General Tire and Rubber Company, Mt. Vernon; Lloyd Putzek, Kerr McGee, Harrisburg, and Gary Roan, IBEW Local Union 702, West Frankfort.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 2004

Recognizing the need for more students to enroll in vocational programs today, Rend Lake College has created a new tuition waiver aimed at Tech Prep students.

This two-year award carries a value of between \$3,648 and \$4,104 and includes Fall and Spring semesters and Summer Term.

One Tech Prep tuition waiver will be issued in each of 14 fields of study – Agriculture Business Management; Automotive Service Technician; Biomedical Electronics Technician; Business Management; Child Care Director/Administrator; Computer Networking Specialist; Culinary Arts Management; Engineering Technician; Graphic Design; Health Information Technology;

MINE RESCUE / SAFETY TRAINING CENTER

An Open House for RLC's cutting-edge Mine Rescue and Safety Training facility, made possible by a \$285,000 grant, was held in conjunction with the Illinois Mining Institute's annual meeting and Illinois Mine Rescue Association State Contest conducted on the Ina campus. / August 12, 2009

MOSLER STRIKES SKILLS/U.S.A. GOLD

Spring grad Michael Mosler (Mt. Vernon) was "overwhelmed" by his Gold Medal in Architectural Drafting at the 45th Annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City. / June 22-26, 2009

Horticulture; Industrial Technician; Manufacturing Technology, and Nursing.

"It is a big savings for families and for students," said Betty Musgrave, Tech Prep Director of the Franklin/Williamson Counties Regional Office of Education. "They just have to pay for books and lab fees."

To be eligible for these awards, students must attend one of the 13 high schools in the Rend Lake College district, have and maintain a cumulative 2.0 grade-point average or better and maintain full-time status for Fall and Spring semesters. Students can apply for a waiver in one Tech Prep course.

Student applications and related materials can be obtained in high school Counseling offices.

Award recipients will be notified during their respective high school honors program or by mail.

According to Musgrave, 179 high school students came to Rend Lake College in November 2003 for Tech Prep College Career Day and declared themselves as Tech Prep students. There likely were more Tech Prep students than the number showed because some district high schools were unable to attend, Musgrave said.

However, subsequent college enrollment figures indicated many of these students were not identifying themselves as Tech Prep students when they enrolled at Rend Lake College. To change this trend, the idea of a Tech Prep tuition waiver was generated.

Musgrave said she approached RLC President Mark S. Kern with the idea of presenting scholarships in various Tech Prep programs. Subsequently, a group including Kern, RLC Foundation Chief Executive Officer Pat Mitchell and several Rend Lake College Department Chairs gathered to work out the specifics of this new tuition waiver.

"We are hoping it will put a spark in Tech Prep," said Musgrave. "It's a motivational tool. We are looking forward to seeing how many students apply for the waivers."

According to Musgrave, Tech Prep represents an educational course of study that

LOGO, 'DEY JOURNEY' MEDALLION WINNERS

Rend Lake College and Nathan Wheeler were both recipients of Bronze Medallion Awards at the five-state (plus) National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District 3 Conference. Cited were the college's new logo featuring the Staff Clock Tower and Wheeler's story, "The Long Journey of Dey Tuach Dey," a student-athlete from Africa. / October 2010



RLC co-sponsors National Ridge Till gathering in Iowa

F.Y.I. JANUARY 22, 1990

The interstate partnership is a first . . .

Rend Lake College is a co-sponsor for the Fourth Annual National Ridge Till Conference in Davenport, IA, February 12-13.

Administrators have waived the registration fee for college students, staff and the first 10 other participants signing up before the February 3 deadline. A chartered bus will provide free transportation for those attending through Rend Lake College; participants will be responsible for two nights of lodging and their meals.

Also co-sponsoring the National Ridge Till Conference will be the Platte (NE) Campus of Central Community College and Fleischer Manufacturing Inc., responsible for Buffalo Farm Equipment.



Notre Dame, RLC (soon) grad lands \$1,000 grant

FEBRUARY 1981

Tony Chavez, a sophomore from Mt. Vernon who will graduate this spring in Ag Production, is the recipient of a \$1,000 grant from the Fluid Power Educational Foundation.

One of two grant recipients from the area, Chavez plans to work toward his Master's Degree in Ag Education at SIUC. The 25-year-old has a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies from Notre Dame but returned to school for training in the vocational area.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



RLC buys into Microsoft professional training

NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 1999

Amazingly enough, in a high-tech world where major changes happen on a routine basis overnight, Rend Lake College's computer training is managing to stay ahead of the competition.

- Earlier this month, college officials announced affiliation with Microsoft Corporation through the Microsoft Office User Specialist (MOUS) program as a training/testing site to recognize competency in MS Office 97/00 applications.

- Last week, the educational community received word Rend Lake College has been approved as a Microsoft Academic Professional Development Center (APDC), a structured, train-the-trainer program designed to increase the availability of technical training on Microsoft networking and developer tool technologies. Training for the masses and the instructors.

- Now comes official designation as a Microsoft Authorized Academic Training Provider (AATP) for the Informational Technology professional in such areas as networking, programming, including visual-basic programming, and database management.

In a nutshell, says RLC Instructor Clint Liston, it means a person successfully completing various stages of the six-part certification preparation AATP package will be qualified for jobs estimated to pay in the average range of \$52,800-\$81,200, based on national surveys and level attained.

"There definitely are job opportunities outside our district for individuals with this certification, especially in large cities. The need in Southern Illinois is growing right now, also."

integrates college preparatory coursework with a rigorous technical education concentration. It is a planned sequence of courses, both academic and technical, beginning at ninth-grade and articulated with post-secondary experiences leading to an Associate Degree. It also provides preparation for advanced education, such as a four-year baccalaureate degree.

Musgrave said the content of these courses is determined by employers. She said a panel of employers, working with the Tech Prep program at the Franklin/Williamson ROE, identifies the skills their employees need. Officials then meet with counselors and teachers to develop course content and place the courses in sequential order.

"We are excited. I think it is the right way to go," Musgrave said.

TRAINING THE TRAINERS ▶ Dual-Credit Computer Programming class for area high school teachers

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 2004

Four teachers from area high schools recently spent four days at Rend Lake College undergoing preparations to offer dual-credit classes at their institutions.

According to William Dill, Advanced Technology Division Chair at RLC, the teachers were working with Computer Science Professor David Schuessler, going over the curriculum for "Introduction to Programming in Microsoft Visual Basic." This ensures the class delivered by the teachers at their high schools will match up with the same class offered at Rend Lake College.

When high school students take the class at their schools, they receive three hours of college credit and do not need to take the class again after enrolling at RLC. The class provides an introduction to programming for students with little or no prior programming experience. Students will gain a strong, accessible, hands-on foundation in the language and database skills needed to develop business applications.

The dual-credit system, at least as old as 1992 in the United States and made legal in Illinois in 1996, allows high school students to receive college credit for courses they take during a normal day in addition to satisfying high school graduation requirements. These dual-credit courses are offered by RLC tuition-free and at a reduced rate for textbook rental.

"The delivery methods and quality are the same," said RLC President Mark S. Kern.

"It's a win-win-win situation. It allows the high schools to offer a service that does not cost them anything. But the big winners are the students and the parents."

According to Dill, any student 16 years of age or older can take the Visual Basic course at a participating high school. The course material and grading standards are the same as what a college student would receive at Rend Lake College.

Teachers participating in the training were Karen Haile (Webber Township High School), Brian Ward (Hamilton County Senior H.S.), Minnie Smith (Mt. Vernon Township H.S.) and Pat Sipes (West Frankfort Community H.S.).

Training was organized with help from Betty Musgrave, Tech Prep Director for the Franklin/Williamson Counties Regional Office of Education, and with assistance from the Franklin County Regional Tech Prep Consortium Grant.

According to Musgrave, Tech Prep represents an educational course of study that integrates college preparatory coursework with a rigorous technical education concentration. It is a planned sequence of courses, both academic and technical, beginning at ninth grade and articulated with post-secondary experiences leading to an Associate Degree. It also provides preparation for advanced education, such as a four-year baccalaureate degree.

Musgrave said the next step in creating a Visual Basic dual-credit offering was to correlate the curriculum with the Illinois Learning Standards.

HELP FOR YOUNG AND OLD ▶ RLC shows growth (+ aging) from days as Juco; credit social service offerings

MT. VERNON MORNING SENTINEL SEPTEMBER 29, 1996
BY RANDY SNYDER, MT. VERNON BUREAU CHIEF

INA – If the words "community college" bring to mind people bridging that gap from adolescence to adulthood, you're only partially correct.

An image just as accurate could be one of people who have children of their own entering the age of acne.

That's because the median age of students at Rend Lake College is 35.89, according to Sue Wells, Dean of Student Services since 1994 and an RLC employee since 1975.

"That figure can be somewhat misleading," cautions Bob Kelley, Director of Marketing and Public Information since 1979. "For example, someone in his 70s taking a

one-hour physical fitness class at one of our satellite campuses counts the same as the typical 18-year-old full-time student taking 16 credit hours, because that figure includes everyone enrolled in any class that can be taken for college credit.

"It's a figure that keeps rising each year and it is obvious just from looking around campus there are more and more older students all the time." Kelley said students in Community Ed (non-credit) classes are not figured when determining median age.

Administrators interviewed on Tuesday agree that community colleges are becoming social service facilitators as well as educational institutions as numerous welfare-to-work state grants are being administered through the schools, once known as junior colleges when their primary function was to provide the first half of a four-year university degree.

Recent national welfare reform requires public aid recipients to either be working or in school, prompting a new segment of nontraditional students. Wells defines a nontraditional student as one age 24 or older who has been out of school several years.

Terry Clark, Dean of Vocational-Technical Education, another with more than two decades of service to the school in various positions, said, "I've talked with a lot of workers displaced by the economy, many of them career coal miners who say, 'I haven't been to school in 18 years; I'm not sure I can do it.' But when they get here, they see they are not alone. Practically every class has at least a few so-called nontraditional students.

"The older students also find that their life experiences often help them understand concepts that the 18- and 19-year-olds have trouble with due to their relative lack of life experience.

"Besides, I believe our faculty does an excellent job, especially with the older students, seeing that they do fit in and that their experiences benefit the entire class."

On campus there is a Nontraditional Student Support Services, which houses three programs: Single Parent / Displaced Homemaker, Building Fairness and Teen Parent Initiative / Young Parent Services.

The Single Parent / Displaced Homemaker Program is federally funded and provides marketable vocational and technical skills to single parents, single pregnant women and displaced homemakers. Assistance with tuition, books, lab fees, child care, transportation and social services such as mental health, personal counseling, financial assistance, health care and housing is available for qualifying participants.

The Building Fairness Program, also federally funded, is designed to remove any gender bias toward career choices, helping students prepare for nontraditional fields. The same assistance as with the Single Parent / Displaced Homemaker Program is available for those who qualify.

Both programs offer financial assistance to individuals returning to school for basic skills and academic remediation in math, English and reading necessary to continue a vocational program; GED high school equivalency; career awareness and counseling; vocational education programs, job skills training, work experience and job readiness skills, including résumé writing, interview preparation, self-esteem and decision-making skills, and time management. Both programs also offer workshops promoting self-esteem and self-sufficiency; tours of local businesses and industry, and a support group that meets twice monthly.

The Teen Parent Initiative / Young Parent Services Program is part of a state program that helps parents age 18 or younger and receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children take responsibility for improving their family's lives and avoid long-term dependence on welfare. The program requires participants to attend classes if they do not have a high school diploma or GED; provides a supportive environment for young mothers and their children through case management; provides workshops on parenting, family health and child support enforcement; holds parent-child activities; helps young parents set goals; shows parents that their children's success is dependent upon the success of the parents, and pays for child care and transportation to school.

Other support services offered by RLC



Required Metric System training provided by RLC

NOVEMBER 1975

Rend Lake College's Science and Math Department will offer short courses on the metric system beginning in January, Chair Ed Kownacki announced. A one-credit Metric System course may be offered evenings.

Students will be able to take the course without entering a classroom. Students can obtain workbooks and a set of tapes at the college library and take them home to study and complete course requirements.

Workshops are planned at the Teachers Institute at Mt. Vernon Township H.S. December 5 and at RLC on January 5.



Local history "through the eyes of those who lived it"

FEBRUARY 1976

The history of Southern Illinois, told by the people who have lived through and played an important role in the historical events of the past, is what a special slide presentation created by students at Rend Lake College will attempt to show.

Eleanor Hall's Sociology students are producing the sound-slide show, "Southern Illinois - Its Past Through the Eyes of Those Who Lived It." The group has spent many hours interviewing people about the region's history - its customs, ethnic groups, controversies, industrial background - and everyday life in the area.

Photos of those interviewed and old photographs showing Southern Illinois "as it was" are used in the presentation.

BROOKWOOD-SAGO GRANT RECIPIENT

RLC was recognized as a national leader by the U.S. Dept. of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration when it was awarded a \$73,293 Brookwood-Sago Grant to provide Mine Emergency Response and Rescue Skills Training for the region's rescue teams. / September 12

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2011 - 2012

2012 - 2013



Has Watergate press role added to *Pressing Times*?

NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 1975

Has the role of the press in the Watergate saga sparked interest in college-level journalism? Or do a lot of students need three semester hours of credit and have an opening in their schedules the class can fill?

Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Faculty Advisor to the *Pressing Times*, the Rend Lake College student newspaper, does not know the answer, but she is pleased with this year's crop of student journalists. Her Journalism class is the largest in school history and the *Pressing Times* also has a staff of 26 students. "Last year at the end of the first semester, we were ready to suspend publication," Claxton recalled. Her staff had dwindled to a skeleton force and the PT, a fixture for several years, appeared down for the count. Now, however, the student newspaper is in such good health that a boost in circulation from 1,200 to 2,500 has been authorized. The *Pressing Times* mailing list has exceeded 500 and is still growing as businesses, schools and former RLC students request issues of the bi-weekly paper. Claxton considers the interest in the school paper remarkable since RLC is a commuter college. "The newspaper is very time-consuming for students," she said. "A lot of them have jobs and can't spare the time." Rend Lake College is one of very few student newspapers where the student staff does the entire production process save for the actual printing. Students take care of all writing, photography, typesetting, layout and composition, said Claxton, giving them "a more complete experience" than most community college journalists receive.

include Early School Leavers, Adult Literacy, Child Care Resource and Referral programs, plus Vocational Special Needs and free tutoring.

Wells says any concern that RLC will be overwhelmed with students who merely attend in order to keep receiving public assistance is unfounded. "For one thing," she said, "those who don't apply themselves will find themselves on academic probation after one semester and, if there is no improvement, academically ineligible after a second consecutive failing semester."

She said students in these programs "usually show a tremendous improvement in self-esteem right away."

Wells added that many nontraditional students already hold four-year university degrees but return to take classes to sharpen their job skills, such as computer training.

She also noted that in-district residents age 60 and older may take college credit courses tuition-free, though any additional class fees must be paid. The age waiver does not apply to Community Education classes.

RLC also has had its own Jobs Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Client Service Center on campus since 1989. Qualified participants receive assistance with tuition, fees, books, supplies and possibly mileage and day-care expenses. Eligibility is based on income, long-term unemployment and plant closures.

Clark said the Fiberglass program is a classic example of RLC responding to needs of area employers. "The program wouldn't have been possible without assistance from the boat manufacturers who provided us with equipment for training. The equipment is very expensive. One cart of equipment runs about \$20,000." Four classes of 15 students have completed the five-week program and a fifth class is getting started.

FINANCES IN BEST SHAPE EVER **Iron-clad plans? 'Things just change too fast for that,' according to Kern**

MT. VERNON MORNING SENTINEL SEPTEMBER 30, 1996
BY RANDY SNYDER, MT. VERNON BUREAU CHIEF

In his long association with Rend Lake College, Mark Kern, entering his sixth year as RLC President, says he has learned not to make iron-clad plans for the distant future.

"Things just change too fast for that," Kern said recently. "For example, we did a strategic plan three years ago and Fiberglass Training wasn't even mentioned. Of course, now we've got an excellent Fiberglass

program, primarily to supply workers for the boat manufacturing that has come to Franklin County."

Kern said he agrees that Illinois community colleges, as they continue to be administrators of state and federal grants, have taken on an added role as social service facilitators.

"That's all right, as long as we always recognize that our No. 1 purpose is to provide education for the people in this district," he said. "If we can give them a helping hand in getting that education, so be it."

"But the idea is to help these people help themselves in breaking the welfare cycle. I know there are third-generation welfare families in at least parts of our district, and I know taxpayers are getting tired of it."

RLC has 13 in-district high schools, the largest being Mt. Vernon Township H.S., which provides the largest total of students to RLC, followed by Benton, McLeansboro and Pinckneyville. Other schools in the district include Sesser-Valier, Zeigler-Royalton, Woodlawn, Wayne City, Christopher, Thompsonville, Norris City-Omaha-Enfield, Webber Township and Waltonville.

Kern, 52, who lives in rural Ewing, about 10 miles east of campus, is a graduate of Benton High School. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Industries from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and a Master's Degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois. He has since taken several educational administration courses at both SIU and U. of I.

He first taught in the Ag Department at Wabash Valley College in Mt. Carmel. His first job with RLC was teaching Agriculture in the old Bonnie Grade School.

After four years of that, Kern spent the next four years as Chairman of the Ag Department, four years as Dean of Community Services, nine years as Dean of Instruction, two years as an Ag Instructor again and three months as Interim President. In 1991, he succeeded Jon Astroth as RLC President.

Rend Lake College's roots go back to 1955, when Mt. Vernon Community College was founded under the guidance of the Mt. Vernon Township High School District 201 Board of Education. The first classes were held on the MVTHS / MVCC joint campus in Fall 1956 with 124 daytime and 79 evening students.

RLC was organized December 10, 1966, and 11 months later voters approved a \$3.1 million bond issue and the current 350-acre

site was selected. Groundbreaking for Phase I – consisting of the Academic, Science, Gym, South Oasis and Maintenance buildings – was held March 27, 1967. Those buildings were ready for occupancy in August 1970.

Phases II and III were allowed to be incorporated and consisted of Administration, Vocational, North Oasis, Student Center and Learning Resource Center facilities. The original campus Master Plan was completed by 1975.

Construction has begun on a swimming pool south of the gym, recently renamed for longtime Coach and Athletic Director James “Hummer” Waugh. The 42-by-72-foot pool will be open to the public. It will have six full lanes and an area for therapy.

“Being the first community college in the state to complete its master plan was quite an accomplishment,” Kern said. “The downside to having nearly all our buildings completed at virtually the same time means that things tend to need maintenance all at once. However, once we can get some more work done on our north boiler and chillers, I feel our facilities are going to be in pretty good shape.

“Financially, we are in the best shape we’ve ever been, though we always have to be especially careful with expenditures due to the relatively low assessed valuation of property in our district, which is the fourth-largest in size in the state.

“The ideal mix is 33 percent funding from the state, 33 percent from tuition and 33 percent from local taxes. Rend Lake College gets about 55 percent from state funds, 28 percent from tuition and about 14 or 15 percent from local taxes, with the rest coming from such things as bookstore profits.”

Kern said that if RLC could afford it, “We could easily spend \$200,000 a year just trying to keep up with computer technology. We want to be able to provide the latest training, but we have to use some fiscal restraint.”

RLC is in the second year of a three-year contract with faculty, the only school employees with union representation.

Kern provided an evolution of the com-

munity college system. “We began in the ‘60s and early ‘70s as true junior colleges, with the mission to provide the first two years toward a university degree within driving distance of everyone in the state,” he said.

“In the late ‘70s and early ‘80s, we evolved into community colleges, adding Community Education courses and offering GED (General Educational Development) preparation courses. In the late ‘80s we began programs to better serve nontraditional students, and now we are administering grants designed to get people off welfare and provide them with marketable job skills.”

Kern said one of the steps he took early in his presidency at RLC to improve finances was to cut the Athletic Department budget – this from a man who has had two sons play baseball at RLC, one of whom now pitches in the Oakland Athletics farm system.

“When I became President, we were spending about \$234,000 a year on athletics,” Kern said. “Now, five years later, we’re spending around \$150,000 to \$175,000, despite inflation.

“We went to Division II in Men’s Basketball, saving us about \$70,000 in scholarships. And, although it makes it very difficult for us to compete for the Great Rivers Athletic Conference championship against schools still giving scholarships, we have remained competitive and we still get to go to a post-season Division II tourney.

“I think it was a wise move. You’ve got to realize that a lot of our students, especially those with children of their own and other adult problems, could care less how our basketball team does.”

Kern said he encourages his coaches to seek local athletes first, “though I don’t put quotas on them.”

All sports other than Men’s Basketball at RLC remain Division I. Kern said the RLC Golf Team was second in the nation two years ago and third last year, and that the Lady Warriors were in the Final Eight of the National Junior College Athletic Association Fast-Pitch Softball Championship Tournament last spring.



Donated workout station benefits disabled students

NOVEMBER 1997

The Rend Lake College Fitness Center in Mt. Vernon has expanded its clientele base.

The facility in the Sister Joanne Building at Good Samaritan Regional Health Center has added a multi-purpose workout station which serves individuals confined to wheelchairs.

“The Equalizer 1000” weight-training equipment was unveiled November 3 following its donation by Sam Mateer, RLC Foundation “Generations of Excellence” Capital Campaign Chair and Bank of Illinois, and President Richard Black and Infinite Access Corporation. The five-station unit is available for use by both able-bodied and disabled persons. “I can’t imagine a more beneficial donation to those with special needs,” said the Fitness Center’s Wayne Arnold. “We look forward to the opportunity to better serve these individuals on an ongoing basis.”



Volunteer Nurses-to-be: ‘Smoke Free, That’s Me’

FEBRUARY 1998

Rend Lake College Nursing students will be carrying the message, “Smoke Free, That’s Me” to area grade schools on a volunteer basis for the next three months. Age-appropriate lessons will utilize videos, handouts and posters presented by trained volunteers. Nursing students will share the message with youngsters in Jefferson and Franklin counties under the guidance of Instructor Debbie Bennis.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE GOES EVENINGS

Rend Lake College will begin an evening Therapeutic Massage program on the Ina campus Fall Semester.
/ Fall 2013

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2013 – 2014

2014 – 2015



Two ADN students receive Health Improvement help

NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 1989

Two Rend Lake College Nursing students have been awarded Illinois Health Improvement Association scholarships, while a total of 34 students from the Practical Nursing program and the Associate Degree Nursing programs attained academic honors for the 1988 Fall Semester.

RLC representatives Nancy C. Keller of Tamaroa and Frank J. Gwaltney of Zeigler are among eight ADN students in the area to receive scholarships made available by the IHIA to the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market, according to an announcement by Dr. Jeanine Hayduk, SICCM Director. The Illinois Health Improvement Association recently presented a \$2,000 check to the consortium comprised of Rend Lake College, John A. Logan College, Shawnee Community College, Southeastern Illinois College and Southern Illinois University.

The IHIA is a nonprofit organization established 32 years ago for the purpose of improving health care for rural Illinoisans. In the past 14 years, the group has given SICCM \$27,000 for Associate Degree Nursing student scholarships. Academic honors, meanwhile, were forthcoming Fall Semester 1988 for many students in the Allied Health program.

Eleven Practical Nursing students and one ADN student were named to the President's List with straight-A averages (4.0-point scale). The Dean's List for students boasting GPAs between 3.50 and 3.99 includes 22 Practical Nurses and 11 Associate Degree Nurses.

The school also has Men and Women's Tennis. Male basketball players are eligible to receive only tuition waivers and books. Athletes in the other sports can receive aid beyond tuition and books, but money for it must be raised from private sources.

EISENHOWER GRANTS ▶ 'Biotechnology' and 'Videolab Science' benefit area high schools thanks to RLC

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 1994

Improved science instruction in high schools throughout the district and the establishment of a model, state-of-the-art laboratory on-campus should be the end result of two grants awarded Rend Lake College in recent days.

Notification has been received from the Illinois Board of Higher Education regarding two Dwight D. Eisenhower Mathematics and Science Education Program Grants totalling \$123,000.

One of the awards, to be administered by RLC Science faculty members Dr. Sue Trammell and Lisa Reed, will involve seven high schools in the district and is concerned with an "Introduction to Biotechnology for High School Faculty and Young Women."

This grant is for \$56,000 and will benefit Benton Consolidated High School, Christopher H.S., Mt. Vernon Township H.S., Sesser-Valier H.S., Thompsonville Community H.S., Wayne City Community Unit District #1 and Woodlawn Community H.S.

If funded the second year, as hoped, six remaining in-district schools would be added.

The other grant is for \$67,000 and is a continuation of the "Videodisc Chemistry" project administered by RLC Instructor John Fisher the past two years. [See related story in EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION section.]

It will enable the college to finalize the development and implementation of an innovative interdisciplinary chemistry curriculum that overcomes restrictions imposed by most conventional approaches.

The crucial components of this improved curricula, videodisc chemistry and safe "Kitchen Chemistry" have been installed in 13 area high schools in the last two years and the program has proven very successful. The thrust of the final year will be to increase instructor competency and student interest by completely integrating the videodisc lessons with the wet labs and relating these experiences to other courses in the high schools.

A permanent "Science Teachers Excellence Center and Consortium" is planned on-campus to serve as a central site for continual and intensive training for both students and teachers from all educational levels. It will serve as a centralized lending supply source for laboratory equipment, instructional manuals and other materials.

Department Chair Larry Williams and Director of Resource Development Bob Ross were responsible for helping the RLC Science Instructors prepare the grant applications.

In his letter notifying in-district school officials of the grants, RLC President Mark S. Kern commented, "I am proud that Rend Lake College in partnership with your high school accomplished as a team what neither of us could accomplish alone. We look forward to further collaboration with your school in the future."

The "Biotechnology" grant is concerned with a relatively new science. "Bio," noted Trammell, "means life; technology is applying science to solve a problem. Biotechnology refers to a collection of techniques that use living organisms to solve problems or make products. The instructor cited human growth hormones (HGH), production of insulin and Factor VIII which produces enzymes to help in blood clotting as examples of biotechnology.

"Biotechnology is an interest of mine, but like a lot of teachers, I've had little or no training in that area because it didn't exist when I was in college. We would like to see that change, because it is a revolutionary science that is having an immediate and profound effect on society," added Trammell. "In fact, one industrial leader was quoted recently as saying it will change society in a much more profound way than the computer or industrial revolution have."

According to the project synopsis, the Rend Lake College biology faculty and high school teachers will improve the quality of biology instruction within the district over a two-year period by introducing the emerging discipline of biotechnology into the curriculum. Modern biotechnology classroom and laboratory instruction will be crucial components of the new curricula.

"A series of basic lab experiences in the modern-science laboratories at RLC and advances experiences at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale will introduce high school Biology Teachers and under-represented gifted and talented young women to

principles and issues underlying electrophoresis and recombinant DNA methodologies.

"In-service training for high school biology teachers will be conducted to address two priority needs as identified by district high school science departments: the need for high school teachers to improve instructional practices and laboratory procedures in molecular biology and biotechnology, and the need to recruit more talented and gifted young women into the biological sciences."

The curricula will be field-tested in science labs at RLC by college faculty, participating high school teachers and gifted and talented young women and other minorities, eventually to be adopted by participating high schools. Cooperating teachers will build their capacity to utilize laboratory methods, technologies and practices and to incorporate them into their teaching. The project will be closely monitored to measure its effectiveness, with results disseminated statewide.

Participants will receive a miniature set of electrophoresis equipment for use in the district high schools.

With every high school within the district receiving considerable equipment from the first two years of the "Videolab Science" grant, the bulk of equipment purchased in Year Three will go toward the creation of high-tech, hands-on instrumentation for use in the "Science Teachers Excellence Center" on-campus.

In addition to being able to use the new RLC setup, individual schools will benefit from interface boards and other hardware and software. "In reality," said Fisher, "even the smallest high schools in our district are going to have the capability of running a lot of experiments that even most of the community colleges in the state can't run because they don't have the technology in place."

The continuation project likewise will find cooperative efforts with industry emphasized. Monsanto, for one, has pledged its support behind the Rend Lake College program. This collaborative agreement will allow for continual training of science teachers K-12 and will take "student interaction to a degree never before possible in Southern Illinois," Fisher commented.

The synopsis: "This project has national significance in that it addresses problems common to all chemistry departments and builds on the pioneering work of nationally known chemistry educators."

The three-year "Videolab Science" project has been a cooperative effort with Rend Lake College, both public and private school districts, Educational Service Centers, Regional Superintendents of Schools, the HECA minority "Project First Class" grant, SIU's School of Medicine and Monsanto Corporation.

STUDENTS CHALLENGED ▶ RLC/High School Honors Credit Program adds up: 17 hours of pre-freshman credit

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SPRING 1997

The High School Honors Credit Program to be offered by Rend Lake College beginning Summer Term 1997 should provide a unique opportunity for the academically talented prep student within the district who would like to accelerate his or her college education.

High school juniors who qualify for the Honors Credit Program will be able to earn one semester of college credit (17 hours) through Rend Lake College before their freshman year of college. This can mean a significant savings of both money and time.

At the regular October Board meeting, RLC Trustees put their stamp of approval on the High School Honors Credit Program and demonstrated their wholehearted support by establishing a one-half tuition waiver scholarship for each participating student.

The program "is meant to supplement high school classes, not supplant them," according to administrative rationale, and "will provide an opportunity to bring some of the area's most capable students onto campus. It will provide a challenging learning experience for everyone involved."

Curriculum for the RLC / High School Honors Credit Program will consist of five courses that fulfill general education requirements at most four-year colleges and universities, as well as Rend Lake College –

- ART 1101 – Art Appreciation
- BIO 1101 – College Biology
- ENGL 1101 – Rhetoric / Composition I
- PSYC 2101 – Introduction to Psychology
- SPCH 1101 – Principles of Effective Speaking

Rend Lake College backs the transferability of its courses with a guarantee that it will refund tuition if a course designated to transfer to a four-year institution in Illinois is not accepted.

A maximum of 30 students chosen for the High School Honors Credit Program each year. Selection will be based on ACT scores, class rank and grade-point average among

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Can't sleep? Try counting late-night Engine builders

FEBRUARY 1980

Rend Lake College's latest innovation in its evening program may keep some students awake nights. Or should we say, mornings?

An Automotive course in "Engine Rebuilding" has been added, aimed at persons who find their motors still purring in the wee hours of the morning.

"Engine Rebuilding" is slated from 1-5 a.m. – that's right, a.m. – with the hope of attracting workers on second-shift jobs who conclude their regular day's work at midnight.

The course will allow students to bring in engines that need to be rebuilt and work on them. It will be for five credits (\$55 cost) and probably will meet two times per week, with those days to be determined by public demand.

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PCHS rep Williams wins first Welding test in '83

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 1982-83

Mark Williams (Pinckneyville Community High School) captured individual honors in the first-ever Welding Contest conducted by Rend Lake College for graduating seniors.

Williams received a new welder donated by a local company and a full tuition waiver for his first semester.

Other winners among the 33 participants from throughout the district were Brad Kelley (Mt. Vernon), second; Scott Kreger (Pinckneyville), third; Chris Sherman (Mt. Vernon), fourth, and David Keller (Tamaroa), fifth, all of whom were offered partial tuition waivers.



Project First Class admirer praises Coordinator Jones

LETTER DATED AUGUST 23, 1995
Dean Sue Wells:

... [Project First Class Coordinator] Camille Jones! A most unusual person! Although I met Camille a year ago, it seems as if I have known her much of my life. I have found her to be a high energy, highly motivated, enthusiastic, knowledgeable person who can set and accomplish the goals of the planned activity. To me, she is also very flexible and creative in developing alternative plans in a difficult situation.

Camille demonstrates a wonderful, caring, interpersonal interaction with students. This interpersonal interaction is highly facilitative in assisting students to make hard decisions while attempting to negotiate a map for their future educational endeavors. Camille shows students how they might use the plan to navigate themselves toward a successful educational experience.

Because of your continuous interpersonal interactions with Camille, I am sure that all of my observations of Camille are common knowledge to you. I sincerely hope she "bragged a little" about her role in the success of our joint effort to provide the on-campus SIUE School of Nursing Project GAIN (Get Ahead in Nursing) Summer Nurse Camp experience for students from Mt. Vernon Township High School.

It is my sincere hope we will increase the activities of this joint program for students as they prepare to attend Rend Lake College or other colleges in the future.

Sincerely,
Lorraine D. Williams, RN, PhD
Director, Project GAIN /
Summer Nurse Camp 1995

those applying. These 30 students will progress through the five classes together on the RLC campus.

The one-year program begins the summer following the student's junior year and continues through the summer following high school graduation.

Eligibility requirements

To qualify, a student must:

- Be enrolled as a high school junior
- Be ranked in the top 20% of class
- Have ACT composite score of 26 or higher
- Have ACT English score of 24 or higher
- Have completed six or more semesters of high school English with a grade of "B" or higher
- Be at least 16 years of age
- Submit all required documents by the deadline

To remain in the program, students must maintain a "B" average or higher in the Honors Credit Program classes.

Program benefits

The administration, faculty and staff of Rend Lake College are of the belief this program will be of great educational and financial benefit to those selected students who elect to take advantage of the opportunity.

Among the clear cut benefits:

- **The student will save money.** Completing a semester of college at RLC before beginning the freshman year at a four-year institution will save a considerable amount of money. Factor in the one-half tuition waiver Honors Scholarship awarded to each participant, and the monetary benefit becomes even more important.

Honors Scholars will pay approximately \$300 for those 17 credits. Compare that to the average cost of a semester at a state university, which is \$3,500 or higher, or as much as \$9,000 or more at a private college.

- **Students will save time.** By completing a semester of college while still in high school, participants can trim the length of time it will take to earn a college degree.

- **Students will be better prepared for college.** Attending college classes while still in high school will allow the student to become accustomed to the demands of college-level courses and give him or her an edge over other college freshmen.

- **Students will be able to trim their course load.** With 17 semester hours completed before their freshman year of college

would normally begin, individuals will be able (if so desired) to take fewer courses each semester after enrolling as a full-time college student and still graduate in four years. A lighter class load should make it easier to maintain a higher grade-point average.

- **It will provide a cushion** in case the student needs to drop a class later.

- **It could prove to be an impressive credential** to set a student apart from other scholarship applicants.

- **It should be a great educational experience.** The Honors Credit Program will allow you to network with other honors students from high schools throughout the district. Because all participants in the program are serious-minded students, like yourself, you will learn in a highly stimulating classroom atmosphere.

I.e., students will be challenged!

Those with questions concerning the Honors Credit Program are encouraged to contact Jay Lewis, Director of Counseling, in the RLC Counseling Center (Student Center Balcony).

[It was reported in June 1997 a class of 17 area seniors-to-be, representing nine in-district high schools, were taking advantage of the Honors Credit Program and enrolled in College Biology.]

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES ▶ Annual Science Teachers Conference a hit with junior-senior high participants

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 1999

Rend Lake College and the Illinois Association of Chemistry Teachers sponsored a "Science Teachers Conference" Friday, April 16, on the Ina campus, with more than 100 registering for the first such event.

The conference was designed for innovative middle school, junior high and senior high school science teachers who are interested in learning the latest teaching approaches in their field. Participants left with hands-on activities ready to be used in the classroom and lab.

An exhibit hall was set up in the South Oasis. Representatives displayed the most recent science and educational materials offered by their companies. They also were available to address questions or concerns.

Local and regional science educators presented the following topics:

- Discovering Science by Discovering Scuba
- Forensic Science for the High School Lab
- The Science Lab's Role as a Tool for Industrial Problem-Solving

- Electrifying Science
- Project-Based Science Laboratories for the Junior High School
- Teaching Science with Sports
- Biochemistry and Biotechnology
- Soil Science and Ag Chemistry
- The Cyberspace Science Lab
- Water Science: What Happens After the Flush

The featured speaker, Dr. Melvin Webb, presented a model that has a documented track record in addressing the underrepresentation of minorities and females in the fields of engineering, mathematical and natural sciences. He is Director of the Atlanta Comprehensive Regional Center for Minorities, Office of Naval Research and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Program at Clark Atlanta University.

The Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Division of Continuing Education handled registration through former RLC employee Sandy Rhoads and the SIUC Division of Continuing Education.

EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESSING TIMES SPRING 2001

The Third Annual Illinois Association of Chemistry Teachers "Science Conference" took place Friday, April 20.

Associate Director for Grants Administration Terry Nunn and Office of the State Superintendent Representative Ray Schaljo spoke to participants during the general session.

Special sessions included:

- The Application of Ag Chemistry Principles to Depleted Tobacco Farmland
- Ag Chemistry
- Alternative Fuels
- Teaching Elementary Science Using Children's Music, Literature and Art
- X-Ray Collaboration for Illinois Technology and Education-Xcite
- Chemteach
- Forensic Chemistry and English Composition
- Glaciers Geochemistry and Soil Profiles
- Alternative Fuels II

"The conference is helping to promote science education in the state of Illinois," said Illinois Association of Chemistry Teachers President Jeffrey S. Carver.

"Being in the southern part of the state, we are really hoping to expand and bring both parts of the state together," said Carver, "as well as to improve the network of science teachers down here."

"Those of us down here are affiliated with this organization because of the work John Fisher is doing and the work he has done with our organization," added Carver.

"This is not a task one person can do alone. This is something we need to use all of our resources to help improve science education."

Carver's praise of the RLC Chemistry Instructor and conference organizer continued, "The work that John Fisher does at Rend Lake College is just great. He is really helping improve science education.

"I'm extremely pleased with the turnout . . . it has gone up every year we have been down here," Carver said, "and what I really enjoyed seeing was the involvement of the students in the presentations and in the gathering of data for the presentations."

~ Ryan Dodson, Student Editor

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MARCH 2004

The Sixth Annual Rend Lake College Science Teachers Conference feeds the appetite fueled by the popularity of television shows such as "CSI" "CSI: Miami" and "Cold Case." Forensic experts will explain how they have helped solve some of the most heinous crimes in the past 15 years using the most advanced techniques in forensic science.

The conference is aimed at all middle, junior high and high school science teachers. This program is approved by the Illinois State Board of Higher Education for Continuing Professional Development Units. It will be held from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 16, at Rend Lake College.

Presenters will fascinate the audience with real-life stories in the field and show how the evidence they discovered was used to solve some very mysterious crimes. Each presenter will spend the afternoon in breakout sessions explaining how to incorporate these techniques into the classroom.

Presentations for the day include:

- "Forensic Anthropology" with Dr. Steve Symes of Mercyhurst College (PA). Symes specializes in this field and has more than 24 years of experience.

- "Forensic Toxicology" with T. Paulette Sutton of the University of Tennessee at Memphis. Sutton is a world-renowned blood splatter expert in forensic toxicology.

- "Forensic Technology" with Annina Carter of Adirondack Community College (NY). Carter is a Chemistry Professor who has won national recognition by incorporating forensics into the classroom.

Bryan Chumbley of the North Central Regional Educational Laboratory also will be on hand to explain the Summer Data Retreat to be hosted by Rend Lake College, Illinois State University and NCREL.



Fish tale? Marine Biology headed to Jamaica, mon

NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 2003

"Go to Jamaica, mon," and earn credit through Rend Lake College.

Some students will experience a Caribbean adventure while earning college credit at the same time next summer in RLC's "Tropical Marine Biology in Jamaica" trip. The journey abroad departs from St. Louis May 22 and returns June 1.

Participants will not only hear about the wondrous world of tropical marine biology but will see the lectures come to life. They also will experience a fascinating new culture without having to learn a new language. Students will visit mangrove swamps, swim in caves frequented by friendly bats and search for octopi in their natural habitat.

"There is absolutely no better way to learn about marine biology than with hands-on experience in exotic, tropical environment," said RLC Professor Dr. Sue Tomlin.

"Biology 1105 – Field Biology Tropical" is a two-credit hour lab course taught by Tomlin and fellow RLC faculty member Steve Holman. As with other courses, there will be lab exercises, term paper and final exam.

Holman said the course should not be mistaken for a vacation. "Some days will begin before breakfast and keep you busy until evening. Think of it more like a biological bootcamp," he laughed, albeit seriously.

"If you are ready for adventure and serious learning, we have developed the perfect course for you," said Tomlin. Students will be snorkeling most days. The trip will be more intellectually and physically demanding than most, but "well worth the extra effort."



Some of the better things in life are FREE at RLC

F.Y.I. JANUARY 16, 1996

Some of the better things in life really are free. That is the message Rend Lake College officials want to make sure they get across to residents of Community College District 521, which includes most of Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson and Perry counties and parts of Wayne and White.

Among those services available free of charge from the comprehensive, Ina-based institution "where learning never ends" . . .

- Library facilities and services. All in-district residents are encouraged to take advantage of materials, services and staff available at no charge in the RLC Learning Resource Center.

Included: over 30,000 books, 450 magazines and 20 daily newspapers, records, tapes, etc., plus access to the Shawnee Library System computerized database.

- Senior citizens (age 60 years or older) do not have to pay tuition for Rend Lake College credit classes. However, those who qualify are responsible for identifying themselves as such at the time they register.

- Need help writing a résumé and/or finding a job? RLC Cooperative Education and Job Placement personnel know what goes into an effective résumé and can provide sound advice and assistance to make you more marketable to potential employers, both on paper and in person. They may even put you in touch with potential employers, or vice-versa, all at no cost.

- Career change under consideration? Visit the RLC Career Center and talk with a college counselor to get a

(Continued on next page)

TEN CAREERS IN FIVE DAYS ▶ Career Exploration Camp introduces prep students to vocational programs

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN JUNE 1995
BY NICK MARIANO

About 40 high school students explored their futures this week. Now all they have to do is decide what they want to do for a living.

Being exposed to career options helps somewhat, one student said Thursday during a break between seminars at Rend Lake College at Ina.

"It made me want to look into more careers than I really thought about," said 15-year-old Kevin Woley of McLeansboro High. "There's so much I want to do."

The college at Ina will conclude its first Career Exploration Camp today.

Part of a \$25,000 grant – about \$3,500 – the school received in July from the Illinois State Board of Education was used to pay for the affair, Coordinator Elaine Johnson said. There was no fee to the students to attend.

This camp is in addition to similar career seminars the college has sponsored the last three years, Johnson said, adding that she plans to repeat the camp next year. It is something she has wanted to organize for some time.

"We have a real good vocational department out here, and a lot of the kids just don't have the opportunity to see it," she said.

Instead of spending the week fishing, working or on some other summer activity that they could be pursuing, these students spent their week operating mechanical arms, taking fingerprints and checking pulses.

All of the students spent two hours working hands-on with college instructors in each of the 10 career fields included in the five-day camp.

Although they probably won't decide for years – at least three of the students said they plan to attend college – all had the chance to imagine themselves as professionals in various fields.

The career options included Architecture, Automotive Technology, Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, Electronics, Secretarial Sciences, Nursing, Welding, Robotics and Emergency Medical Technician work.

"I was really interested in Automotive Technology; it kind of worries me," said 16-year-old Gina Todd of Thompsonville Community High School.

Students were required to attend each

of the seminars, partly to overcome any gender-related stereotypes they might have about a specific career, Johnson said.

Johnson is the Program Director of the college's Nontraditional Student Support Services, which applied for the state "Building Fairness" Grant to promote gender equity among students in vocational careers.

The camp was proposed in the grant application.

"The purpose of the camp is to recruit boys and girls into careers not based on gender," Johnson said.

"It allows us to show off what we have here. We've got a group of kids who probably, once they are here, will come back."

While possibly discovering what fields they would like to further explore, the students might also have learned which fields they would not pursue, Robotics Instructor William Dill of the college's Industrial Technology Department said.

The career camp also puts into perspective what the students are learning in high school, and it exposes them to the college setting, Dill said.

"We've taken those high school students out of their environment and placed them in a college environment which is alien to them," he said. "The students have been as attentive as any college student, he added.

The college also will sponsor a two-week camp for high school girls beginning July 10 that covers the fields of Architecture and Industrial Technology. This is the first year those fields are combined. This will be the fourth year for seminars in the industrial field and third year for Architecture.

Johnson said next year's camp could be extended by another week to include other career options and field trips. She also expects more students.

"After we have something the first year, the kids promote it the next year. Then we get a better response," she said.

BOOST FOR NEW TRAINING ▶ Mine Rescue and Safety Training facility state grant of \$285,000 awarded to RLC

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 12, 2009

A state grant to Rend Lake College will be used to improve safety in the Illinois coal mining industry.

The \$285,000 grant for a cutting-edge Mine Rescue and Safety Training facility will be a big boost to the new Coal Mine Training Center and Coal Mining Technology program at RLC.

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Office of Mines and Minerals Director Joe Angleton and Office of Coal Development Bureau Chief Bill Hoback joined Rend Lake College President Charley D. Holstein, members of the RLC Board of Trustees and RLC Foundation Board of Directors and other college officials at the center's grand opening, held in conjunction with the Illinois Mining Institute's annual meeting and Illinois Mine Rescue Association's state contest, Tuesday, August 11, on the college campus.

A crowd of more than 200 community members, local officials, coal industry leaders and state representatives were on hand for the grant announcement and public open house at the 20,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art Coal Mine Training Center at RLC.

The grant provides funding for the college to design, engineer and construct the new facility. Roughly 10 percent of the grant will be used for design and planning, about 30 percent for procuring equipment and 60 percent for materials and construction.

"This new capability strengthens our position as a regional leader in mine rescue safety training," said Holstein.

Rend Lake College will hire an approved architect or civil engineer and consult regularly with local representatives of the Office of Mines and Minerals, and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). The college also will provide monthly progress reports about the project and a final report to the DCEO.

The future Mine Safety and Rescue Training facility at Rend Lake College is aimed at putting Illinois at the top of the list for safest mining states across the country.

DCEO Director Warren Ribley said, "The investments made here will be returned for many years to come. As we see an increase in coal mining activity in Southern Illinois, it becomes even more critical we continue to strive to have the safest coal mines in the United States, along with the best trained, most productive mining workforce possible."

Angleton said the new CMTC is going to be at the center of coal miner training.

"We had to go to Beckley, West Virginia to find anything similar to what we are going to have here."

He talked about mines coming online in the area that are going to bring good paying jobs that will stimulate the local economy and support the growth and viability of other industries.

"Coal is very, very important when you look at what it does to the economy," he added. ". . . It is something that is instrumental in regards to making us a very, very viable area and making us a strong Southern Illinois. We went through some very hard times. For the first time in my life, there's not a (operating) coal mine in Franklin County. We are going to see it come back. We are going to see a major comeback."

A \$1.07 million grant awarded to the college in 2008 went toward the Coal Mine Training Center. The facility, located on the west side of campus, houses a large open shop area, simulated coal mine and large classrooms, in addition to faculty offices.

U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR ▶ RLC recipient of grant to train Mine Emergency Response/Rescue Skills

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 27, 2012

Rend Lake College was recognized among the nation's leaders in mine safety training Wednesday when the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration announced the latest round of Brookwood-Sago grants.

RLC has been awarded \$73,293 to provide Mine Emergency Response and Rescue Skills Training for the region's mine rescue teams. The training will take place at the RLC Coal Mining Training Center, located on the Ina campus.

President Terry Wilkerson said it was a team effort by those at the college to secure the grant.

"We are one of seven in the U.S. to get part of this \$1.25 million through the Brookwood-Sago program," said Wilkerson. "That's quite an achievement for the college, area coal leaders who call on us to provide their safety training and the staff here. I know they worked hard to bring this grant to Southern Illinois and I thank the Department of Labor for recognizing the value of our proposal."

"We can never over-emphasize the importance of training, especially in the area of mine emergency response," Joseph A. Main, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, stated in a release Wednesday. "These grants will enable organizations that are dedicated to mine safety to develop programs that may one day save miners' lives."

Training grants are awarded for a 12-month performance period, and applicants must be states or nonprofit entities, according to an MSHA release. The



Select few schools receive ASE Master Certification

BOARD MINUTES MAY 9, 1995

After the Automotive Technology program attained ASE Master Certification, Rend Lake College officials received a letter of congratulations from National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence President Ronald H. Weiner in which he indicated only a small percentage of educational institutions achieve such rank. ASE Master Certification represents the highest level of achievement recognized by NIASE.

Prior to the Board meeting, Trustees and Administrators met in the Automotive lab with Department Chair Doug Leeck and Instructors to learn more about the significance of ASE Master Certification.



Free things (cont.)

better idea of the direction in which you may want to start heading in career-wise.

- Basic EMT tuition waiver for rescue volunteers. If a resident of the district is serving as a volunteer on a fire department rescue squad for a not-for-profit group, Rend Lake College officials will waive the rice of tuition for the Basic Emergency Medical Technician class.

A special form must be signed by the Fire or Rescue Squad Chief for the student to qualify.

- Many other programs do not charge, including General Education Development (GED) and Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes; tutoring; "Ready for Reading" adult literacy programs; Returning Students, Young Parent Support and other nontraditional programs; child care referral, and Early School Leaver.



A High School to College 2+2 curriculum initiated

NEWS RELEASE MAY 15, 1984

A new concept as simple as its name implies should improve the quality of vocational education within the Rend Lake College District, members of the Board of Trustees were informed Tuesday night.

The "Two-Plus-Two Curriculum" should provide a coordinated delivery system of vocational education that eliminates needless duplication of time and money between RLC, area high school feeder systems and the Mt. Vernon Area Vocational Center, according to Dean of Vocational-Technical Education Carroll Turner.

Basically, the program will coordinate educational efforts during a four-year period, beginning with the student's junior and senior years in high school and continuing through the community college.

"Our plan is to implement programs in all areas of vocational education that will allow a high school sophomore to select an occupational program and have a course of study outlined for four years," Turner said.

Administrative and staff personnel from RLC have met with their counterparts from in-district feeder schools to discuss implementation of the Two-Plus-Two concept.

Turner praised the efforts of Regional Vocational Administrator Harold E. Finn of the Department of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education and the Mt. Vernon Area Vocational Center in helping initiate the program, which was highly recommended by a recent DAVTE evaluation team concerned with articulation among the various components.

"Exit points" are built into the program for those who might change their minds at any time.

grants program was established through a provision in the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006, the release states. The grants were named in remembrance of 13 men who died in two explosions at the Jim Walter Resources Inc. No. 5 Mine in Brookwood, AL, in 2001, and 12 men who died in an explosion at the Sago Mine in Tallsmanville, WV, in 2006.

RLC Applied Science and Advanced Technology Division Chair Chris Nielsen said this is not the first time Mining Technology at RLC has been awarded through the Brookwood-Sago program, which is aimed at developing and implementing training and related materials for mine emergency preparedness, and prevention of accidents in underground mines.

"We received \$50,000 in September 2009," said Nielsen. "At that time, our program was being revitalized on campus in response to area coal development and the Brookwood-Sago funding was primarily targeted at building our Mine Safety curriculum."

Nielsen said the curriculum is in place and this round of funding will be used to put it to work.

"This funding will be used to provide training for fire brigade and mine rescue teams. Mine fire fighting and mine rescue is very rigorous and dangerous. Rescue teams must deal with darkness, smoke, heat – a very inhospitable environment. And at the same time, they must perform the functions of a fire department with hoses, water supply and breathing apparatuses. Our training program allows coal companies to put their rescue personnel into life-like scenarios without exposing them to undue risk."

Ronnie Rains, an instructor in RLC's program and a captain at West Frankfort Fire Department, said the training schedule is packed and coal mine fire brigade teams are lined up to train.

"We do a two-day training," said Rains. "Some of the mines may have around 50 people on their fire brigade team, so they choose to send 10 team members at a time. In the Coal Mine training, we do classroom work in the morning and hands-on training in the afternoon. It seems every month we are getting more and more signing up; the program is definitely progressing nicely."

Other Brookwood-Sago grant recipients:

- Colorado School of Mines (Golden, CO) – \$147,184 for mine rescue training.
- University of Arizona (Tucson) –

\$167,191 for testing computer software simulations for mine emergency preparedness at five underground mines in New Mexico, Utah and Colorado.

- Beville State College (Sumiton, AL) – \$148,799 to develop a "day in the life" educational video about a mine examiner.

- Marshall University (Huntington, WV) – \$96,306 to develop a computer program that performs ventilation network planning calculations as well as simulates a mine's ventilation system.

- Penn State University (University Park, PA) – \$216,358 renewal for a fiscal year 2011 grant for implementing a web-based training program for hiring, training and recruiting mine emergency prevention instructors.

- United Mine Workers of America Career Centers Inc. (Washington, PA) – \$224,111 to develop miner training on mine map reading, symbol recognition, escape ways and basic mine ventilation.

PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL ► Bar Association reps answer questions in series of free public presentations

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 2008

The law is a mystery to many, and Rend Lake College's Community Education Department is helping people solve it through the "People's Law School," a selection of free presentations made by members of the Jefferson County Bar Association.

"People's Law School" covers areas of the law in which people have the most frequent legal problems. Attendees will leave these sessions better equipped to understand and deal with these problems when confronted with them.

Speakers featured during "People's Law School" are outstanding local attorneys and judges who will explain the law in language everyone can understand. There will be an opportunity for questions after each session.

Presentations at the RLC MarketPlace will be Thursdays from February 7-March 20. The schedule of topics and speakers:

- "Family Law / Child Custody / Divorce," Aaron Carnine and Meleah Walton.

- "Accidents / Injuries / Worker's Compensation," Brian McGovern.

- "Estate Planning / Wills / Probate," with Mark Ballard, Hank Villani.

- "Real Estate Law," Jim Hanson.
- "Small Claims," Sean Featherstun.

- "Criminal Law / How the System Works," Jeff Bradley and Scott Quinn.

• "Traffic / DUI / Secretary of State Hearing," T. J. Parrish.

According to Community Education Director Dawn Gibson, previous presentations have been popular. "All of the sessions have good attendance because they cover areas of the law that touch most everyone at some point in time," Gibson said.

The "People's Law School" is presented jointly by the Illinois Bar Association, Jefferson County Bar Association and Rend Lake College.

'INSPIRED ALL OF US' ▶ Claxton receives statewide Lifelong 'Outstanding Instructor' Award in '05

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 2005

Dr. Evelyn Claxton has epitomized the Institute for Learning in Retirement since it was introduced by the Rend Lake College Foundation in 1999.

The eager, adult learner admits she discovers something new every time she prepares for class. She has been a frequent participant in the program which offers inexpensive, educational programs and trips.

What sets Claxton apart from the others is her status as the teacher once or twice each semester. A teacher who, according to one student, "inspired all of us to continue."

"There was never a lapse in her class because she had so much to offer," continued one of her many admirers. "I left there with a stronger confidence in my own ability . . . She is a professor, but she always will be remembered first and foremost as a very intelligent lady with a tender heart and a love of language and literature."

Claxton also will be remembered as recipient of the 2005 "Outstanding Instructor Award" presented February 24 by the statewide Lifelong Learning and Service Coalition during its Winter Meeting at Heartland Community College in Bloomington.

The award-winner was accompanied by RLC's Lori Ragland, who coordinates the Learning in Retirement program as Assistant Director of Community Education, and RLC Foundation Chief Executive Officer Pat Mitchell, who started the ILR program for seniors. Ragland submitted Claxton's nomination for the prestigious annual honor, with a letter of recommendation from Mitchell.

All three judges comprising the awards committee gave her nomination perfect scores of 100. The Instructor classification was the most competitive of five awarded.

Rock Valley College in Rockford, which

boasted one of the first programs in Illinois and is considered the model for many others, received recognition as "Overall Older Adult Program." Awards in three other categories were presented to representatives of Illinois State University, Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield and John Wood Community College in Quincy.

Claxton retired from Rend Lake College as Arts and Communications Department Chair in 1983 after having first joined the full-time faculty as an English / Journalism Instructor the year the college moved to the Ina campus (1970), the same year she earned a Doctorate Degree from Kansas University.

After graduating from the University of Michigan, Claxton accepted a teaching position at the University of Missouri before following her late husband, Fred, to the Kansas City area and later Michigan. Along the way, she taught at a women's college in Missouri, a Methodist-affiliated college in Kansas City and Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, MI.

"I have always felt fortunate to have found something that really challenged me and that I loved doing," Claxton said "I didn't set out to teach at the college level, but I soon realized I could make a difference there. I found that is where I needed to be. I have enjoyed teaching everywhere I have been. That's my 'thing.'"

That also is what Claxton enjoys most about Institute for Learning in Retirement classes . . . her students enjoy the opportunity to learn more, even at an advanced age.

"They are people who take this program because they want to. Unlike some younger people in college, they are all where they want to be and very interested in learning."

"It is wonderful for me, too," Claxton added. "At this stage of my life, to be able to do this, is very enjoyable, and I enjoy my students. It keeps my mind working. I find as I am preparing to teach each class I am always learning."

According to Ragland, "Dr. Claxton was at the forefront of developing the ILR program, which began offering classes in 1999. She has served on the Advisory Committee since 1998 and has been an instructor since its inception. She volunteers her time to teach at least two classes each year. Dr. Claxton also supports the program by participating in other classes and trips."

"Awards at this level recognize excellence, which enhances not only the image of the Institute for Learning in Retirement



SIUC offers Individualized 2+2 option for transfers

NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 1994

A year ago, when the program was first introduced to Rend Lake College students, 57 individuals attended the informational session and 24 later took advantage of the opportunity by signing on the dotted line.

Representatives of the "Individualized 2+2 Program" at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale will return to the RLC campus for another informative presentation Wednesday, February 23, the first at 11 a.m. and another at noon in SCI 110, according to RLC Counselor Matt Yusko.

Rend Lake College faculty and staff are encouraged to tell students about the meeting.

A general discussion of the "2+2 Program" will be followed by breakout sessions for students with specific needs and/or questions.

The "Individualized 2+2 Program" enables students to utilize courses offered at Rend Lake College to fulfill major requirements at SIUC.

"Assessment of major courses available to be taken at RLC will be made to allow for a smooth transition into the student's intended major at SIUC," according to officials in the Carbondale Office of Admissions and Records.

To participate, a student must have completed at least 12 semester hours of college credit at Rend Lake College, have a declared or intended major, have a grade-point average of at least 2.0 and plan to complete a baccalaureate-oriented Associate Degree at Rend Lake College.



Trade Adjustment 'too good to pass up' after loss of job

NEWS RELEASE MARCH 2007

Some might say a 39-year-old factory worker of 12 years would have a hard time going back to school.

Not Mark Hargis from Coello. He feels right at home in the RLC Heavy Equipment Technology Program.

Hargis lost his job, as did many others, when the Herrin Maytag-Whirlpool plant closed in October. It was the second time a job he thought would last crumbled beneath him and he found himself hunting for answers, alternatives and employment. A husband and step-father of two, Hargis did not give up. Instead, he enrolled at Rend Lake College.

"Any chance I have to better myself, I'm all for it," Hargis said. "Especially if it's going to be paid for." Hargis chose to take advantage of a federal Trade Adjustment program which provides assistance beyond unemployment compensation to dislocated workers who retrain in one- or two-year vocational programs.

Without the help, Hargis said, he would not have been able to go back to school and retrain for a new career. "I would be in the mines right now," he said. "I had offers to work in the coal mines, in maintenance. But this was too good of an opportunity to pass up." For Hargis, the transition from working second-shift at Maytag-Whirlpool to attending a Heavy Equipment Technician training program from 12 to 5, four days a week was more seamless than he ever thought possible due to several factors. It helped that the HEQT program consists of training with some technology Hargis is all-too-familiar with.

(Continued at far right on next page)

program but the entire college," RLC President Mark S. Kern noted in his letter of congratulations to Claxton.

Kern added, "Your passion for teaching and the hours you have contributed toward lifelong learning make you very deserving of this honor. Thank you for giving of yourself throughout the years at Rend Lake College. Your commitment to education is now bringing true enjoyment to older learners."

What makes this person unique and stand out from the many others working with or teaching older adult programs? "Evelyn is a very caring and gracious person," Ragland responded in her nomination. "She teaches from the heart and builds lasting relationships with her students. She has a concern for all students, no matter what age, but is passionate regarding lifelong learning. She is a willing volunteer whenever asked."

In addition to teaching Bible literature and writing classes for the Institute for Learning in Retirement, Claxton provides scholarships for traditional Rend Lake College students.

The outstanding instructor encourages seniors in her writing classes to record their memoirs. "When her students in a recent class wished to continue their learning adventure on journal writing, she did not hesitate. Dr. Claxton met with 27 students, at their request, once a month for an additional 12 months," Ragland recalled. "To this day, these students send their writing to her to read and edit."

Noted Mitchell, "Dr. Claxton's Journal Writing classes have inspired many older learners to write about personal observations throughout their life and family traditions. As a result of her efforts, these journals will be invaluable to these students and their families for many generations."

"She has had a definite impact on my learning in my senior years," wrote one of her students. "She has been an inspiration to me since the first time I met her. I appreciate her gracious spirit and attitude and the encouragement she has given me."

Concluded Mitchell, "She was a remarkable educator in her younger years and she continues to be an astonishing educator in her early 80s. Dr. Claxton can be found canoeing on a lake outside her home, listening to classical music, hiking, traveling through Europe or volunteering for the college's ILR Program. What an inspiration Dr. Evelyn Claxton is to all ages!"

'I FEEL LIKE I WAS THERE' Award-winning Lifelong Instructor Tomlin a volunteer since program's inception

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MARCH 2006

Lines are long during Fall Fun Fest and other special occasions whenever soothsayer deluxe, Dr. Sue Tomlin, volunteers to read the palms of curious students and staff.

Credit classes in Anthropology and Sociology to be taught by the 1995 Rend Lake College "Faculty Excellence Award" winner fill quicker than most each semester.

So it should come as no surprise to anyone the insightful presenter boasts an equally enthusiastic following among the RLC Institute for Learning in Retirement faithful. Tomlin has willingly taught ILR classes since the program's 1999 inception.

Participant Beulah Johnson explains why. "I truly enjoy attending Learning in Retirement Arm Chair Tours. One reason is because Sue makes them so interesting. Another reason is that travel to places of interest is not as easy for me as it was when I was younger. But when I leave one of Sue's classes, I feel like I was there myself."

Do not count on Tomlin telling anyone about her most recent trip, however. We will have to take readers on her latest Arm Chair Tour of Springfield.

Accompanied by Rend Lake College ILR Coordinator Lori Ragland, Community Education Director Dawn Gibson and Rend Lake College Foundation CEO Pat Mitchell, Tomlin was an honored guest at the annual Lifelong Learning and Service Coalition Award ceremony at the State Organization for Lifelong Learning headquarters.

She was recognized as the statewide recipient of the Lifelong Learning Instructor Award. It marked the second year in a row an RLC Institute for Learning in Retirement representative has claimed honors. Tomlin follows in the footsteps of Dr. Evelyn Claxton.

In addition, the RLC Community Education Catalog produced Fall and Spring by Gibson and Ragland took second-place in the "Catalog or Newsprint Promotional Piece" category. And a study they conducted in Accessing the District finished third for the "Challenge / Innovation Award."

Only one other program, that of John Wood Community College in Quincy, received more. Illinois State University matched RLC's three awards. A total of seven programs were recognized.

According to Tomlin's letter of recom-

mendation, submitted by Ragland, "Not only does she agree to instruct when asked, but Dr. Tomlin takes the initiative when she has an interesting topic to share. She also provides contact information of other potential instructors."

The Lifelong Learning Instructor "is unique in that she volunteers her time and efforts to support our older adult program and lifelong learning, in addition to her many responsibilities to the 'traditional' student. She is an ILR instructor, participant and recruiter. She has encouraged many older adults to participate in the program."

Adds Ragland, "Dr. Tomlin is an asset to both Rend Lake College and its Institute for Learning in Retirement. She is a true educator, both in and outside the classroom. Sue has touched and inspired numerous individuals to continue learning through her very own passion for education."

Tomlin's Liberal Arts Division Chair, Chris Kuberski, supports her "extracurricular" activities. "As a professor of Sociology at Rend Lake College," notes Kuberski, "Dr. Tomlin typically teaches 18 hours a semester (12 is the norm), with 180 to 200 students. While this alone would be daunting for many teachers, it only sets the groundwork for Dr. Tomlin's contributions to the community and the college."

Tomlin comes by it naturally. Her mother, Ann Santoro, likewise is an active participant, as are many of her fellow residents at Green Tree Catered Living in Mt. Vernon, with the help of Tomlin.

She "teaches and leads by example," Kuberski says of an inspirational educator who was slowed only briefly by recent hip surgery.

"She offers transportation to Rend Lake College cultural events to several senior citizens from her community. Dr. Tomlin does not just offer lifelong learning opportunities to others, but she demonstrates a personal commitment to learning by taking classes, traveling and volunteering. Furthermore, she does not wait for others to offer the opportunities; she seeks them out and often creates them herself.

"She is highly respected by her students, colleagues and community. She is very deserving of recognition for her dedication to lifelong learning."

Is there anyone better qualified to offer ILR Arm Chair Tours?

Tomlin applied for and directed a \$145,000 Undergraduate International Stud-

ies and Foreign Language (UISFL) Grant, which enabled eight RLC faculty members to spend 10 weeks in Japan and to internationalize courses at Rend Lake College. She recently participated in an Illinois Consortium of International Studies and Programs (ICISP) Exchange to the Netherlands and has co-organized travel/study trips to France and Jamaica.

Earlier in her career, the Chair of RLC's International Committee experienced Brazil through a Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad invitation and led RLC students and other individuals in Southern Illinois on annual excursions to such places as Spain and Morocco, Ireland, England and Italy.

Her teaching expertise covers the gamut from her Ph.D. specializations in "Deviance, Family and Social Psychology" to "Learning and Behavior Disorders" (Bachelor's Degree) and "Guidance and Counseling," (Master's Degree); "Living Conditions in Selected Brazilian Correctional Facilities," and "Stigma and Incest Survivors."

Tomlin and her husband, Bob Tomlin, regularly host international guests, and she has taught English as a Second Language classes (volunteer) and classes at Big Muddy River Correctional Center (part-time).

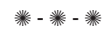
In the last three years – in her spare time, apparently – Tomlin completed graduate courses in "Brain-Based Teaching and Learning" and "AIDS and HIV," as well as undergrad classes in "Japanese for Business Travelers" and "Jewelry I."

- Rend Lake College's second-place Community Ed catalog, 7,000 of which are printed, is meant "to educate district residents of credit and noncredit programming in an easy-to-follow format with enticing photographs and descriptions."

As a result, according to Gibson, "Student registrations have increased each and every semester since this catalog was created and implemented.

"The mission of Community Education at Rend Lake College is to establish a college presence throughout our district and raise awareness in each community that comprises our district. Our catalog is formatted by community, rather than subject area, to meet the needs specific to a district that is 72 miles wide and 48 miles long."

- Problems caused by the large district led to third-place honors in "Challenge and Innovation." Travel distance and weather during winter months make attendance difficult for many potential retired learners.



Trade Adjustment (cont.)

It helped that he already had his core classes completed after finishing some college at RLC and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale before entering the workforce. And it definitely helped that every student in the afternoon program is a former employee at Maytag-Whirlpool.

Hargis considers options after graduation from the program, partnered through Fabick Caterpillar. He talked about a resurgence of coal mining in Southern Illinois and anticipated job opportunities. He hopes HEQT graduates will be needed to construct infrastructure, support mining operations and mine the coal. In fact, he's counting on it.

"When you think about the infrastructure for all of it, you're talking 10-15 years of work right there. Or you could go into the mines straight out of this program." In the meantime, Hargis will keep learning all about dozers, excavators, semis, loaders and Bobcats.

He said he is enjoying the hands-on part of the program, which is about two-thirds of it. He also said Kloepper excels at teaching. "You get to hear the theory in the classroom and then see the practical application out in the bays," Hargis said. "He is one of the best instructors I have ever had."

Two days after learning his job of seven years was no longer, Hargis was hospitalized by an anxiety attack. But while it was a very difficult time for him, wife Christine and step-children Keri Anne and Kimberly, Hargis is better off for it, he said.

"I have worked on heavy mining equipment before," he said. "Once I found out about this program, it was a shoe in. It really is the best fit for me."



RLC first area responder to 'America Reads Challenge'

MARCH 1997

Rend Lake College is the first downstate community college to respond to "America Reads Challenge," President Bill Clinton's initiative to help ensure every child in the country can read well and independently by the end of the third grade.

Trustees approved a plan to devote over half of the anticipated \$30,519 increase in Federal Work-Study funding for FY98 to the project.

About 10 students will work approximately 10 hours per week during 1997-98 helping youngsters at two Benton elementary schools. Benton was chosen as a pilot site thanks to the encouragement of Third-Grade Teacher Sharon Clements.

Co-op Ed Director Rex Duncan and Financial Aid Director Doug Carlson submitted the proposal. RLC's Jana Groh will oversee the literacy aspect.



TUTORING SERVICES

Fiscal Yr.	Contact Students	Contact Hrs.	Subjects Tutored	Subjects Retained
FY93	182	1,659	30	38 80%
FY94	190	2,055	25	71 83%
FY95	196	1,252	18	34 79%
FY96	-	-	-	-
FY97	159	1,453	40	30 76%
FY98	359	2,756	74	81 91%
FY99	349	2,380	61	84 73%
FY00	402	2,331	43	83 80%
FY01	439	2,495	39	81 82%
FY02	386	2,379	29	91 85%
FY03	361	2,088	29	97 71%
FY04	294	1,993	28	83 77%
FY05	350			
FY06	306			
FY07	213			
FY08	219			
FY09	250			
FY10	1228			² 79%
FY11	346			² 69%
FY12	268			
FY13				

Campus-wide Tutoring instituted in Fall '97. Prior from Perkins Special Pops.

¹ English/Reading tutoring not tracked

² Improved grade in course

"The ILR developed and instituted a two-year Strategic Plan in Fall 2004. The first year we expanded our program by offering classes and departure locations for trips throughout communities of our district. The second year we provided transportation utilizing RLC buses to transport students to and from classes."

Catalogs are distributed throughout the college district, along with class flyers. Speaking engagements help spread the word.

"Most importantly, our students are grateful for expansion of the ILR out into the community; therefore, they are telling others what we have to offer."

ILR enrollment numbers were 339 in 2003-04, compared to 375 in 2004-05. "We already have had increases in FY06 in both Summer and Fall enrollment, indicating another enrollment increase with the addition of Spring enrollment figures."

STYLE BRIDGES AGE CHASM Buster Leeck goes 'above and beyond' for RLC's third Illinois Lifelong award

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 2008

The personal touch Rend Lake College History Instructor Henry Leeck puts on his work with the college's Institute for Lifelong Learning is just one reason he has been named the Illinois Lifelong Learning Coalition's "Instructor of the Year."

The kid from Opdyke, known most of his life as "Buster," is now a college History Instructor who typically teaches 18 hours each semester with nearly 200 students under his instruction. That does not include his "above and beyond" service with the Institute and many other events, committees and organizations. He has been teaching students of the Institute since 2006.

Leeck holds a Master's Degree in Education from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Before becoming a full-time History Instructor in 2004 for RLC, where his father, Doug, was a popular Agriculture Instructor and AAA Department Chair for 21 years before his unexpected death in 1996, Buster was a Program Technician for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He also has been a substitute teacher at Bluford Grade School and still serves as a substitute school bus driver for BGS.

In addition to teaching, Leeck is a member of the National Council for the Social Studies and the Illinois State Historical Society, as well as serving on numerous committees at the college.

Leeck is no doubt charmed to be the third consecutive RLC nominee to be chosen as the Lifelong Learning Coalition's "Instructor/Professor of the Year." Before him, it was Dr. Sue Santoro Tomlin, RLC Sociology/Anthropology Professor in 2006. Before her, retired RLC Liberal Arts Chair/English Instructor Dr. Evelyn Claxton in 2005.

About Leeck, Tomlin stated, "Because I teach next door to Buster, I know what an engaging instructor he is for traditional students. I'm certain he carries those traits into his Lifelong Learning courses as well."

"Receiving this award was both a surprise and an honor," Leeck said. "I truly enjoy taking participants in the Institute for Lifelong Learning on journeys to faraway places using armchair tours and other events. I look forward to continuing my endeavors with (Community Education Director) Dawn Gibson, (Assistant Director) Lori Ragland and the Lifelong Learning participants."

When guiding Lifelong Learning students on Armchair Tours, Leeck uses his personal experiences for inspiration. Each year, he takes Rend Lake College students on an adventure in New York City, dipping them in American culture and history with treks to Ellis Island to meet Lady Liberty, a visit to Ground Zero to learn about the events of September 11, 2001, and more. His vacation to Pearl Harbor, his time in the Caribbean – they all become a part of the Armchair Tours.

"Lifelong Learning students enjoy the excitement Buster brings to the classroom, as well as the unique and intriguing historical stories he shares with his students," it is stated in his nomination letter.

"Buster is a great instructor who uses his humor, wit and presentation style to bridge a chasm of age and bring his Lifelong students to a historical place in time with him."

Lifelong Learning student Ann Santoro first met him at one of the Institute's Welcome Receptions, for which the Institute for Lifelong Learning earned a Coalition award in the brochure and flyer category.

"When I heard Buster was going to do a presentation on the Trail of Tears, I knew I had to attend," Santoro stated. "He did a fantastic job of it. It made me wish I was young again and in his History classes. Had I had teachers like Buster, I would have enjoyed my History classes so much more. Rend Lake College is fortunate to have an instructor as good as Buster."

Leeck's boss, RLC Liberal Arts Division Chair Chris Kuberski, agrees. He "demonstrates a personal commitment to learning by taking classes, traveling and volunteering," she said. "He does not wait for others to offer the opportunities; he seeks them out and often creates them himself.

"He is known for his enthusiasm and willingness to contribute his time and talents for a good cause. For these reasons, he is very deserving of recognition for his dedication to lifelong learning."

LIFELONG LEARNER ▶ Ambassador Headrick, 83, encourages, drives 'classmates' to college classes

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 19, 2009

Conant resident Vida Headrick was recently honored as the 2009 Rend Lake College "Lifelong Learner of the Year."

Headrick has been a Rend Lake College student since 2001, earning college credit in classes like Computer Basics for Seniors and participating in more than 31 non-credit courses through the Community Education program and Institute of Lifelong Learning.

As a recipient of the RLC Lifelong Learner of the Year Award, Headrick joins past recipients Ann Santoro, Buck Morris and Margot McAfoos, who went on to win the award at the state level.

RLC Trustee Bill Simpson wrote a letter on behalf of the Board, recommending Headrick for the statewide award. In it, he stated, "Vida is a true ambassador of Rend Lake College. Her enthusiasm for lifelong learning encourages students of all ages."

Headrick, 83, has shown support for the college in a number of ways through the years. She supports the RLC Foundation, drives classmates to Community Education functions and volunteered to give a class tour of Cairo, since she is from that area.

In return, she has acquired some skills and memories through RLC courses. Some of those include computer know-how and writing skills she learned in a year-long journal writing class. She also has increased her knowledge of financial and estate planning and explored the world through history courses and armchair tours.

Headrick's world travels have not been by armchair alone. She and her husband, Bill, have been to England, London, Amsterdam, Switzerland, Venice, Rome, Paris, Canada and most of the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. Their Fall travel plans include a trip to New England.

Born in 1926, the granddaughter of German immigrants grew up on a farm in Olive Branch, near where her parents owned a little store. Her mother taught her household skills like sewing, cooking, preserving, baking bread and making apple butter.

After a brief move to Patton, MO, in 1944, Headrick returned with her family to Southern Illinois, where they settled in Conant, a small town in Perry County. Their cottage on Conant Road was three miles from where her grandparents lived. She still lives in the cottage, as fate would have it.

"I had no intention of living here, but fate intervened with a big tornado in 1982," she explained. "We needed a place to go immediately – thus the move to the little cottage in Conant where we intended to stay temporarily. But life goes on and we never found another place we wanted to be . . ."

After graduating from high school, Headrick moved to Granite City where she worked, married and raised a family. She took classes through Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and studied handwriting analysis with a school in Chicago.

She has worked a variety of jobs, including office manager for a contractor during the early stages of construction at SIUE. She partnered with her son in establishing an automotive parts store in Nashville, where she handled all the accounting functions, cash management and employee administration. Her last job was managing a loan office she established for a bank; she installed systems, created office manuals and retired from the position not once, but twice.

Longtime friend James Davis writes, "She is highly intelligent, possesses a pleasant personality and her integrity is above reproach. Vida treats all individuals with kindness and respect . . . I have been especially impressed with her desire to learn about new issues and topics. Many individuals who have reached Vida's age lack the desire to continue a quest for knowledge. This is definitely not the case with Vida!"

"Lifelong Learning came along at a time when there were fewer opportunities for learning and keeping myself active and in contact with people," Headrick stated. "To say that I appreciate Rend Lake College and Lifelong Learning is an understatement to what I feel. I wish all good things for the college and to those who make it possible."

Headrick's volunteer efforts have grown throughout the years. They include volunteering with local Historical and Genea-



Campus altruism measure: Credit for volunteer efforts

SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN AUGUST 30, 1993
BY NICK HOWES, S.I. CORRESPONDENT

This fall, students at Rend Lake College will be able to earn college credit for their volunteer efforts. The offer is in line with the stated desires of President Clinton, believes Rex Duncan, Director of Cooperative Education and Job Placement, but the college's efforts to get a course in Volunteerism predates Clinton's election to the White House.

College President Mark Kern brought the idea to Duncan after encountering the concept at a conference and being impressed with it. Kern also noted when his son applied for university admission there were questions about community service. Kern and Duncan discussed how RLC might utilize the approach.

The Ina campus will offer the course in the fall on an experimental basis. "I suppose this will be a measure of altruism on campus," said Duncan. Duncan said there is a variety of experience and talent among students attending classes. "I hope it's a call they respond to."

For 32 hours of community service, the student can get half a credit hour; for 64 hours, a full credit. It is a pass-fail course requiring supervisor evaluation and a final paper. Duncan said other colleges will accept transfer of the credit.

Duncan said he has learned many students are already performing community service. The college hopes to set a trend. Universities are required to have a volunteer program, but not community colleges.

Duncan said there are other benefits for participants. "Employers like to see this evidence of community service as well."



Dozen 'experts' team up, share Health knowledge

NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 1998

Organizers of most classes or workshops boast of the expertise brought by the individual making the presentation.

However, few can match the level of professionalism brought to a "Health Education" class scheduled evenings Fall Semester 1998 in Mt. Vernon.

"Team taught" for the second time, the Wednesday course will call on the knowledge of 12 instructors during 16 sessions. When subject matter changes, so will the leader.

Included, according to one of the instructors and Department Chair Wayne Arnold, will be three members of the RLC Allied Health Department – Sandra Lipe, Debbie Bennis and Bonnie Tolbert – and Kaskaskia College Instructor Joanna Franscavitch.

Also, four representatives from Good Samaritan Regional Health Center or St. Mary's-Good Samaritan, Inc – Farla Champ of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit; Diane Terry, Education Department; Hospice Social Worker Jean Clark, and Melanie Walker, Advanced Behavioral Health – and individuals representing other facets of the health community – David Farley, a Substance Abuse Rehab Administrator; R.N. Julie Bean, with the Jefferson County Health Dept., and Patsy Bullard (Woodlawn High), a Certified ADS Instructor.

Subjects: physical fitness; nutrition and weight control; depression; substance abuse; cardiovascular diseases; accident/injury prevention; marriage/divorce; communicable and common non-communicable diseases; STDs; birth control; environmental pollution; aging, death and dying.

logical societies, the International Grapho-analysis Society, Literacy Volunteers of America, St. Elizabeth Hospital Volunteers Auxiliary, DuBois Center Auxiliary, Pearl S. Buck Birthplace Foundation, Hillsboro WV Volunteers, a Christian school for Navajo children, Pierre Menard Historical Site and the United Church of Christ.

She and Bill grow a big vegetable garden from which they share their produce with their community. It is another example of something in Headrick's life created through her unwavering curiosity and need to learn more, see more and do more.

"Since the first time I saw the herb garden at the Henry Shaw House at the Missouri Botanical Garden, I began growing culinary herbs myself," she noted. "It is a pleasure to give visitors a small herbal bouquet as they are leaving. The fragrance of the herbs are a pleasant reminder of an enjoyable visit."

FOOD SYMPOSIUM ► Culinary Arts Instructors prepare healthy relationship with Finnish counterparts

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE NOVEMBER 2007

Rend Lake College has made some new friends in Finland.

RLC Culinary Arts Instructors Brian Kalata and Loughton Smith are back from a 10-day trek to Joensuu, Finland, where they presented a westernized way to prepare Finnish food, learned native cooking methods and embraced a wonderful culture of healthy cuisine and communal living. In the meantime, they were able to generate interest in a foreign exchange program that would swap RLC students in Culinary Arts, Mining, Agriculture and more with their Finnish counterparts abroad.

Smith and Kalata were invited to attend the North Karelian Food Symposium – a global get-together attended by representatives from Germany, Finland and Russia, among others.

Joensuu is a city of 52,000 located about three hours northeast of the country's capital, Helsinki. It is in the eastern-most portion of Finland, bordering with Russia.

The school there is much like a community college in the U.S., only it is about the size of Southern Illinois University and offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs as well as vocational and technical training through a consortium of schools.

Once the two touched down and arrived at the school, things started cooking right away – literally. On the first day, Kalata and

Smith prepared lunch for a faculty and staff that had never tasted anything like it.

"They had never had food prepared for them by Americans," Smith said.

Kalata added, "The menu was sculpted to be an Americanized menu using their ingredients. We served grilled chicken and wild rice soup, sauteed chicken breast with fine herbs sauce."

"And for dessert we made lemon curd tart and apple crisp," Smith said.

Throughout the visit, the chefs dished their personal take on indigenous meat like reindeer, elk, wild boar, moose and freshwater fish such as salmon and hering. They cooked with wild mushrooms, currants, lingonberries and other wild berries popular in a country latitudinal to just under the Arctic Circle. The location makes for very short growing seasons and months of constant sunlight or darkness.

"They are really into taking advantage of hunting seasons and jams and jellies," Smith said. "Everything is so seasonal."

The chefs operated in unfamiliar kitchens, under short time constraints and with equipment they had never used before. Kalata said it was like a combination of "Iron Chef" and "Dinner: Impossible" – two popular television programs about cooking.

A language barrier between chefs from other countries was noticed, but it could not stand against a common theme. "We spoke the international language of food, but with very different accents," Smith said.

In addition to feeding their new friends, Smith and Kalata tasted food prepared for them by local restaurateurs, chefs from the area and fellow international guest cooks. They enjoyed Esa and Matti's freshwater fish smoked over an outdoor open-pit at a scenic lakeside restaurant.

RLC's chefs were introduced to approaches using dried berries and vegetables which are high in flavor and low in fat and cholesterol. In the early 1970s, Finnish officials led a nationwide campaign for a healthier diet and lifestyle. The custom stuck as the country continues to benefit from a healthy diet, exercise and one of the fastest growing economies in the European Union.

"They don't overdo anything," Kalata said. "They focus on using fresh ingredients ... not a lot of can and bag ingredients."

The birthplace of Fiskars scissors and Nokia phones, Finland is also known for its fine linens and textiles, glass products, forestry and open-pit soapstone quarries

where minerals are mined and turned into the brilliant, giant soapstone ovens found in households throughout the nation and beyond. A testament to Finland's focus on efficiency, these ovens not only cook the food, they also warm the home for days.

These industry staples spawned an idea to include other fields of study in the exchange program. Agriculture, mining and forestry are huge industries in Finland, making the new endeavor a great opportunity for RLC students enrolled in related training programs, Smith explained.

"I think it's impressive there is a good-standing, working relationship between our two schools," Kalata said. "Especially when it comes to our exchange program with faculty and now, even more impressive, an agreement in principle for a student exchange program. Equally as important is that we went over there – not only for our own professional development and for the benefit of students in the culinary arts program – but we talked about making this accessible to students in other programs on campus, such as agriculture and mining."

Smith added that officials on both sides, along with RLC Professor Sue Tomlin, are already hammering out the details of the exchange program. Tomlin is the main liaison for overseas faculty exchange programs.

In regard to professional development, Kalata said he liked the opportunity to work side by side with chefs from other countries who teach students of similar age.

"Anytime you have a chance to interact with professionals from another country, and see how they put their spin on using similar ingredients, it is a great thing," he said. "We shared ideas on cooking technique and I was able to see how they prepare certain things. They prepare things differently than we do."

Their trip to Finland was a 10-day affirmation of the level of quality in the program at home, Kalata said.

"I found we do a lot of the same things," he said. "They are learning many of the same things we teach our students. The experience supported my feelings . . . what we are doing at Rend Lake College competes well with others in the industry here and abroad."

DURING TYPICAL YEAR ▶ SBDC helps orchestrate businesses with 60 new jobs, \$1.6M in financing

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 2007

Nearly 300 individuals sought help with

their business endeavors this past year by going to the Illinois Small Business Development Center at the RLC MarketPlace.

SBDC Director Curt Mowrer put his 30-plus years of experience in the business world to use and assisted with more than a dozen business start-ups, acquisitions and expansions, as well as the creation and retention of more than 60 jobs in the area. Approximately \$1.62 million in loans, grants and equity investments were orchestrated through the SBDC in Fiscal Year 2007.

The SBDC has a number of tools for persons looking to start a new business and those looking to acquire existing businesses.

Dion Green and Christopher Singh recognized the need in Mt. Vernon for quality garments that appeal to the fashion-conscious consumer. They developed a business plan with the assistance of the SBDC and are currently filling their new store, Kingdom Fashions, in the 2900 block of Broadway. Inventory of urban, sports and formal wear is being readied for their anticipated grand opening August 15. To make the event even more grand, Green and Singh have invited Southern Illinois University Salukis Basketball Head Coach Chris Lowery to help kick-off their entrepreneurship in style.

Robby Tate purchased a tile and carpet store on South 10th Street in Mt. Vernon and formed Southern Illinois Tile & Carpet, LLC, with the help of the SBDC. New innovations in design and manufacturing mean there are now countless flooring options other than carpet. Tate's father, Dewey Tate, manages the operation with over 10 years of experience in the field of floor coverings. His knowledge is a true asset to the company.

Southern Illinois Tile and Carpet, LLC supplies merchandise to the residential and commercial community in any economic demographic. Its owners have focused on remaining current with market trends to bring quality and selection to the area.

"Having met and worked with Mr. Tate, I believe Mt. Vernon will have an opportunity that many communities don't have – less confusion in purchasing their floor coverings," Mowrer said.

Marci Glover was referred to the SBDC by Steve Woodfin of U.S. Bank in Benton. Glover used SBDC resources to create a functional business plan toward the acquisition of a childcare center in Christopher. As her plan came together, she gained the confidence she needed to approach the seller and make a deal. On August 21, 2006, the



Bonnie closet a 'far cry' from today's Ag facilities

AG BANQUET 2007

A local farmer, whose family plot (the first 40 acres) dates back to 1888, recalled the old days for soon-to-be Agriculture graduates at their annual spring banquet.

Rend Lake College President Mark S. Kern, who operates a beef cattle operation in nearby Ewing – more precisely, Snowflake – recalls helping start the Ag program with two other individuals one year after the college first opened its doors in Fall 1967. Kern, Carroll Turner and Ardell Kimmel shared a "closet-sized" office in the old, three-room Bonnie Grade School.

"It was a far cry from the facilities you have the privilege of using today," Kern said.

The former Triple-A Department Chair, College Dean and Vice President indicated in his 15-year Presidency and 38 years on-campus, he has never seen more workplace opportunities for a two-year graduate than now. "This is the best it has ever been," he added.

It was announced during the Annual Ag Banquet a commemorative plaque honoring the late Doug Leeck, a former student under Kern, longtime colleague and ex-Agriculture Instructor and Department Chair, was presented to hang in the Ag program facilities.

[Editor's Note: It was not until a tornado destroyed the old Bonnie Grade School building in the early '70s the Ag program was moved to the Ina campus.

The Ag program is recognized as first: to promote on-job training; form an Advisory Council; to spawn the Applied Math course, to host a year-end Awards Banquet.]



800 Vocational students qualify for Special Needs

SPECIAL NEEDS NEWS AUGUST 1989

Last year was a busy and successful year for academically and economically disadvantaged students at RLC. With the position of Special Needs Coordinator being made full-time, more services and time were available for the students. There were approximately 750-800 students who qualified for special services as vocational students who were handicapped or academically/economically disadvantaged.

While all of these students were contacted by letter, about half of them were personally contacted and helped in some way. The "thanks" for a successful program year goes to you – faculty members. Take a bow! Without your support, referrals and assistance, the special needs program wouldn't work. I'm looking forward to working with you and having an even better year of services for students.

■ Special Needs students include those vocational students receiving need-based financial aid, vocational students who are not succeeding in a regular vocational class (i.e., making a "D" or "E") and vocational learning disabled and/or handicapped students.

Services offered include:

- extra help in reading, math and/or writing
- assistance in organizing time
- help in study skills
- vocational assessment
- interest inventory
- career planning
- assistance in transition from home to school to job
- adapting materials

■ To better serve all vocational students, the Special Needs Coordinator will spend Mondays and possibly one other

(Continued at far right on next page)

Busy Bee Early Learning Center opened its doors to clients in the 700 block of West Market Street in Christopher.

While some clients are referred to the SBDC at the RLC MarketPlace, others find it by way of the informative and helpful "How To Start a Business in Illinois" workshops.

Crystal Davis of Mt. Vernon attended one of these workshops when she was contemplating how to start her own business. Since then, Davis Professional Cleaning Service, LLC began operations March 1 and has grown to three employees. The business provides specialized cleaning for commercial and residential customers.

Dan Huebel liked the specially constructed dance floor at Petticoat Corner so much, when the business went on the market, he bought it and decided to try his hand at running it. He went to the SBDC for help in the acquisition and opened Corner Dance Hall, Inc., in April. Located in Whittington, the business provides big-name performers and diverse music at a price all Southern Illinoisans can afford, according to Mowrer.

David and Vickie Gollhofer of Benton utilized SBDC services to purchase a former retail gift store at 702 McLeansboro Street. The new Benton business, Sisters of Faith, will be a retail establishment offering spiritual gifts, paintings, artificial floral arrangements and many Christian-based items handmade by local artisans. Sisters of Faith also will be a place for customers to visit for specialty coffees, spiritual t-shirts, an assortment of Christian publications, conversation and Bibles. The new entrepreneurs will be offering classes through RLC Community Education programs.

Kenneth Aydt purchased a business in the 1500 block of South 10th Street in Mt. Vernon and A's Café opened its doors in March. It has filled the parking lot every morning and lunch period.

"The Rend Lake College SBDC has helped no one more enthusiastic than Ken Aydt and his crew," Mowrer said. "We are glad he was confident in using the services provided by the Illinois SBDC at the college."

The SBDC assisted a number of clients with goals of expanding current operations.

Kent and Amanda Bean saw an opportunity in relocating their business, A&K Printing. With the assistance of the SBDC, the Beans bought a building in the 600 block of South 10th Street – an area that will be the third highest traffic area in Mt. Vernon. A new post office and additional retail estab-

lishments are in place there and the Beans are excited about the move being completed and their new facility being up and running by August 1.

Penny Lingner opened Perk Place in West Frankfort at the beginning of 2006. Gourmet coffee and tea, a comfortable at-home atmosphere and wireless internet were in place. What she needed was new equipment to be used in catering events.

"She approached the SBDC with the problem and together we were able to craft a plan that was presented to the Crosswalk Community Action Agency," explained Mowrer. "With the funding she secured through Crosswalk, Miss Lingner can move ahead with confidence in providing West Frankfort her downtown coffee and gift shop that can accommodate any event needing to be catered."

SRT Aviation has been a valued client of the SBDC since November 2005 when the Center helped with the start-up of the corporation's Fixed Base Operation at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. Since then, the FBO has seen an increase in general aviation traffic, freight and cargo planes, military aircraft and charter planes. Airport Manager Chris Collins has said, "SRT is one of the things that put Mt. Vernon airport on the map."

The expanding company observed its first anniversary in November by announcing the establishment of a new flight school. It is one of many accomplishments SRT Aviation and its President, Rich Carney, have experienced. Additional achievements include the rebuilding of many antique planes – notably the historic Charles Lindbergh Spirit of St. Louis, which hangs at Lambert International Airport in St. Louis.

"We are proud of the achievements of this client and look forward to a continued relationship," Mowrer said of SRT Aviation.

The Rend Lake College SBDC provides assistance to all sectors of the local business community. Its goal is to assist small businesses in start-ups, expansions and problems while providing customized training programs, consultations and economic development assistance to larger industry. It utilizes whatever college resources are available to maximize the cooperative effort.

'HUGE DEBT OF GRATITUDE' Cash flow a problem due to state crisis? DKM Pharmacy finds solution in SBDC

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 10, 2010

Tom Miller is a man who does not like

sitting and waiting for things to happen. In his search for a solution to maintaining his cash flow during the state's financial crisis, Miller turned to the Illinois Small Business Development Center, located in Mt. Vernon at the Rend Lake College MarketPlace.

Miller's DKM Pharmacy, Inc., a Medicap franchised pharmacy at 1200 West Main Street in Marion, has provided a valuable service to the fast-growing area for nearly a decade. With the economic downturn of the past two years, DKM – like many other companies that depend on government reimbursement for services – had been receiving its payments as much as 150 days after billing.

He first met with ISBDC Director Curt Mowrer and Assistant Director Nick LeMay in November 2008. They determined it was time to consolidate debt in an attempt to remedy the situation caused by the state's late payments. A business plan was developed, and with the help of the RLC SBDC, Miller found a banker who understands the pharmacy business.

Jo Cummins of Community First Bank of the Heartland in Mt. Vernon worked with the SBDC and U.S. Small Business Administration to obtain funding through the 7(a) Loan Program.

Now DKM Pharmacy's monthly cash flow has increased by several thousand dollars. It is with this assistance that DKM, along with hundreds of other businesses in Southern Illinois, continue to grow and serve their clientele.

"I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Curt Mowrer and Nick LeMay of the SBDC at Rend Lake College," Miller said. "After trying unsuccessfully on my own to obtain refinancing for the pharmacy, I turned to Curt and Nick, who led me step by step through the horrid maze of banking."

Miller said they worked with his accountant to successfully sign the papers with Community First Bank of the Heartland.

"One must remember this was accomplished in the middle of a recession," Miller added. "I recommend Curt Mowrer, along with McLeansboro CPA Alan Monroe and Jo David Cummins to anyone who needs help with the financial management of their business."

The Small Business Development Center at the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon was established to help entrepreneurs start new businesses, expand their existing business or improve it. The SBDC offers cost-free,

one-on-one, confidential counseling for all phases of business activities.

"If you own a business, or if you're in the planning stages, we invite you to meet with a U.S. Small Business Administration Certified Business Specialist," LeMay said.

STATE ART COMES TO R.L.C. ▶ McCollum's 'Retired' Best of Show; Neaville, Elimon also claim firsts

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 1996

Rend Lake College is not just hosting the Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition February 5-29. It is providing many of the award-winners (seven of 15) and works (30 of 82), also.

Eight two-year institutions throughout the state are represented in the show in the RLC Learning Resource Center.

Hosted for the first time downstate, the exhibit is cosponsored by Joliet Junior College and Kankakee Community College.

Winning the top award, Best of Show, was RLC student and Benton resident, Brenda Webster McCollum, for her acrylic painting, entitled "Retired." McCollum also took the second-place award in Painting for another acrylic, "Strawberry Pot," and an Honorable Mention for an acrylic painting, "Waiting for the Ax."

RLC's Betty Neaville (Pinckneyville) won first-place for Jewelry for her "Silver and Deerhorn Neckpiece."

First-place in Ceramics went to Rend Lake College artist Jean Elimon (Thompsonville) for her serving set, "Taco Olé." Second-place in the same category went to Neaville for "Marbleize," a set of bowls.

First- and third-place in Painting were awarded, respectively, to Frontier Community College's Spencer Meager for a watercolor, "Reflections," and Marty Hawkins for an oil painting, "Lemons and Lace."

Honorable Mentions, in addition to the one earned by McCollum, were handed out to RLC's Kathy Weinberg (Mt. Vernon), for her watercolor, "Forest Park," as well as John Kock (Kaskaskia), Dave Wilson/Robert Jones (Joliet), Theresa Stanton (John A. Logan), Michael Rank (Joliet), Georgina Hunter (Joliet), Pearldean McKinney (Frontier) and Ginger Hauck (Richland).

The competition was juried by nationally known Metalsmith/Sculptor L. Brent Kington, Professor of Art at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. From a total of 181 entries submitted, 82 pieces were selected for display.

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RLC starts independent Psychology Club for all

NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 2004

Rend Lake College students interested in the mysteries of the mind can now take advantage of Psychology Club, an interesting addition to the college's list of student activities.

According to Associate Psychology Professor Jeannie Mitchell-Collins, club sponsor, any RLC student is welcome to join, regardless of major. The first meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. Wednesday, August 25.

Club activities may include field trips, community service activities and guest lecturers. During monthly meetings, club members will have liberal control over what types of discussions and activities are held.

Mitchell-Collins said starting an independent Psychology Club, rather than joining a national group, allows the RLC Psychology Club to create its own bylaws and save its members initiation fees.

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Special Needs (cont.)

day per week in Industrial Tech 115. At other times she will be in the North Oasis, Room 123.

■ Available to students through this program is an "interest inventory" with interpretation of possible career choices. The interest inventory takes about 45-50 minutes and should be beneficial for students in entry-level vocational classes.

■ Available for the first time through this grant, funded by the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act, is the payment of lab fees/supplies for eligible students. It can be for uniforms, shoes, required equipment, etc. Also, consumables and special instructional materials such as study guides, tapes, etc.

– Coordinator Mary Roe



Phlebotomy Certificate offered first time Fall '12

NEWS RELEASE APRIL 26, 2012

Those seeking entry into the field of healthcare should consider Rend Lake College's new, one-semester certificate in Phlebotomy.

A phlebotomist is responsible for collecting blood specimens as ordered by a physician or other health care professional. A phlebotomist draws blood for tests, transfusions, donations or research and may be responsible for explaining the procedure to patients and assisting in the recovery of patients with adverse reactions. RLC officials approved the certificate program this month, meaning students can begin enrolling now for Fall 2012.

Designed to prepare students to work in the medical field as a phlebotomist, this program will emphasize practical, hands-on learning experiences in the laboratory setting.

"We are offering Phlebotomy as a certificate program for those wanting to work in a lab setting right away," said Kim Robert, Chair of RLC's Allied Health Division. "The new Phlebotomy Certificate includes courses on Psychology and Medical Terminology, along with Introduction to Phlebotomy and the clinical component."

Those looking to enroll in an Allied Health program at RLC may want to consider this certificate as a valuable addition to a résumé. A student could earn a certificate in Phlebotomy while awaiting acceptance into an Allied Health program. According to the latest national labor statistics, job opportunities for medical technologists and technicians are expected to increase by around 43,000 from 2010-20.

Among colleges entered, College of DuPage (Glen Ellyn) had two works accepted, Frontier Community College (Fairfield) had nine, Logan (Carterville) had four, Joliet had 17, Kankakee had 14, Kaskaskia had four, Rend Lake College had 30 and Richland Community College (Decatur) had two.

A total of 15 awards were given in the two- and three-dimensional categories.

Awards will be presented at closing ceremonies Thursday, February 29.

"Our objective in bringing the exhibition to Southern Illinois was to get more schools from this area involved, and I think we accomplished that," said RLC Art Instructor and Exhibit Coordinator Sarah Capps.

Competition was open to any student currently enrolled in an Art program in an Illinois community college. Students were permitted to submit no more than three entries which had been completed for class credit between Fall 1994 and Fall 1995.

The number of works accepted, as well as the number of "Award of Excellence" plaques to be presented in the various media, was at the juror's discretion.

Elimon (two) and Neaville both had additional submissions accepted. Others from Rend Lake College with works included are Jeremy Clutter (Sesser) and Linda Lane (Mt. Vernon) with three each; Jennifer Melton (Mt. Vernon), with two; Bill Burke (McLeansboro), Garvin Chung (Benton), Sharon Clayton (Benton), Erica Ellerbusch (Mt. Vernon), Jean Fisher (Mt. Vernon), Jefferson Hankla (Sesser), Jason Kromer (Benton), Katrina Mellott (Mt. Vernon), Amie Petro (Sesser), Glenda Thompson (Benton), Diana Todd (Thompsonville) and Rhonda Todd (McLeansboro).

HOSTS AGAIN DOMINATE Simmons claims two of four firsts; RLC artists provide 35 state works

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 1999

Rend Lake College students apparently were not content just to host the annual Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition, which they will do February 2-26 for only the second time the statewide competition has come to Southern Illinois.

They tried to dominate the show.

Art students from the host college claimed four of the top eight awards presented by Juror Ed Shay and will have on display 35 of the 91 works accepted from 202 pieces entered by representatives of seven community colleges statewide.

Ryan Robinson of Joliet Junior College received Best of Show recognition with his green-tinted landscape photograph, entitled "Placio Place."

But Rend Lake College entries took first-place honors in four categories:

- Painting, with a folk art work in oil by relative newcomer James A. Simmons (McLeansboro), "Winter on the Lake."

- Ceramics, where Simmons was working in a more familiar media and produced the winning "Group of Boxes," as one of only two double-winners.

- Printmaking, in which "Later That Night," a monoprint, made a winner out of Tommy Miller (Sesser).

- Jewelry, with Jennifer Melton (Mt. Vernon) winning with her copper "Eyeball Necklace."

Other firsts went to John A. Logan's Rob-in Foster in Drawing for "Purdy School," in oil stick and soft pastel; Moraine Valley's Francisco Rodriguez in Photography for "Acetic," and Sam Janusouskas of Kankakee in Sculpture for "Aftermath."

The Juror, a watercolorist and Professor of Art at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, awarded firsts and Honorable Mentions only, except in the highly competitive Photography category. Kankakee students earned second- and third-place ribbons in that competition with "Nude," by Tonya A. Procida, and an untitled piece by Lisa Conrad, respectively.

Art students under the direction of RLC Professor Sarah Capps and Associate Professor Therese Howard grabbed half of the eight Honorable Mentions given:

- Nila Tanner (Pinckneyville) was singled out for her watercolor, "Flora."

- Janice Threatt (Belle Rive) was rewarded for an oil painting, "Early Spring."

- Brenda Webster McCollum (Benton), winner of Best of Show two years ago when the statewide exhibit made its debut in Southern Illinois, settled for Honorable Mention for a watercolor, "Past Pleasures."

- Sarah Streiff (Mt. Vernon) was saluted with the same honors for her oil, "Winds."

Also taking Honorable Mentions were Rodriguez in Photography for "Sunday Dream," Laura Emme (Kankakee) in Sculpture for "Fire and Ice," Jenni McNett (Joliet) in Pen and Ink for "Wolf vs. Mankind" and Sean Cowger (Joliet) in Ink for "We Could be Cut Down Like Corn."

All seven colleges submitting entries will be represented, with the three institutions

that take turns housing the event easily heading the field. Half of the 70 entries from Rend Lake College were accepted, with 26 from Joliet Junior College (78 entries) and 22 from Kankakee C.C. (39 entries).

Moraine Valley entered three pieces and had all three accepted, while Sauk Valley had both of its entries accepted. John A. Logan will have two works exhibited after entering three, and Southeastern Illinois will be represented by one piece (seven entries).

A closing reception, at which time Juror Shay will make comments and provide critiques, will be held Friday, February 26. Awards will be presented at that time.

Four Rend Lake College students will each have three works on display . . . McCollum, with a torn-paper collage, "20 Questions," and an acrylic/natural elements piece, "Season's End," in addition to her Honorable Mention; Threatt, with her watercolors, "Hostas and Hydrangeas" and "Marilyn's Zinnias," along with her Honorable Mention; Jan Galli (Thompsonville), with watercolors, "Columbine" and "Little Cowboy," and an acrylic, "Burning Bush," and Robert Pina (Zeigler), with an oil, "Autumn," an acrylic, "Landing on Martha's Vinyard," and a mixed oil and acrylic, "Garden View – San Simeon."

Six RLC students will have two examples of their artwork on display – Simmons and Melton, Sandra S. Kahl (Thompsonville), JoAnn Mondino (Benton), Janet Sue Parrish (Dix) and Sara Scott (Mt. Vernon).

Single entries were chosen from Kristen Dains (Mt. Vernon), Douglas Evans (Mt. Vernon), Justin Evers (McLeansboro), Ginnie Sloan Gesell (Whittington), Yeong S. Kim (Benton), Bryan Patterson (Mt. Vernon), Daisy Rollinson (Opdyke) and Janet Witges (Scheller).

COMMUNITY SERVICES ▶ **Coordinators know (and known by) the friends and neighbors they serve**

Community Coordinators have been a mainstay in the Rend Lake College family since their introduction in 1975 (by then Dean of Community Services Mark S. Kern).

Herein is a sampling of Community Coordinators circa 1981. Their names may have changed numerous times over the years in many Southern Illinois towns, but their dedication, loyalty and value remain steadfast . . .

EXCERPTS FROM R.L.C. CLASS SCHEDULE SPRING 1981

MCLEANSBORO – Rend Lake College's

Community Services Coordinator for the McLeansboro area, Gerald Robertson, gets tremendous cooperation from the Director of Community Education for the Hamilton County Unit. He also has solid backing from the Principal of West Side Grade School and from the Assistant Principal at McLeansboro High School.

That is because Robertson fills all of those roles.

Robertson is not alone, however. Rend Lake College receives excellent support from many people around Hamilton County, especially from what the Coordinator calls "a good group of well-qualified teachers. The high school teachers here are very supportive of the night classes offered by the college, and they like to teach them."

Classes in Psychology and Sociology, in particular, are popular choices annually from a typical McLeansboro schedule of between 20-25 night classes. Anywhere between 200-300 students take advantage each semester, including quite a few senior citizens who enjoy various art courses such as Ceramics.

Supt. Obe Bond and Robertson are both active in the Illinois Community Education Association, so there is a literal push from the high school for night classes offered by Rend Lake College.

"The Board has adopted an 'open-door' policy in regard to these classes," he added. A newly formed advisory staff, consisting of Jeannine Chapman, Denise Mepheney, Jim Page, Don York and John Warner, will help to make sure those doors are open to classes which best fill the needs of Hamilton Countians.

A native of Belle Rive, Robertson has worked for the Hamilton County Unit for 15 years, the last nine of which have been in McLeansboro. He has coordinated classes for Rend Lake College the past five years.

Robertson graduated from Mt. Vernon Township High School and was among the second class to attend Mt. Vernon Community College from 1957-59. He holds a Master of Science Degree from Southern Illinois University. Wife Bev is a senior majoring in Special Education at SIU; they are the parents of a son, Kerry, who is recently married, and two daughters, 18-year-old high school senior Tammy and 11-year-old sixth-grader Julie.

BENTON – Karen Hedges is a part-time employee who works day and night for Rend Lake College.



Pulke earns Director, ECE, Infant Toddler Credentials

NEWS RELEASE APRIL 2012

Rend Lake College Foundation Children's Center Director Brooke Pulke has received a Gateways to Opportunity ECE Credential Level 5, the Infant Toddler Credential Level 5 and the Illinois Director Credential Level II.

Gateways credentials are recognized by the State of Illinois and are awarded through the Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Child Care and Development.

The ECE Credential, Infant Toddler Credential and the Illinois Director Credential are awarded based on the educational level, knowledge, skills and experience of practitioners and administrators in the early care and education profession.

Gateways to Opportunity also administers other credentials: The Level 1 Credential, the Illinois Director Credential, the ECE Credential and the Infant Toddler Credential. The goal is the development of a system where early care and education, school-age and youth development practitioners are recognized for their professional development and achievements.

On January 21, 2010, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed the Gateways to Opportunity credentials into law.

Pulke, 31, has been the center's Director for the past 18 months. As Director, she is responsible for activities such as grant writing, staffing, maintaining the operating budget and conducting parent orientations, activities and involvement.

"This is an important step in my professional development," she said. "And I think it speaks to everyone's commitment to high quality at the center."



S.I. Journal: RLC determined to provide qualified Nurses

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS JOURNAL

The demand for qualified nurses today is a well-known and long-studied crisis, but Rend Lake College is determined to do everything it can to help quell the shortage. The comprehensive community college has a long-standing reputation for graduating excellent nurses, using instruction centering on evidence-based nursing practice and critical thinking. The dedicated faculty ensures students will acquire skills and knowledge which they can apply in today's nursing world.

Rend Lake College's nursing programs are designed to train well-prepared graduates to enter exciting and rewarding positions in the healthcare field. These programs provide students an easy transition from one level of nursing to the next: from Certified Nurse Assistant to Practical Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing.

The Practical Nursing curriculum is available in two convenient formats – daytime for full-time students or evenings/weekends for part-time students, many of whom are already working in the field at various levels. After completion, students apply to take the NCLEX-PN state board exam. At this stage, students may continue their educations by entering the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program. Many students work as licensed practical nurses while attending ADN classes. The ADN curriculum is a two-year program open to graduates of a practical nursing program who have completed prerequisite courses. Graduates take NCLEX-RN state boards.

ADN graduates still have the option of continuing their edu-

(Continued at far right on next page)

Obviously, Dean of Community Services Cheryl Foley knows when she has got a good thing going. That is why she convinced Hedges this year to become a Coordinator of RLC classes in Benton. By day, Hedges already was working part-time for the Developmental Skills Center in the Special Education - Shelter Care program. This is her second year going to shelter care homes in Mt. Vernon, Sesser and Benton as the college's representative.

By night, she will now spearhead a program which could grow from the 200-plus enrollment experienced most semesters.

The former substitute teacher has an Elementary Education Degree from SIU. She was eager to get back to work once 6-year-old son Andrew, a first-grader, joined 9-year-old sister Kristin in school. Her husband, Bill, works for State Farm Insurance.

So what does RLC's newest Coordinator have planned for Franklin Countians? A preview came in the form of Christmas-oriented classes which concluded recently.

The list of spring offerings includes, for the first time in Benton, Suffering, Death and Dying. A continuation of Deaf Sign Language is scheduled, along with another Dollmaking class and one on Lap Quilting. The newcomer also is making tentative plans to add future courses such as Aerobic Dancing, Advanced Needlepoint, Estate Planning, Powder Puff Mechanics, Household Repairs and Macrame.

Hedges has enlisted the help of advisors Anna Marie Giacone and Kirby Browning to help in these off-campus endeavors in Benton, so stay tuned for late additions.

PINCKNEYVILLE – This is the time of year when RLC's Pinckneyville Coordinator, George McPheeters, begins doing double-duty. "In the fall, we have very little turnout for classes, we have found," explained McPheeters. "That's because our community is involved primarily in coal mining and agriculture. So we restrict our schedule to maybe a half-dozen classes in the fall and then schedule twice that many in the spring."

In reality, three times that many would best describe this spring's offering, which includes eight classes which may be taken for transfer credit and at least 10 other Adult and Community Education classes. A year ago, Pinckneyville classes attracted 84 students in the fall and 204 in the spring.

And McPheeters has been doing double-duty and then some. He has viewed the col-

lege from all angles, beginning as a student and graduate of Mt. Vernon Community College in 1966. He has taught GED classes for Rend Lake College and currently, in addition to his coordinating responsibilities, teaches a class in Basketball most semesters.

The native of Mt. Vernon graduated from SIUC in 1968 and was awarded his Master's Degree in Science and Higher Education five years later. Both of 4-year-old Katie McPheeters' parents are teachers – George has taught in Pinckneyville's Science Department for 13 years, while wife Dianne is a second-grade teacher.

There is another good reason why RLC classes go well each spring for McPheeters. "Our philosophy," he says, "is if we can find a dozen people who are interested in taking the same class, we will find an instructor and will offer the course, if at all possible." A recently formed advisory committee of Lina Lindner and Vickie Weatherford will help the longtime Coordinator in seeing that philosophy carried out.

"Crafts and Women's Exercise classes always draw well for us, and this fall we had good success with Microwave Cooking," he continued. "Baccalaureate classes don't always go over well here, but we're hoping that will change. We want people to realize all of our classes can be taken for self-interest and don't have to be part of a whole program."

MT. VERNON – "Many times," claims RLC Mt. Vernon Community Coordinator Cyndy Mitchell, "the most difficult part of this job is convincing people with talent that they can get up in front of a class and teach others."

Mitchell believes there are any number of people in the area with this kind of talent which has thus far gone untapped, yet it is safe to say she has done her job in searching out many of them.

When she started as a Coordinator about five years ago, Rend Lake College offered five classes in Mt. Vernon. Today, that varies between 35-45, give or take some late-starting classes.

"I really enjoy trying to come up with new ideas and seeing them grow," she said. "The only thing I don't like as much is the fact I just don't have the individual contact with the people like I used to have. I used to register everybody myself the first night of classes. Now, of course, that would be impossible to do; I'd be running all over town, from the high school to the Community Center to Cedarhurst and everywhere

in between.”

Mitchell is not a native of Mt. Vernon – she was born in Tulsa, OK – but feels like one after living there the past 14 years. Her husband, Ben, is an Attorney. Daughter Jamie, 14, is in the eighth grade and a son, Mark, 11, is in the sixth grade. Cyndy, a full-time housewife and part-time RLC Coordinator, earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Illinois.

A series of craft-oriented classes designed for the Christmas season was introduced this year by Mitchell and proved tremendously successful for a first attempt. Over 100 people registered for these classes at a Saturday afternoon Open House and 166 eventually took part. In addition, RLC classes in Mt. Vernon annually attract between 300-500 adult learners.

Planned for the Spring Semester is a class in Adult Driver Education, which should provide a review for anyone needing to study for an upcoming driver’s test. Mitchell also is hoping to add an International Foods class later this spring. One class that already has developed is the ever-popular Beginning Photography class taught by Kent Glatthaar at Casey Junior High.

WOODLAWN – When RLC Dean of Community Services Cheryl Foley went shopping for a college coordinator in the Woodlawn area, she may have been looking for someone who knows the community, the college and the people.

She discovered Becky Willoughby, who was really no discovery at all.

Willoughby grew up in Woodlawn and is a former Speech student of Foley’s at Rend Lake College. She also took an Art class offered by RLC in Woodlawn.

The former Becky Eubank and her husband, Ken, attended schools together. Ken is President of the Land Bank in Mt. Vernon today and they are the parents of two grade-schoolers – Tisha, 8, who is in the third grade, and 5-year-old Amanda, who attends kindergarten. Becky has been an active participant and leader in 4-H, PTO and the First Baptist Church of Woodlawn. An avid reader, she also plays the piano for the church.

Willoughby got a later start than most as RLC’s Coordinator; the same can be said for her classes. Facilities demand a late February start for the Woodlawn area. “The most popular classes around here have always been the Women’s Physical Fitness classes,” she commented. “We’re also wanting to get

into the craft and hobby-type classes more.” A year ago the college brought classes to about 40 Woodlawn residents each semester.

[Editor’s Note: Daughter Tisha graduated from Rend Lake College with an Associate in Arts Degree in 1992.

Daughter Amanda (RLC Class of ‘95) was a two-time All-Region XXIV and All-Great Rivers Athletic Conference basketball standout who finished her career with 1,100 points – third-most in Lady Warrior annals at the time – and ranked in the top five in most all-time scoring categories, including 661 points as a sophomore (third) and the resulting 21.3-point average (fourth, tied) for a team that finished 19-12. She departed with the record for most free throws made in her career (180). She also was an infielder on the softball team as a freshman and was a member of the Homecoming Court. Amanda Willoughby McClure was inducted into the RLC Sports Hall of Fame in 2016.]

WAYNE CITY – Rend Lake College serves up a pretty good mixture of self-improvement classes to residents of Wayne County, compliments of chef Jim Mantoan.

Some of those courses have a way of molding the community together. Others help keep students in tune with the times.

Which is just another way of saying RLC Community Coordinator Mantoan has again scheduled three of the more popular classes to be offered in the Wayne City area – Cake Decorating, Welding and Beginning Guitar.

“Over 100 people took the Cake Decorating class the first year we offered it here,” recalled Mantoan. “We ran class after class that year.” This spring, RLC has scheduled two levels of Cake Decorating in Wayne City, one for the novice baker and one for the many advanced cake decorators who have graduated beyond the beginner’s level.

A non-credit Welding course returns after an absence from the Wayne City scene of over a year. And Dan Allen will continue to introduce the guitar to would-be musicians.

Chicago native Mantoan is in his eighth year at Wayne City High School, the first five of which were spent as a Counselor and the last three as Principal. He holds a Master’s Degree from Chicago State and an Administrative Certificate from SIUC.

Mantoan has coordinated RLC classes ever since present Dean of Instruction Mark S. Kern introduced the Coordinator system in the mid-1970s. Jim and wife Jan, a Quality Assurance Technician for General Tire and Rubber, are the parents of five chil-



RLC determined (cont.)

cations by obtaining Bachelor’s Degrees in Nursing; the ADN program allows these new registered nurses to articulate easily into several Bachelor’s Degree completion programs.

Also boosting RLC’s variety of nursing programs are excellent working relationships with area healthcare institutions which assist the college in providing real-world experience. Affiliation agreements with area hospitals keep many of RLC’s nursing grads working locally. These agreements have been set up with St. Mary’s/Good Samaritan Inc. in Mt. Vernon and Centralia, Crossroads Community Hospital in Mt. Vernon, Pinckneyville Community Hospital, Hamilton Memorial Hospital and hospitals in the Southern Illinois Healthcare group (including Herrin Hospital and Carbondale Memorial).

RLC student nurses and graduates also find employment and experience at many local long-term care facilities.

Many healthcare agencies offer generous scholarships to RLC Nursing students. Both St. Mary’s/Good Samaritan and Pinckneyville Community Hospital offer financial aid, or “loan forgiveness” programs, in return for a work commitment from students. Southern Illinois Healthcare also provides financial aid opportunities. Several agencies offer their employees tuition reimbursement for nursing courses.

Even the college’s own nurses help make paying for school easier for subsequent classes. Nursing students raise money each year for the Rend Lake College LPN Endowment Scholarship, which recently reached \$40,000, to help pay for summer tuition, which often is not covered by usual forms of financial aid.



Nursing facilities expand, lead to student increase

NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 2012

Rend Lake College officials have dedicated more space to the Nursing program on the Ina campus – a move that has increased fall enrollment by 33 percent.

“Our Nursing program experiences more demand every year,” said RLC President Terry Wilkerson. “We don’t like turning applicants away. But it’s hard to meet increasing demand without increasing our facilities.”

Wilkerson said the Nursing Lab was designed to teach about 45 students in the Practical Nursing Program. That was 30 years ago. Since then, officials doubled LPN capacity at the college and added the Associate Degree Nursing option. Together, the programs have 160 available slots and are full every year.

A \$6 million Allied Health Building has been on the college’s Capital Project request list for years. RLC’s Resource Allocation and Management Plan, or RAMP, is submitted annually through the Illinois Community College Board to the General Assembly. Blueprints call for the Allied Health Building to have a lecture hall, classrooms, simulation labs, a computer lab, study lounge and offices for faculty and staff. Considering the financial state of Illinois, leaders at the college decided to move forward on the expansion rather than wait for state funding of the Allied Health Building. “This expansion is a five-year fix,” Wilkerson said. “The Allied Health Building is the top priority on our RAMP.”

The summer construction project to build a bigger Nursing program moved classrooms

(Continued at far right on next page)

dren – sophomore Jaimette, eighth-grader Jimmy, sixth-grader Joy, first-grader Jodi and 5-year-old Jon.

SESSER – Arthur and Kathryn Murry they are not. Nor has anyone ever confused them with the fancy-stepping team of Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire.

Yet there can be no denying, the duo most responsible for people dancing in Sesser, Valier and the surrounding area consists of RLC Community Coordinators Richard Garner and Arnold Wingo. Their schedule of classes each semester traditionally includes Ballroom Dancing.

“I’ve taken it myself,” notes Garner. It remains popular “because a lot of people have been so busy raising kids, they may feel ‘out’ of things. They take the course to brush up on their dancing a little, enjoy the school atmosphere and socialize with friends. I took the class for the same reasons . . . I never was a very good dancer.” Ballroom Dancing has been taught the last three semesters in Sesser by Helen Moro of Christopher.

Garner is in his third year as Principal at Sesser High School and 13th year in the Sesser-Valier Community District. A Sesser native, he returned after serving nine years as Principal and Coach at Akin and three years as a Math and Science Teacher at Bluford. Garner holds a Master of Science Degree in Education from SIU.

He and his wife, Jo Ann, who helps operate the Garner Insurance Agency, have three children, all of whom are attending the University of Illinois – Kevin, 22, is a senior and already has been admitted to medical school; Kara Nell, 20, is a junior Accounting major, and Kendall, 18, is a freshman majoring in Pre-Pharmacy.

“Because I was born and raised in the community,” Garner said, “I feel as though I know these people better and think I can do a better job of advising them. I like the people and I like working with them. It makes it easier when you are working with parents whom you’ve known all your life. You get better cooperation that way.”

Wingo is the Elementary Principal for grades K-8. His 24 years with the community district includes 10 years as Garner’s predecessor at the high school and time spent as a Coach, English Instructor and Physical Education Teacher. He holds both Bachelor and Master’s degrees from SIU and, like his “dancing” partner, has served as a Community Services Coordinator for

five years. A proud grandfather, the Valier native and his wife, Phyllis, are the parents of two married children, Charles and Debra.

Scheduling college classes in Sesser “is a little more difficult for us,” Garner admits. Agreed Wingo, “Because of our close proximity to the campus, people can take most of the education-type classes they are looking for on-campus. We have people who mostly are looking for the hobby-leisure classes like Ballroom Dancing, exercise classes, microwave cooking, etc.”

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL ▶ **Advisory Councils exude expertise thanks to professionals in the field**

Vocational-Technical programs find a life at Rend Lake College when they fill a niche . . . whether it is to fulfill a need of local business and industry, to improve the lives of the unemployed or those currently employed and seeking more, to encourage a boon for entrepreneurship by introducing new ideas and/or all of the above.

Similarly, Vocational-Technical – or the more contemporary Career-Technical – Advisory Councils were created to help keep occupational programs on target; i.e., making sure the Rend Lake College GPS system is headed in the right direction and staying on course.

Advisory Councils are comprised of local professionals and leaders within the industry represented . . . all willing volunteers and friends of the programs/college. They help assure Rend Lake College programs are providing cutting-edge technology instruction with state-of-art equipment, with a sharp focus on future needs.

Rend Lake College Career-Technical administrators and faculty members likewise participate on Advisory Councils, which meet a varying number of times each year.

REND LAKE COLLEGE CLASS SCHEDULE SPRING 1981

AGRICULTURE – Rend Lake College offers an Associate in Arts Degree in Agriculture, an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Ag Business and both AAS Degrees and Occupational Certificates in Ag Mechanics and Ag Production and Management.

Assistance comes from an active Agriculture Advisory Council which includes Bill Anderson, Bill Denman, Rex Fouts, Bill Hobbs, Mitchell Hopkins, Dick Howe, John McAfoos, Tom Rheinecker, Jerry Ruemmler, Gordon Smith and Tom Stitt.

ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY – What

is on the drawing board for RLC's Architectural Technology program, which boasts both an Associate in Applied Science Degree and an Occupational Certificate program?

Many decisions concerning the program and industry are made following consultations with Advisory Council professionals – Joe Frick, Jack Goldman, Carey Lipps, Richard Peacock and Kevin Weston, plus RLC Instructor Fred Bruno.

AUTOMOTIVE – A growing Automotive Mechanics program at Rend Lake College offers district residents a two-year Associate in Applied Science Degree program as well as a one-year Occupational Certificate curriculum. Added to this within the past year are three courses in Auto Body Repairs.

Helping guide the college's Automotive program are Advisory Council members Mike Cavaness, Jack Chapman, Dave Elder, Don Hindman and Alex Walters, along with Instructors Maurice Kirsch, Fran Lentz, Sam McCowen and Nigel Thompson.

BEAUTY CULTURE – Although it operates away from the main campus, the Rend Lake College Beauty School is in good hands thanks to licensed beauticians like Advisory Council member Jane Dollins and Instructors Brenda Hartley and Virginia Fleri.

The Cosmetology program, featuring a Certificate course of study as well as a two-year Associate in Applied Science Degree in Teacher Training, operates out of the Rend Lake College Beauty School in Benton (fourth floor of the Wood Building) and the Richland Academy of Beauty Culture in Mt. Vernon.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION – The Cooperative Education and Placement office at Rend Lake College, headed by Director Ardell Kimmel and newly named Coordinator Sandra Book Rhoads, receives valuable input from an Advisory Council which includes Bob Neff, Geri Phifer and Bryan Settle.

INTERIOR DESIGN – Rend Lake College's Interior Design program was redesigned at the beginning of the current academic year. It now consists of a one-year Occupational Certificate program followed by a summer's internship. Previously, the college also offered a two-year curricula in this field.

Advisory Councils – similar to the Interior Design Advisory Council comprised by Ginger Hood, Doris Hottes, Bob Sheraton and Sara Wilkinson – help guide RLC Instructor Jan Alred and other college officials in these decision-making processes.

LAW ENFORCEMENT – Rest assured, students are in good hands with RLC's Law Enforcement program, which consists of an extensive two-year Associate in Applied Science Degree curricula and a one-year Occupational Certificate version. Instructor Ed Heischmidt boasts experience with the St. Louis Metro Police force.

And rest assured, the Law Enforcement program is in good hands with capable outside direction from Advisory Council members like Mark Drake, Mike Kent and Bill Willis, as well as Department Secretary Jill Duff.

MINING TECHNOLOGY – It is difficult enough to keep pace with an industry which has changed dramatically in recent years, let alone with a Mining Department which has grown by leaps and bounds in the last six years. Rend Lake College needs plenty of support in keeping up with industry demands, and it receives it from a concerned, hard-working Advisory Council which includes John Bennett, Gary Bruce, Bill Carr, Donald Dame, Advisory Council President Jim Doerr, Charlie Morris, George Morris, Jim Simmons, Oletha Taft, Tom Towers and Dawn Woodland.

Members of the RLC Mining staff are concerned with what is going on in their field as well. For proof, consider the turnout for the recent meeting with the Mining Advisory Council – Judy Cockrum, Dwight Dame, Charles Dickens, William Dill, Dave Ellingsworth, Frank Fenton, Alan Flint, Chuck Foster, D.J. Johnson, Carl Jones, Don Lynch, Gene Mitchell, Bob Mooneyham, Robert Varis, Department Chair Gary Wade, Francis Wilson and Lee Wilson.

NURSING – The field of Nursing has long been a Rend Lake College strong suit, thanks to cooperation from professionals like Advisory Council participants Florence Bost, Pat Forsythe, Darlene Franscavitch, Tommie Harrington, Sister Henrietta, Marilyn Metcalf, Margaret Walton, Peggy Wells and Janet Westerland.

In addition to several classes in Emergency Medical Care, the college has a one-year Practical Nursing program and a two-year Associate in Applied Science Degree Nursing program, the latter in cooperation with four other members of the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM).

REND LAKE COLLEGE PHOTO CUTLINES NOVEMBER 19, 1996

Members of the various Vocational Advisory Councils for Rend Lake College met



Nursing facilities (cont.)

and lab space from the Science Building to the first and second floors of the Learning Resource Center. The move has effectively doubled the amount of classroom space available to students and improved the lab environment.

Randall Shively, Director of RLC's Physical Plant, said it is roughly the same amount of lab space as before, but now there are three separate labs compared to one open area.

"It gives our faculty more flexibility to teach different curriculum," Shively said.

Allied Health Division Chair Kim Robert said the faculty is thrilled with the new facilities.

"It's going to accommodate 20 additional ADN students," Robert said. "With new labs, our students are going to get a more realistic training environment. We can't wait to start using the space."

Because RLC's Physical Plant staff was responsible for completing 95 percent of the work, nearly 6,000 square feet was renovated for less than \$50,000.

"That's less than \$9 a square foot," Shively said. "We cut our out-of-pocket expenses in half by doing it in-house."



Greenhouse heating fails, most plants don't survive

JANUARY 1976

A heating system failure in the campus greenhouse over a mid-January weekend resulted in the loss of most plants, with the popular banana tree the lone exception. Killed by a temperature drop to 24° F inside were delicate orchids, pineapples and many others. Even the surviving banana stalks had to be cut down to about half their original size.



'Introduction to Internet' takes its show on the road

NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 2004

Learn the fundamentals of exploring the Internet with help from Rend Lake College's new mobile computer lab.

"Introduction to the Internet" will be offered from 2-8 p.m. Monday, August 23, at Hamilton Memorial Hospital in McLeansboro and again from 2-8 p.m. Wednesday, August 25, at Franklin Hospital in Benton. Training will be led by Evan Youngblood, RLC Education Technology Specialist. Participants can come in any-time during the lab's operating hours. There will be no set time for instruction; Youngblood will assist people as they arrive. This is not a class, but more of an open session for people wanting to learn more about the Internet. In addition to Franklin Hospital and Hamilton Memorial, classes also will soon be offered at St. Mary's/Good Samaritan Regional Health Center in Mt. Vernon. Tentative plans call for the lab to be set up two days each month at each hospital.

The mobile lab has 15 new IBM ThinkPads as well as a projector, printer and floppy disk drives. The laptops each feature wireless connection to the Internet. The mobile lab was funded in part by a \$37,000 grant through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's "Eliminate the Digital Divide" program. Hospitals were chosen to house the labs because of their locations and for accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The general public will be able to come to the lab to use computers as they need. There also may be specific computer training for businesses. There is no charge to use the computers during lab times and the labs are open to the public.

recently as a group to have dinner on the Ina campus with the RLC Board of Trustees and college administrators before breaking up into individual groups to discuss the business at hand.

Vocational Advisory Councils meet two or three times during the year to offer advice to instructors and make sure RLC courses are staying current to meet the ever-changing needs of industry and the labor force.

Representatives of the various groups in attendance included . . .

ALLIED HEALTH – Marilyn Fowler (Mt. Vernon); Sandy Kern (Benton) and Ellen Sawyer (Benton) of Franklin Hospital; Virginia Telford (Centralia) of St. Mary's Hospital; Wilanna Patton, RLC Allied Health Department Chair, and RLC Director of Nontraditional Student Support Services Elaine Johnson.

ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY – Jim Hollingsworth of Architectural Services, Inc. of Mt. Vernon; Rick Kirkpatrick and Kent Piper of Wilson, Hodge and Groh of Mt. Vernon; Carey Lipps of Lipps Construction in Mt. Vernon; Van Voyles of White and Borgognoni Architects of Carbondale; Terry Owens of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale; RLC Associate Professors Rick Marlow and Kevin Weston, and RLC Agriculture, Automotive and Architecture (AAA) Department Chair Doug Leeck.

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY – Jack Arnett and Jason Johnson of Ford Square in Mt. Vernon; Mike Cavaness of Service Senter in Thompsonville; Jack Chapman of Benton Auto Machine Shop; Bill Halcomb (Bloomington) of Country Companies; Mark Hall of Benton Auto Parts; Richard Hefner and Scott Rogers of Southern Illinois Tire in Mt. Vernon; Robert Taylor of Taylor Ford in Benton; Ken Feather and Alex Walters of Mt. Vernon Township High School; Ray Lambert of Pinckneyville Community High School; RLC Professor Sam McCowen; RLC Instructors Keith Kendrick and Nigel Thompson, and RLC Agriculture, Automotive and Architectural (AAA) Department Chair Doug Leeck.

BUSINESS – Vito Mastrangelo (Mt. Vernon) of the Appellate Court; Bill Simpson of Boatmen's Bank in Benton; RLC Accounting/Economics Professor Larry Sidwell; RLC Computer Science Associate Professors Martha S. McCreery and David Schuessler, and RLC Business and Social Science Department Chair Ron Tremmel.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT – Ginger Burwell of Koalaty Home Day Care in Mt. Vernon; Tracey Elliott of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; Cleo Holt of Mt. Vernon City Schools District 80 Preschool Center; Penny Lee with Hamilton County Unit No. 2; Tranae Brockhouse of RLC's "Project CHILD," and RLC Instructor Tina Grounds.

OFFICE SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY – Judy Carson of Hart & Hart Attorneys in Benton; Connie Harre-Blair (Woodlawn) of Mt. Vernon Township High School; RLC Professor Janet Miller; RLC Instructor Vickie Lewis; part-time RLC Instructors Peggy Strothmann and Virginia Williams, and RLC Lab Assistant Linda Odle.

THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD Many are wondering ... Will students have prison inmates on their minds?

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN JUNE 1993
BY MICHAEL CAVANAGH

From almost any spot on the Rend Lake College campus, the bright blue guard towers and gleaming chain link fences of the Big Muddy River Correctional Center are visible.

Although separated by brick buildings, armed guards, fences topped with razor wire and an interstate highway, the inmates at the medium-security prison are very much on the minds of some students at the college in Ina.

Since inmates started arriving at Big Muddy, the college administration has worked to quell rumors that inmates might attend classes at Rend Lake College.

Both College President Mark Kern and Illinois Department of Corrections spokesman Nic Howell agree that there are no plans to take inmates out of the prison and into classes at Rend Lake College.

But because Big Muddy is a prison, it does have classrooms deep within its walls. Officials say that the classrooms are only for the inmates, and the outside instructors volunteer to come into the prison and teach.

The classes come to the inmates, not vice-versa.

Still, the "what-ifs" that tug at the back of students' minds have changed the ordinary behavior of almost everyone who attends the college, students say.

"Everybody is scared to death that if there is a breakout, they might get over here and get in our cars," said freshman Tara Reed of Thompsonville.

She said most students now lock their doors and roll up the windows on their cars when leaving them.

They were not always so careful.

"I was up here two years ago and it's different now," she said about the attitudes of the students.

Last year, there was a decline in the number of students attending the college, but Kern said factors other than the prison opening caused the drop.

In fact, he said, enrollment figures show that only five fewer high school graduates signed up last school year, compared to the previous year.

The difference, which averaged a 6 percent drop in enrollment last year, was compared with a record year, Kern said.

"We are down last year from an all-time high. What I'm going to watch is, 'Is there a continued decline?'" Kern said.

Summer enrollment is down 9 percent from last summer, he said.

Although the prison is on the minds of some students, Reed said she did not know of anyone who decided against attending the college because of it.

"No one has come out and said, 'I'm not going because of the prison,' but it has made them think about it more and look at other colleges," Reed said.

Jason Rodotz, a sophomore from Woodlawn, said he and his friends have wondered about how easy it would be for an inmate to escape and get across the interstate.

If an inmate did escape, Rodotz said, his friends at school also have wondered whether they should try to stop him. "If I come out of a night class, I look in the back seat to see if anyone is there," he said.

But adult student Laura Howard of Pinckneyville said the proximity of the prison does not matter to her.

"I notice it, but it doesn't bother me," she said, adding that she once lived not far from the Menard Correctional Center in Chester.

"I've always locked my car whether there was a prison or not," she said.

Howell said Howard's attitude is the correct one.

"The proximity of the college to the prison should be of no import to the students," he said. "The issue is, the inmates aren't going anywhere."

He added that there have been no escapes from state prisons built within the last 15 years. The successful design of those prisons is identical to Big Muddy, he said.

"In several prisons in the southern part of the state, some of the students go into prisons and study along with the inmates because that's where the classes are," Howell said.

That is the setup at the Menard and Vienna correctional centers, he said, but there are no plans to do that at Big Muddy.

Kern said the slight drop in enrollment at Rend Lake College last year resulted from fewer adults signing up for classes, and he believes the sluggish economy has been the biggest factor in the decline.

Starting next semester, the college is instituting new payment plans, and it already has changed the bookstore policy so that it now accepts credit cards.

Members of the college administration also have met with students and staff members to determine how to better meet students' needs. At the top of the list is establishing a day-care center, Kern said.

"We are one of five colleges in the state of Illinois that does not have a day-care center," he said. "That was one thing students came out strongly on."

Kern hopes to address that issue, and he said the college also has compiled a student "wish list" that the administration is working on.

That, he said, should address the sag in enrollment because it might be some time before the local economy rebounds.

EDUCATION BEHIND BARS ▶ **College, prison working together: RLC brings classes to the inmates**

Editor's note: While more traditional students come and go at the nearby community college, inmates at the state prison across the Interstate highway in southern Jefferson County continue their education, too. This first of a three-part series looks at what the college has to offer for inmates who want an education.

MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS NOVEMBER 6, 1993
BY MARY KAYE KOCH

INA – About 350 inmates at Big Muddy River Correctional Facility are putting their prison time to good use by continuing their education through Rend Lake College.

Prisoners are taking advantage of seven curricula and other educational programs aimed at teaching skills and career qualities which the inmates can use once they leave the facility.

Educational Coordinator David Vinyard explained that the Illinois Department of Corrections has a contract with RLC to run a "college" within the prison.



Automotive Technology uses Hunter's HawkEye

MAY 2008

Using the best technology in the Automotive Technology program at Rend Lake College ensures students get the progressive and practical training they deserve. The latest addition, Hunter's HawkEye, is keeping the program in-line with the cutting-edge technology used in today's workforce.

The HawkEye is a high-definition digital imaging wheel alignment system by Hunter Engineering Co. of Bridgeton, MO. The company is a world leader in wheel alignment, brake service and safety inspection lane equipment.

The RLC Board of Trustees voted to trade-in an aging Hunter P211 system and upgrade to the Hunter HS401 at a price of \$33,776 after a trade-in value of \$5,000. RLC Auto Professor Nigel Thompson said it was money well spent.

"This system is what most of the shops, dealers and manufacturers use to align vehicles," Thompson said. "It is vital we train students on equipment they will see after RLC. This new piece of equipment is critically important in delivering the level of training our students need to be marketable and highly successful."

Thompson pointed out the HawkEye will be fully involved in curriculum starting this fall. In the spring, students were introduced to the new system that uses Hunter's Faster Caster computer software with WinAlign software – the largest vehicle-specific information database in the industry.



Health Information Tech gains CAHIIM approval

NEWS RELEASE NOVEMBER 9, 2015
Rend Lake College's Health Information Technology (HIT) program received accreditation last month from the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM).

The two-year Associate of Applied Science introduces administrative and technical skills necessary to maintain components of health record systems. The HIT professional is competent in health data management, information policies and information systems. A professional practice experience at a local health care facility is offered during the final semester to give students hands-on practice working directly with HIT specialists.

Charlotte Henry, Director of HIT, said graduates of this newly accredited program will receive the best education due to aligned standards between professionals and the college, and will thus have a leg-up on graduates from programs that are not accredited.

"Employers are assured graduates of an accredited program have achieved a level of quality that demonstrates HIT entry-level competencies," she said. CAHIIM accredited HIT program graduates can also obtain the Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) professional credential from the American Health Information Management Association. "Students continue to have interest in the HIT program with numbers growing," said Henry. "With the recent transition to an ICD-10, a clinical coding classification system, health care providers are in need of HIT professionals who are trained in ICD-10 coding."

"Everybody who comes here, if they are motivated, can get an education here," Vinyard said. "We have the capabilities here to take a person who can't even read and turn them into a person who has an education to get a career.

"We have some very motivated people here. Teachers are even surprised at their (the inmates') commitment and drive."

Vinyard stressed that all classes are held at the prison; inmates never travel to RLC, located across Interstate 57 from the prison.

After being screened, inmates may take one of seven certificate programs: Horticulture, Small Business Management, Computer Operations, Automotive Repair, Culinary Arts, Building Skills and Electronics. A prerequisite is that the inmate has either graduated high school or earned a General Educational Development (GED) diploma and attained a certain level of reading proficiency. The courses are taught by RLC faculty.

Small Business Management teaches word processing, spreadsheet creation and business skills to inmates. It is taught by Kelly Fenton.

"In Small Business Management, what we try to do is give students insight in how to run a business," Fenton said. "When they leave here, they would be able to run a business or help someone start up a business."

Culinary Arts is a 29-week course in which inmates are taught cooking, baking, serving, storing, meat preparation and other culinary skills.

After students complete the program, they would be able to work within the food industry, Instructor Joan Frank said. Management skills are also taught by incorporating math into the program. Part of the "final exam" is putting together a dinner from scratch and serving it.

The Electronics program, taught by Deborah Greathouse, provides an educational base so students can repair and work with electronic equipment.

The Automotive Technology program, taught by Doug Roark, includes skills on auto tune-ups, brakes, transmissions and rebuilding engines. Autos brought in by Big Muddy employees are fixed in class. The labor is supplied for free; the employee pays for the parts.

Building Maintenance teaches inmates the arts of construction. Topics covered include masonry, plumbing, wiring, carpentry, blueprint reading and technical math.

"We obviously can't go out and build homes," said Vinyard, "so the students build replicas."

Instructor John Duncan said the mini-houses are built in the shop, with students completing such tasks as putting in a bathroom and wiring and putting vinyl siding on the "home."

RLC's horticultural curriculum, in addition to classroom work, offers the opportunity to work in the prison's greenhouse, where inmates grow plants and flowers from seedlings. Currently, they are working on a poinsettia project.

"This program is very realistic," Vinyard said. "Skills learned are full range, including greenhouse management, turf and landscape work, flower-arranging skills. Once out, they should be highly employable."

Instructor Pam Knoblett said she believes the program is practical.

"We teach things that they will encounter and that they will use. We don't work with anything abstract that they might never run into in the real world," she said. "For example, most greenhouses have a floral shop also, so they learn flower arranging."

In Data Processing, inmates learn terminology, history, keyboarding, word processing, database, DOS, problem solving and both Basic and Cobalt programming. The program does well at keeping students' interest, said Instructor Gary Otey.

"There are always some who come in here to play rather than work, but they don't usually continue," said Otey.

In the evening, qualifying students may also take General Education college courses, including English and Rhetoric, Psychology and Journalism.

"Sometimes something just clicks," Vinyard said. "Inmates realize, 'Hey, I gotta change something.' We can take their freedom away, but an education is something that can't be taken away from them.

"People talk about reform. I believe education is the key to that. I think we've got one heck of a good investment here. A large number of these people have never completed anything successful in their lives. It is very rewarding for me to see the light click on in their heads."

Vinyard said strict rules are enforced

"We can't forget this is a prison, and we probably work these students harder than the main campus," Vinyard said. "Three unexcused absences and they are dropped. If they cheat or steal, they are out."

"We emphasize responsibility here. If a guy wants to escape from reality for six hours a day and he can act like a Rend Lake College student, then that's how he will be treated."

EDUCATION IN ACTION ▶ **Learning more meaningful when applied in practical, workplace environment**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 1999

Rend Lake College is emphasizing a new approach in many of its classes which should enable students to learn while their communities and other residents of the district benefit.

Several sections of this educational concept, called "Service Learning," will be offered during Fall Semester 1999. Service Learning courses were offered for the first time last spring.

Service Learning involves the application of skills acquired in the classrooms through community service activities. In a Service Learning course, students are taught the same skills they normally would be expected to acquire in that class.

Learning is more meaningful, however, when applied in a practical, workplace-like environment. In the case of a Service Learning course, that application would be through a community service project that relates directly to the course content.

Rex Duncan, who coordinates the college's Service Learning grants, says, "Rend Lake College already has had several obvious success stories where Service Learning courses are concerned. The goal is that by 2004, students will be able to finish a two-year degree having attended at least two Service Learning courses."

In *Continuance*, a statewide publication on intergenerational activities and service programs, RLC President Mark S. Kern is quoted as saying, "I have been in education for 31 years, and one of the biggest problems in education is dealing with the traditional student when we try to teach them something before they know practical application. Real-world experience will bridge that gap and make their education more meaningful."

Among the Service Learning courses on the Fall '99 credit course schedule . . .

Nursing Associate Professor Debbie Benns has introduced Service Learning into her "Community Health Nursing" course in an effort to teach future Registered Nurses about public community health issues.

Students are trained with assistance from the American Lung Association to bring to area schools the "Smoke Free – That's Me" program of tobacco product avoidance.

Through this type of practical, hands-on activity, 824 school children in 35 area schools last year heard firsthand about the dangers of tobacco use, which should benefit the students and the community for years to come.

Students from Professor John Fisher's "Inorganic Chemistry" class are being partnered with junior high science students at Ewing-Northern Grade School. Together, these students come to Rend Lake and participate in a water quality testing analysis project where they take samples of water from differing depths and test it. The project has been so successful the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has been able to use part of the results.

An example of how Service Learning is working in Fisher's course also rated mention in *Continuance*. "Some students had difficulty demonstrating their command of the subject matter in class but did an excellent job demonstrating it to the grade school students," the article stated. "One Chemistry student turned red with embarrassment, lowered his head and said, 'I don't know' every time he was asked a question in class. This same student explained the lab experience to the younger participants with confidence. The Ewing elementary students crowded around him eagerly learning their lesson."

Therese Howard, Associate Professor of Art, is working to bring Service Learning into one of her Art Appreciation classes. In her class, RLC students are paired with Ina Grade School students to complete a variety of art projects throughout the semester. This program has proven to be beneficial to both the college and the grade school.

Child Development Instructor Tina Grounds is working to implement Service Learning in "The Exceptional Child." This course will be offered in the Service Learning format for the first time Fall '99. In it, RLC students will be paired one-on-one with area school children with exceptional needs. College students will then be able to present hands-on tutoring for these special children. The program will be geared primarily toward Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten students.

Math Professor Diane Metzger is another one implementing Service Learning



Volunteer Williams rates the 'Spotlight on Service'

NEWS RELEASE MAY 4, 2005

Barbara Williams, a volunteer tutor with RLC Adult Education and Literacy, has been chosen to receive the 2005 "Spotlight on Service" Award. She will be honored at a May 20 luncheon in Springfield.

The "Spotlight on Service" Award is a partnership between Secretary of State Jesse White and the Illinois Press Association. Williams was nominated by Dee Russell of the RLC Adult Ed program.

As an adult literacy volunteer, Williams (Pinckneyville) tutors at the Perry County Jail. She has been a volunteer since 1992, accumulating more than 1,300 volunteer hours.

"She is a very busy lady," Russell noted in her letter of nomination. For the past 13 years, Williams has owned and operated Main Street Inn and has tutored in the local jail, helping those incarcerated to improve their literacy skills and prepare to pass the GED test.

Continually thinking of ways to facilitate student interaction and participation while simultaneously guiding students to independent learning, Williams spends many hours outside the tutor sessions on research and lesson plan development.

"The inmates have been influenced by her encouragement and instruction," Russell wrote.

"Some have even corresponded after being transferred, sharing their appreciation of how she helped them to think and learn. She is truly an inspiration."



RLC Nursing students help move St. Mary's Good Sam

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE
FEBRUARY 7 2013

Rend Lake College Associate Degree in Nursing students recently took part in moving day for St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital in Mt. Vernon. Students helped transport patients and equipment from the old hospital (on 12th Street near the downtown area) to the new, \$237M facility (located on the west side of town, just off Interstates 57 and 64, at the juncture of 42nd Street and Wells Bypass Road). The move was done via several ambulance companies in Southern Illinois. Melisa Berendson, an ADN Instructor at RLC, said, "We took the students to gain clinical hours related to leadership for our Nursing Today and Tomorrow class." Berendson mentioned her role was to guide students through the procedure of moving patients and observation.

Students had various duties, including preparing patients for the move, sterilizing beds, boxing up equipment and riding along to transport the patients. The students helped move between 50 and 60 patients.

Angie Gunter (Sesser) said, "I worked in the Rehab Department at the old hospital, preparing patients to be transported to the new hospital. I rode in the ambulance with my last patient and helped them get situated in their new room."

Sarah Meyer (Waltonville) indicated she helped wherever she could, from preparing the patients to riding back and forth between hospitals. "The new hospital is beautiful. They have thought of everything," said Gunter, who would love to work in the OB Department after graduating. "It is really modern for a small Southern Illinois town." ~ By Beka Kash

for the first time in the fall. Students in her "Contemporary College Math" class will participate in a project entitled, "Service by the Numbers," in which they will provide small group math tutoring for GED students in the RLC district. Metzger is working with the Jefferson/Hamilton and Franklin/Williamson Regional Superintendent Offices to plan the project.

Part-time Instructor Mary Hart's students in "Teacher's Role in Education" are participating in "Reading on the Prairie." In this project, RLC students teach a back-to-basics literacy learning course at the One-Room Independence Schoolhouse on the Ina campus for district grade school children. RLC students are required to create lesson plans without using computers and are responsible for teaching several grades at once.

Associate Professor Carolyn Stewart introduced Service Learning to her "Educational Psychology" students a year ago. Her students go into district schools and use robotic babies purchased by the RLC Foundation to show area children what it is actually like to have a baby. The robotic babies cry, sleep and eat at irregular intervals, with a computer located inside the doll recording actions of the "parent."

"Rhetoric and Composition" students of English Professor Mike Mullen use Service Learning as the basis for writings and reflections throughout the semester. RLC students are able to choose where they serve through various programs such as Clean and Green, Habitat for Humanity, Eco-Watch, etc., and then record observations of their hands-on activities in a journal as a major project in the class.

Associate Professor Cindy Corn uses Service Learning in her "Introduction to Physical Education" class. RLC students go into area schools and administer the Presidential Fitness Challenge to district children and are responsible for pre- and post-testing.

There are two ways a Service Learning course is funded. The first is through individual institutional internal grants. The second is through the Illinois Campus Compact in Community Service, which provides mini-grants for projects such as these, including a stipend and incidental money.

STARS GOALS ACHIEVED Reports: Students take advantage of and benefit from support and tutoring

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 2004

Rend Lake College is focused on teach-

ing its students not only academics, but also to be self-reliant and responsible citizens. Through services such as the Student Transfer and Retention Support program, the college staff provides opportunities for participants to achieve these traits.

"Part of the mission of Student Services at Rend Lake College is to recruit and retain our students while providing support services – academic, financial and personal – that are necessary for them to achieve success," said Mary Roe, Vice President of Student Services. STARS and other student support programs have been implemented by RLC to assist students with the transition to community college and help them reach their objectives of graduation or transfer to a four-year university.

"As with many community colleges, Rend Lake College has a large number of first-generation college students. For these students to be successful, the college staff must make a connection with them in the first six weeks of their college experience. The STARS program has been the college leader in accomplishing this with immediate and direct services to students," said Roe.

RLC identified and selected 150 low-income, first-generation or disabled students to participate in the STARS grant-funded program. According to the 2002-03 STARS Student Support Services Performance Report, Rend Lake College retained 79 of 99 students (80 percent) who did not graduate or transfer to a four-year university. The goal had been a minimum of 75 percent.

Approximately 135 Student Support services participants remained in good academic standing (maintaining a 2.0 grade-point average or better on a 4.0-point scale), 45 out of 46 students who intended to graduate did so on time and 41 out of 45 students who intended to transfer did so on time.

The average retention rate of STARS participants over the last five years is 82 percent. Approximately 90 percent of those who intended to graduate did so in that time, and 89 percent of students who wished to transfer to a university achieved their goal.

"The STARS program has been the model for the retention efforts at Rend Lake College," said STARS Director Julie Mumbower. "Through countless efforts to connect with our students, the STARS program has exceeded its goals each year for persistence, retention, graduation and transfer of its students."

The STARS program offers academic sup-

port, counseling and advisement, financial aid assistance, career assessment and cultural enrichment activities to its participants.

STARS participants are offered career, transfer, academic and personal counseling on an ongoing basis. In 2002-03, a total of 1,002 hours of counseling were reported.

STARS students also can take advantage of cultural enrichment activities. For the 2002-03 project year, activities included a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game, a symphony orchestra concert at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, the "Nutcracker" ballet at SIUC, a reading by Poet Maya Angelou and a banquet.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 2004

Hundreds of Rend Lake College students each year take advantage an extensive tutoring program, helping themselves reach their goals of graduation or transfer to a university.

According to information supplied by RLC's Student Transfer and Retention Support Director Julie Mumbower, 361 students were tutored during the 2002-03 academic year. There were 2,088 contact hours recorded in a total of 97 courses tutored.

On average last year, 63 percent of tutored students improved their grades and 16 percent maintained the grades they had.

Of the 361 students tutored, 90 graduated and 193 returned to Rend Lake College to continue their educations.

Approximately 47 percent of these students maintained a grade-point average between 2.0 and 2.9, 37 percent had GPAs between 3.0 and 3.9 and 2.5 percent received perfect 4.0-point averages. Overall, 86 percent of the students maintained a 2.0 GPA or better.

Rend Lake College initiated campus-wide tutoring in 1997, although tutoring in some programs had been available prior to that time, according to Vice President of Student Services Mary Roe. Limited tutoring for career-technical students started in Fall 1991.

In Fiscal Year 2001, 439 students took advantage of tutoring; 386 students used the service in 2002. In reality, the 2003 numbers likely are closer to the 2001 total because some tutored students may not have been recorded during this year's implementation of a new system to track tutored students.

"I think it has been a great program and it will continue," said Mumbower. She said one of the duties of her department is to inform students in classrooms about the

availability of tutoring, but she is delighted to see class instructors are not only informing students about tutoring but encouraging them as well to take advantage of it.

"Students know about it earlier and they are hearing it more often," Mumbower said of the tutoring assistance. She said program officials are continuing to fight the "stigma" students sometimes feel when they ask for help. "We're showing them they are not the only ones who need help," she said.

Another program the college continues to encourage and promote is study groups, Mumbower said. These monthly study gatherings, open to all RLC students, continue to grow. They are conducted in the North Oasis on the Ina campus and college faculty often come to help.

Several individuals also have volunteered their time to take on specific tutoring sessions, such as faculty members Steve Holman in Biology and Debbie Bennis in Nursing, student tutor Diane Corbitt in Criminal Justice and staff member Rhonda Carlton in Mathematics, among others. Mumbower said she believes other volunteer tutoring occurred that was not documented.

In evaluations by the tutored students, 85 percent of the tutors were rated "excellent" and 12 percent were rated "good."

Student evaluation comments included:

- "I probably would not have finished with a transferable grade without tutoring."
- "I have never gotten anything better than a 'C' my whole school life and now I have an 'A.'"
- "Thoroughly helped me understand this subject. Without her, I would have been at a loss."
- "I really appreciate his help and attitude toward me."

Tutoring is a free service available to all Rend Lake College students designed to help in their class work and to prepare for tests.

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY ▶ **New program Instructors 'dedicated to excellence,' 'committed to quality'**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 2007

Since joining Rend Lake College in early June, Kim Robert and Joan Laughunn have been busy preparing the new Radiologic Technology program for its inaugural class in August. More than 80 prospective students applied for a seat in the program's takeoff and 20 were accepted.

Robert, the Director of Radiologic Technology, lives in Carlyle with her husband,



Computerized Skills Ctr. moves into Tech Building

SPRING 1993

The RLC Developmental Skills Center will be conducting business in new surroundings, effective Spring Semester 1993. Thanks to a federal Title III grant and other state funds, the Skills Center will feature state-of-the-art computer labs in its remodeled facilities in the Industrial Tech Building.

But students can rest assured: Its purpose for existing will not change.

The Skills Center is for students who need to review basic skills, as well as for those area residents who might like to enroll in college courses but may feel they cannot keep up with their studies without some help outside the classroom. The Skills Center consolidates related services and classes in order to be of greater benefit to RLC students.

The RLC Developmental Skills Center offers the following:

■ **ASSESSMENT TESTING**
ASSET testing for Reading, Writing and Math placement to help students achieve goals.

■ **COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT**
Classes in English, Reading and Math designed to prepare students who need to improve skills for college-level classes.

■ **DROP-IN TUTORING**
Assistance in English, Reading, Study Skills and Math on a drop-in basis during scheduled lab hours for students needing help outside the classroom.

■ **ADULT ED CLASSES (ABE / GED)**

Pre-GED classes in Basic Reading and Math are geared for the adult who does not have a high school diploma and who needs to start at the beginning.

■ **VOLUNTEER LITERACY**
"Ready for Reading" trains volunteers how to teach adults to read in one-on-one settings.



Eisenhower Science Grants fund two in-district projects

NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 1994

Trustees were informed Rend Lake College has been notified it is recipient of two Science Grants, each of which will benefit the district.

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Science Education Grants from the Illinois Board of Higher Education total \$123,000.

Seven area high schools the first year will receive instruction in "Introduction to Biotechnology" for High School Faculty and Young Women. The grant proposed by Instructors Dr. Sue Trammell and Lisa Reed is for \$56,000 the first year. If funded for Year Two, six more schools will receive training.

The remaining \$67,000 will go to Chemistry Instructor John Fisher's Videolab Science project, which introduces an innovative interdisciplinary Chemistry curriculum that overcomes the restrictions imposed by most common approaches. Featured are Videodisc Chemistry experiments and safe "Kitchen Chemistry." The two-year project will place equipment in 13 high schools.



Welfare savings of \$418,631 for 78 Adult Ed students

NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 1994

Rend Lake College Adult Ed and Literacy programs had a powerful, positive impact on public assistance in FY93, according to the Illinois State Board of Education. Locally, 78 public aid students served by RLC either increased earnings enough to have assistance grants reduced or canceled. Estimated welfare savings to the state attributed to RLC - \$418,631. The previous year, 32 individuals served saved the state \$164,136.

Brad, and three daughters - 8-year-old twins Hannah and Ashley and Alexis, 9.

She holds Bachelor and Master's degrees from Webster University in St. Louis and is a 1995 graduate of Kaskaskia College's Radiology program. Her training includes previous work with grant writing and the Academic Quality Improvement Program, or AQIP, which allows an already-accredited institution like RLC to maintain its accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission. Robert also is trained in the practices of JRCERT - the Joint Revue Committee on the Education of Radiologic Technologists.

Laughunn, the Clinical Coordinator for Rad Tech, is a Woodlawn resident. She and her husband, Eric, have an 11-year-old daughter, Paige.

Laughunn received her Bachelor's Degree in Radiologic Science from Midwestern State University (TX) in May. She is a 1992 graduate of KC, where she majored in Radiology. She has training in Computer Tomography, commonly referred to as a CAT scan, and mammography.

Kelli Lewis, RLC Allied Health Division Chair, said Robert and Laughunn's "dedication to excellence" and "commitment to quality" set them apart from other applicants. Both will be a key component in effectively serving the needs of Radiologic Tech students as well as expanding the program and continuing educational opportunities for health care professionals in the area, Lewis added.

Robert and Laughunn are used to the community college setting. Both worked for years in the Radiology program at KC - Robert, as an Assistant Professor and Laughunn, a Clinical Coordinator and Assistant Professor. Their history in a local Radiologic educational setting has prepared them for new roles with RLC. Both have been responsible for instructional and clinical aspects of Radiologic Technology and have a working knowledge of assessing student performance.

Although together they have more than a decade of experience in teaching Radiologic Technology, neither has participated in the start-up of a new program. They are excited.

Their experience also has enabled them to create and maintain relationships with the Radiology Departments of several area hospitals. These relationships with professionals in local industry could prove to be

a big asset for students looking to get a job after graduating from the RLC program. And more clinical sites in which students could train would help expand enrollment capacity in the Rad Tech program, said Vice President of Instruction Jim Hull.

While it is frustrating to turn away prospective students showing interest, he said it is a realistic approach to determining the program's capacity. Enrollment levels are constrained by the number of participating training sites and demand for technicians.

RLC does not want to "flood the market" by allowing 80-100 students to enroll at one time. Besides, the newly renovated Radiology facility at RLC could not accommodate them, according to Hull.

Contractors are nearing the finishing touches on the new facility in the Advanced Technology Center on-campus. Approximately \$60,000 in new equipment is expected to be in place by August 20 - the first day of class.

The inaugural Radiologic Technology class went through orientation July 10. Additional events to introduce the new facility to the public are being considered and Continuing Education opportunities for Radiologic Technologists in the region are being planned.

"Our facility is just as state-of-the-art as any other Rad Tech program in Southern Illinois," Hull said. "Our students will be trained in curriculum comparable to any other Radiology program in the area."

Robert and Laughunn said the educational setting is their labor of love for the future of a profession experiencing staffing shortages across the nation.

"This is harder than working in a hospital or other health care facility," Robert said. "I enjoy the feeling of improving Radiographers and the quality of Radiologic Technicians working at hospitals. I am challenged with making sure they are trained and competent. Knowing I have done that makes all the hours . . . all the hard work and effort worth it."

PROFESSIONAL STANDARD Project CHILD reps help introduce statewide Director Credential Project

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 1998

JOLIET - Three Project CHILD representatives from Rend Lake College, along with other members of the state's early childhood community, on Friday (May 15) helped launch the Illinois Director Credential Pro-

ject, part of a statewide effort to improve the quality of early childhood care and education.

Funded by the McCormick Tribune Foundation's Focus on Quality Initiative and directed by the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, the project is expected to result in voluntary credential for center-based early care and education program directors in Illinois beginning in the Year 2000.

Among more than 100 early childhood professionals, representatives of higher education, government officials and members of the philanthropic community who attended the kickoff event at Joliet Junior College were RLC Director of Child Care Resource and Referral Tranae Brockhouse, Training Coordinator Paula Burris and part-time Child Care Instructor Elaine Combs.

"The goal of the project is to begin the millennium with a recognized professional standard for center-based early care and education directors," noted Valerie Dawkins, Project Coordinator with the Illinois Network and former Director of the Rend Lake College CCRR project.

A Director Credential certifies the specific skills, knowledge and competencies needed by an individual to manage a high-quality early care and education program. A credential is a standard or benchmark much like child care center accreditation that is issued from an accrediting body such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

The credential will be designed to meet the needs of directors in all kinds of early childhood programs operating in the state of Illinois – part-day and full-day; for profit and not-for-profit; public, private, corporate and religious programs serving children of all age groups.

There is a growing national movement toward establishing the Director Credential. Currently, 22 states already offer or are in the process of developing such a credential, according to information from the Center for Career Development in Early Care and education at Wheelock College (Boston). According to a survey conducted by the Center for Early Childhood Leadership at National Louis University in 1997, fully 91 percent of directors were favorable to the development of Director Credential.

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) was among those addressing Friday's gathering. The Illinois Director Credential Project

is guided by an 11-member Management Committee with representation from the early childhood community, higher education, state government, religious institutions, private business and child care resource and referral agencies.

In addition, four work groups have been established to complete major tasks related to competencies, systems which will develop policies and procedures, accessibility and affordability and public relations/marketing. Membership of each work group will consist of individuals representing the diversity of Illinois – ethnic diversity as well as diversity of geography and program auspices.

"We are committed to developing a credential which will meet the needs of the full array of center directors across Illinois," Dawkins said.

ONE OF KIND IN S. ILLINOIS ▶ RLC Child Development curriculum receives accreditation from NAEYC

REND LAKE COLLEGE BOARD MEETING APRIL 2001

Child Development Instructor Tina Grounds gave a report on her program and the RLC Foundation Children's Center.

The program recently received National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation, making Rend Lake College the only community college in Southern Illinois to be so honored and the lone center within the college district.

According to Grounds, RLC now offers Illinois Director Credential Level I rank for students who complete the two-year Child Development program plus three additional courses – Leadership in Early Childhood, Management in Early Childhood and Director Practicum.

"We presently have 26 Child Development students signed up for the credential program," noted Grounds, who expects many other potential students already employed coming from the community.

The RLCF Children's Center currently is operating at full capacity, with about 40 children on a waiting list. The children of Rend Lake College students account for 80-85 percent of the participants.

CONGRATULATORY LETTER MAY 15, 2008

Dear Ms. Grounds:

The Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) wishes to extend congratulations to Rend Lake College as a Gateways to Opportunity Entitled institution.



Message program 'nails' it with move back to campus

NEWS RELEASE JULY 29, 2013

Big changes are imminent for the Therapeutic Massage program at Rend Lake College as it moves from its home for the past decade at the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon to the Advanced Technology Center on the Ina Campus.

Mike Adamson, Therapeutic Massage Professor, said the program will be moving into one classroom in the ATC and a newly built lab for clinical work. The program held its first class on-campus in 2000.

Adamson said he hopes the move will bring more students from the south and west for an evening program, as the move will be a shorter commute for those students. The program has been offered in an evening format previously and will be again if the demand is there.

"Moving back to campus, we're trying to get the evening program started again and we're looking for enrollment," he said. "We will now offer a full-time, two-semester day program and a part-time, three-semester evening program."

Taking its place at the MarketPlace will be a new Nail Technology program in connection to Studio RLC. The new program will teach the skills of manicures, pedicures, nail tips and wraps, gel nails, acrylics and nail art.

"Nail Technology is a growing field," said Daphne Mitchell, Director of Studio RLC. "As more nail salons open and more cosmetology businesses expand to include nails, we dedicated ourselves to creating a quality training program to fill that need."

Graduates will receive an Occupational Certificate and will be eligible to sit for the Illinois Nail Technician Examination.



'Inside' GED Ceremony 33: 10 Adult Ed Honor Society

NEWS RELEASE JUNE 2011

Twenty individuals took home General Educational Development Certificates from a Thursday night ceremony in the Rend Lake College Theatre.

Joined by families and friends, they were conferred certificates by Hamilton/Jefferson County Regional Superintendent of Schools Bryan Cross at the ceremony, co-organized by RLC Director of Adult Ed and Literacy Christina Hutcheson. This was RLC's 33rd GED Recognition Ceremony.

Recipients: Tiffany Carroll (Benton); Andrea Frazier (Blufford); Sarah Carter (Bonnie); Jessica Vickers (Dahlgren); Christopher Steffens (Ewing); Alicia Fulton (McLeansboro); Candice Duncan, Daniel Dunn, Stephanie Gehrig, Crystal Henson, Candice McIntosh, Haley Moore, Blake Smith, Melinda Thomas and Tyler Williams (Mt. Vernon); Katie Presswood, Samantha Rowe and Tiffany Scholebo (Pinckneyville); Andrew Vaughan and Kristen Rybicki (Woodlawn).

Dr. Sue Tomlin, a retired RLC Professor of Sociology, applauded honorees for reaching their aspirations and encouraged them to continue their quality of character – commitment, compassion and courage.

Ten individuals were inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society – Carter, Dunn, Fulton, Gehrig, Henson, Presswood, Rowe, Smith, Laci Palmer (DuQuoin) and Alan Fox (Tamaroa).

Inductees were introduced by their instructors – Julie Berry, Tracy Boss, Robert Brown, Janet Busby, Gary Davenport, Judy Kelly, Kim Leitz, Jonah McReynolds, Sarah Monteith and Anita Nenonen.

Tina, your hard work and dedication to adapt your curriculum to seamlessly fit into the ECE core knowledge of Gateways to Opportunity is much appreciated. Through the piloting process, Rend Lake has created a wonderful marketing tool through your promotional DVD. The DVD already has received statewide recognition and will serve as a useful tool in recruiting students for years to come.

Rend Lake College is one of the first institutions in the state entitled to help students earn the new Infant Toddler and ECE/Core credentials. This is a great accomplishment! Your students now have the added benefit of earning credentials while completing their education, which will increase their opportunities in the job market.

We also would like to applaud your successful collaboration with Southern Illinois University. Rend Lake graduates will benefit from the seamless transition to the SIU program. This is the highest definition of collaboration between higher education institutions and provides a great opportunity for your students . . .

Congratulations, Betsy Frailey
INCCRRA Higher Education Liaison

'CHANGED MY PERSONALITY' ► Nothing wrong with the old Dockins, but 'worldly' Co-op Ed model better yet

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 1988

There really was not anything wrong with the old Tammy Dockins. But the 18-year-old college student definitely has changed for the better.

She is the first to admit she is a new person, thanks to a Cooperative Education experience this summer through Rend Lake College.

"I benefited like you wouldn't believe. I feel it changed my personality," said the new, improved, more mature Ms. Dockins.

"I rely on myself more. I'm more self-confident, knowing I can do the tough stuff. It taught me discipline, too. That was the hardest I ever worked in my life!"

Cooperative Education is an academic program in which college students are employed in their field of study on a full- or part-time basis and receive college credit as well for their work.

Dockins, a Rend Lake College sophomore majoring in Business, spent the summer earning four hours of college credit by working in the St. Louis suburb of Chesterfield.

The RLC student and her local employer, Karen Taaka of the Mt. Vernon-based computer consulting firm, Taaka-Byte, were hired by a new telecommunications company, Intertech Management Group.

Not your typical working student, perhaps, but not that unique either.

The Cooperative Education program at Rend Lake College has nearly doubled in size within the past year, from 93 students two years ago to 179 the past year. That kind of growth is expected again this year, according to Director Sandy Rhoads.

Additional staff has enabled the program to reach out to prospective employers, throughout the district as well as to larger markets in St. Louis, Evansville, IN, and Paducah, KY. This represents a dramatic change in concept from earlier days. "We're much more aggressive about promoting the program," she said.

"You have to be realistic," added Rhoads. "Some people are going to have to leave the area to find the jobs they want. We're trying to give students the opportunity to see what is out there . . . give them a choice."

Ironically, Taaka was one of Rhoads' first Cooperative Education students when she came to Rend Lake College in 1981. Today, Taaka returns the favor by serving on the program's Advisory Council.

Much of Dockins' time was spent working with Intertech's AutoCAD system, a computer-aided drawing program. It did not seem to matter she had no architecture background.

"To be honest, I didn't think any of my schooling would make a bit of difference. But it did," she said.

"I was always doing something related to business. I learned a lot about accounting, just by seeing the things Karen had to do. I realized how much a Speech class I had taken helped, too. There were just a lot of practical applications of different things I had learned in classes."

Dockins, who moved to Mt. Vernon from Flora a year ago, and Taaka shared an expense-paid apartment in St. Louis for about four months, from May to August, returning home on weekends.

"It wasn't as if I was over there enjoying St. Louis," she commented. "I had my nose to the grindstone. There were times I can remember when we were there working almost 24 hours a day. There was just so much work to be done. It was very, very demanding. We were always busy. But I

didn't mind. It was a great experience, a great opportunity for me."

"That world," Dockins said of her work experience in the metropolitan setting, "is so totally different than here in Southern Illinois. It is like two separate worlds, even though they are only 100 miles apart. We're talking high-tech, highly demanding. Those people are a different breed totally, so set on striving to achieve their goals and be No. 1."

When she left, the RLC Cooperative Education student turned down an opportunity to work full-time for Intertech. The firm was so impressed it offered to pay living expenses and her education if she would continue working.

Dockins preferred to return to school. She is now working on a part-time basis in the accounts receivable department of a local company, and hopes to complete her degree this spring. Then she plans on taking some time off from school, working full-time and hopefully saving some money before pursuing a possible four-year degree.

"I still think I want to stick to something business-related. But the things I learned this summer, including the basics of computer systems, will help me forever. I also learned a lot about how to talk to people and how to get positive responses out of people when you are dealing with them," she said.

Would she recommend a similar Cooperative Ed experience to other students?

"Most certainly. Especially if you can sample that 'different world' out there, like I did. It will make a better person out of you," responded Dockins.

"Without Rend Lake College, I would not have known about that."

TUTORING PROGRAM ▶ **Campus-wide help proves beneficial for students (82%) taking advantage**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 1999

A campus-wide tutoring program at Rend Lake College reaches out to more and more students each year and has proven very beneficial to the majority of those who take advantage of it, according to a report given recently to the RLC Board of Trustees.

Peer tutors and part-time instructors are available free of charge to any student who needs help in any class.

There were approximately 30 tutors each semester working with an average of six students each during the past academic year. Subject matter covered an average of 42 classes both semesters.

"This is a tremendous service for students," President Mark S. Kern indicated to the Board, "and it's free."

Statistics would support that claim. During the past year, 82 percent of students participating in the tutoring program improved or maintained their grade in a specific class, with 97 percent passing the class. Evaluation results noted the majority of those being tutored indicated it helped them to improve their grade, and 64 percent said they would have dropped the class without tutoring.

"This past year word has gotten out more," said RLC Tutoring Coordinator Julie Mumbower. "That student-to-student contact is vital."

Orientation and classroom presentations are given to make students aware of tutoring services available. Posters promoting the program are on display, and bookmarks are dispersed which include contact information regarding tutoring services.

The tutoring lab is open five days a week from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with hours extended on Mondays until 6 p.m. The room is equipped with three computers, a television and a VCR. Tutorial software has been installed on the computers to assist students. Tutoring sessions are held in the room for one-on-one and small groups.

To be a paid tutor for the program, a student must have completed the course(s) in which they will be tutoring and have received a grade of "A" or "B," be recommended by an instructor, attend the Tutor Orientation at the beginning of each semester, have an overall grade-point average of 2.5 or better (on a 4.0-point scale) and complete all appropriate financial paperwork before tutoring begins.

Mumbower added, "We hope to continue and grow the tutoring program. We've seen a lot of progress lately. We are all about helping the students."

KEY TO IMPROVED WORK FORCE? ▶ **Illinois FIRST grant enables MUMS to benefit from WorkKeys testing**

AMERICAN WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 10, 2000
BY GREGORY R. NORFLEET

PINCKNEYVILLE – What the employees of Matsushita Universal Media Services do behind secured doors is really no secret: they create compact discs and digital video discs.

How they do it is another matter.

But what good is keeping a secret if the secret itself is no good?



SIUE salutes 22 graduates of MBA program at RLC

NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 17, 1989

Twenty-two area students comprised the first graduating class in the Master of Business Administration Degree program offered by Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville on the Ina campus of Rend Lake College.

SIUE has offered classes at RLC leading to the MBA Degree since Summer 1986.

Commencement exercises were held at the Ramada Inn in Mt. Vernon.

Graduates (identified by hometown) of the SIUE MBA program include Ronald E. Appuhn (Benton), Ronald W. Bolhofner (West Frankfort), Christina A. Campbell (Sims), Carol A. Casals (Sumner), Kenneth W. Coco (Pinckneyville), Richard D. Conner (Mt. Vernon), Carl L. Cornstubble (Centralia), Kevin E. Davis (Ina), Dean S. Dickerson (Mt. Vernon), William R. Gibson (Marion), Joseph M. Kelly (Benton), Donald R. Lingle (DeSoto), Richard Lustig (Mt. Vernon), Robert J. May (West Frankfort), John A. Payne (Marion), Ty A. Putrich (Marion), V. Noble Redmon III (Carterville), Richard C. Schnirring (Opdyke), Peter W. Selkove (Carbondale), Lindell A. Sneed (Benton), Charles W. Steckenrider (Whittington) and Martin D. Van Doren (Marion).

Representatives of the SIUE MBA program present for the Commencement exercises were Rolf Arndt, Dave Craig, Mike Doherty, Widney Hertenstein, Scott Smith, Hans Stefan, Mike Vincenti and Judy Washburn.



Aye, Public Info has fun with Theatre news release

NEWS RELEASE NOVEMBER 5, 2013
BY MATEY NATHAN WHEELER

Grab t' sprogs and head t' Rend Lake College! "Treaaye Island" opens Thursday night! There will be cutlas fightin', pirate songs and even a chorus line devoted t' one character's deranged desire for cheese.

"It's a ridiculously funny version o' t' classic adventure tale," said Director Tracey Webb. "Aye, t' pirates are bloodthirsty and dangerous, but they be also hilarious, and you end up likin' them in spite o' yourself." Can't make it openin' night? There be four performances!

It's all hands on deck for Professor Webb's 40th production at the college. T' cast and crew o' t' fall play work nightly on perfectin' their roles, learnin' dance steps, buildin' sets and nailin' down a British dialect or two in preparation for openin' night. T' cast was selected in September. Webb said t' roles o' t' characters, while bein' pirates, be extremely comical. "When we had our first read through o' t' entire play, t' cast and crew were strugglin' t' get through some o' t' scenes because they were laughin' so hard," said Webb. "Comedy on stage be a beautiful thin'. It takes us out o' our hectic lives for a while and helps us feel lighthearted and childlike again, and that be why I chose this script."

"Treaaye Island" welcomes several actors aft t' t' RLC stage. Aaron Dawson, 15, will be playin' t' role of Captain Flint, a parrot puppet. "Treaaye Island" will be Dawson's ninth show with Webb and 11th show o' his actin' career. Another actor from Benton, John Nalley, will be joinin' Dawson on stage for his fifth show as t' notorious Long John Silver.

So to keep the secret good MUMS employees are undergoing work force testing and training activities through a special agreement with Rend Lake College.

"We wanted to not only benchmark our existing performance levels, but also improve them over time and provide for some structure in creating career paths through the organization," said Chief Operating Officer Gary Vaughn.

Using a work force improvement grant from Illinois FIRST, MUMS has contracted with RLC to spend about \$100,000 to make sure its employees are fully knowledgeable and skilled, said Terry Clark, RLC Dean of Vocational Technical Education.

One of the biggest tools to helping that happen is WorkKeys, developed by The American College Testing Program, the same group known mostly for its college entrance test, the ACT.

Project Coordinator Joan Long said WorkKeys identifies up to eight skills a job may require of an employee, tests the employee to see if he or she "measures up," then suggests needed training. The skills looked at by WorkKeys include applied mathematics, listening, locating information, observation, reading for information, teamwork and writing.

Long said particular jobs may not need an employee to have skills in all of those categories, so WorkKeys only tests them where they do.

Clark said the job-profiling portion is the most expensive part of the program, but the cost to the employer is based on the number of employees tested.

An ACT pamphlet on WorkKeys gives an example of the first step, Job Profiling, and how it may apply. In the example, it uses an imaginary job that requires a Level Four (seven being the highest) in the area of Reading for Information, Five in the area of Applied Mathematics, Three in Applied Technology and Four in Teamwork.

In the second step, Skill Assessment, a potential job candidate tests at a Level Three in Reading for Information, Four in Applied Math, Three in Applied Tech and Three in Teamwork. The test answers, said Clark, are sent to ACT via phone modem, which scans the results and sends the profile back to the college.

The third step, Instructional Support, puts the two together and identifies that training needs to be developed to bring this employee up in three of the four areas

by one level, but no training is necessary in Applied Tech.

ACT spokesman Kelley Hayden said the 30-year test development company saw "a need for a test of employment skills in the late 1980s.

So ACT gathered together a group of large and small businessmen for a meeting to discuss specifics. What ACT heard – from the large companies, in particular – is that academic courses that prepare students for the work world are good. But when you have hundreds of employees – or job applicants – that need to know your company's specific business system, there is no efficient way to determine who knows what.

"A college transcript doesn't say a lot to an employer sometimes," said Hayden. "Titles of courses do not necessarily reflect the content of courses."

WorkKeys was developed to figure out, in essence, who needed training and in what areas, said Hayden. Over the next few years, the program developed. It was field-tested in 1992 and '93 with three or four assessment areas. It was finally released to the public in 1994, and ACT plans on adding more assessment areas in years to come, he said.

Long has been profiling jobs at the CD-and-DVD company for three years now, starting back when it went by the name Universal Music and Video Distribution.

But MUMS has contracted RLC to go a step further. After the ACT identifies any deficits in employee skills, RLC's staff will then come in and train the employees to bring them up to par. Long's job, now done inside MUMS offices, is to act as a liaison between the company and the college.

"I first heard about WorkKeys through the Southern Illinois Manufacturers Network, an organization affiliated with the Illinois Chamber of Commerce," said Vaughn. "It wasn't until I actually had a conversation with (RLC Executive Director of Community Development) Elaine Johnson, where we were discussing a specific program I wanted to start at MUMS, that I realized that WorkKeys would be a good fit as part of that overall program."

MUMS started as DECCA Records in 1957, said Vaughn, and has gone through many ownership and name changes, as well as product changes.

"The main takeaway is that we have survived because we have always remained flexible and cost effective," he said. Since the plant was taken over as a joint venture

between Universal and Matsushita in May 1999, the company has nearly doubled in size and has added new equipment to produce the CDs and DVDs.

Vaughn is counting on WorkKeys to help in its short- and long-term goals of "improved productivity allowing the company to compete globally."

Asked what he would tell other businessmen about the program, Vaughn said it is good to assess employees, but it should not be used alone.

"It's great if used voluntarily and combined with other efforts directly related to raise employee productivity," he said. "I should also state here it could be used more in public education for the same purpose."

It has.

WorkKeys has attracted the notice of the Illinois State Board of Education, too, as the Mt. Vernon Township High School Board found out two weeks ago.

Vocational Director Dr. Jerry Pepple reported that MVTHS juniors would be taking two of the WorkKeys assessment tests this spring when they sit down April 25-26 to take the Prairie State Achievement Examination.

The Reading for Information and Applied Math Tests, said Pepple, will be used "establish a level of proficiency. It's for new hires and promotions," he told the Board.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE STUDENTS ▶ RLC Adult Ed / Literacy programs help 86 students 'save' \$568,920

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 1998

Adult Education and Literacy programs offered by Rend Lake College helped 86 students receiving public assistance subsequently increase their earnings enough in Fiscal Year 1997 to either have their aid grant reduced or canceled.

The estimated savings attributed to Rend Lake College amounts to \$568,920, according to information provided by the Illinois State Board of Education.

"That speaks well for the college, because that is a significant reduction in welfare," Skills Center Director Barbara Bauernfeind recently told members of the RLC Board of Trustees while sharing statistical information with them.

"As educators serving disadvantaged adults," agreed Daniel J. Miller in his letter to Bauernfeind, "we can be proud that we have helped some determined people shape a better future for themselves. We have

played a significant role in the lives of these welfare clients."

Miller is the Division Administrator for ISBE's Community and Family Partnerships.

Adult Education and Literacy programs statewide produced a similar, positive impact on public assistance grant recipients.

Of the 16,426 AFDC and Food Stamp recipients served by adult education programs the past year, one in every five (3,342 / 20.4%) increased earned income enough to have his or her monthly cash assistance reduced or canceled altogether.

Their personal achievements meant Illinois avoided an estimated \$24 million in welfare expenditures.

These "savings" are computed by multiplying the amount of the canceled or reduced welfare grant by 12 months. Welfare savings amount to \$2.38 for every public assistance dollar appropriated for the program. These savings reflect only reductions in cash assistance.

Not included in the estimate of savings are reduced Medicaid costs or increased tax revenues, both of which would only add to the significance of the figures released.

PLANT CLOSING ▶ Inevitable? Down-and-out Swan turns to Heavy Equipment for Fabick 'family'

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MARCH 2007

Noah Swan was almost the one who got away. But, fate is famous for placing fortuitous pitfalls along life's path.

Swan is one of the many individuals who unfortunately lost jobs to the closing of Maytag-Whirlpool in Herrin. And he is one of many who are now students at Rend Lake College. Where this proverbial duckling's story stands out – and where he lives up to his name – is in the tradition of his namesake.

He wants to graduate from the RLC Heavy Equipment Technology Program and work for Fabick Caterpillar in Marion. Fabick is RLC's sponsor in the HEQT program. If he is hired it would make him a second-generation technician and third-generation employee at Fabick.

His father, Kenny Swan, is peering at retirement from his position at Fabick. His uncle, Allen Swan, works there and is a union steward. And his grandfather, the late Rev. Daniel Swan Jr., retired from Fabick as a Master Mechanic. "I've heard about heavy equipment my whole life from listening to Grandad, Dad and Uncle Allen," Noah



Radiology, Nursing clubs SCI-AHEC aid recipients

NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 24 2014

Rend Lake College's Radiology Club and Nursing Club have been awarded the 2014 Health Career Club Training and Sponsorship Award from the South Central Illinois Area Health Education Center (SCI-AHEC). Each club received \$1,250 to go toward start-up costs or to help current members attend a professional association meeting this spring.

SCI-AHEC Director Kelli Stover said the award is to help with two of the goals of SCI-AHEC: to provide service in training and to encourage interest in healthcare careers.

"Health professions clubs enrich and enhance college curriculum for students and SCI-AHEC can assist by helping to cover some of the expenses incurred," said Stover. "It is our mission to inspire, train, recruit and retain health professionals in rural communities, where the need is greatest."

Kim Robert, Dean of Allied Health, said the Radiology Club will be using the award to attend the Illinois State Society of Radiologic Technology Conference in April, which is held in Peoria. The second award will be used to create a new Nursing Club, starting this fall.

"These two awards are essential to these clubs when it comes to helping the members pay for costs and travel expenses," said Robert. "On behalf of the two clubs and Rend Lake's Allied Health Division, I want to thank SCI-AHEC for the generous awards to our students."



First-Year Experience cited as Quality Initiative Project

NEWS RELEASE MARCH 12, 2014

First-Year Experience (FYE), Rend Lake College's new orientation course, has been named one of the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) Quality Initiative Projects for 2014. Program leaders will attend the Share Fair during the HLC Annual Conference, to be held in Chicago in April, where they will have a booth to present the project.

The Higher Learning Commission is the organization which accredits colleges. The First-Year Experience will be used as an action project which will play a part in maintaining RLC's accreditation. These projects will help demonstrate the college's ability to continuously improve its quality.

FYE Coordinator Hillary Halsey said the program started with the need to revamp the then-online orientation process for incoming RLC freshmen. Now the course is a face-to-face setup and is designed to build stronger connections between students and faculty and staff. "I have a lot of ideas for the future as far as projects and course topics, and I see the program growing in the next few years," Halsey said. "We are getting a lot of feedback from our students, and we're adapting to what they're asking for and need. I feel very honored and excited the FYE program was chosen to be the HLC Quality Initiative Project." Course goals include helping students engage on campus, learn organization skills, prepare to meet professional standards for behavior and understand and successfully navigate the college culture.

Already, the course has covered many specific topics this

(Continued at far right on next page)

Swan said. "Now I am in it. It's going to be tough, but let's see what we can do."

He learns best with hands-on training, he said. The HEQT program is a good fit for Swan because two-thirds of the program consists of practical application.

"You can show pictures and quote text all day long," he said. "But, until you get your hands on it, you don't know it."

For this reason, HEQT Instructor Joe Kloepper is in Swan's good graces. "He is a great teacher," Swan said. "He breaks everything down in a way that someone with no prior knowledge can understand it. And then he shows you in the shop what he is talking about."

Swan said he has a basic understanding of electrical systems and is excited to discover the way hydraulic, diesel, heating and air components work in heavy equipment.

The program prides itself on its array of equipment available to students, such as the dozers, excavators, loaders and semis parked inside the spacious bays of the RLC Applied Science Center. Most equipment on which students train is donated from corporations as well as private donors. Anyone may bring in an approved piece of equipment and only pay for the parts needed to fix it. Or, an individual or company may choose to donate equipment for the benefit of current and future students. With high demand for slots in the program, equipment donations are appreciated more than ever.

According to Swan, his Maytag-Whirlpool wage was keeping him "way ahead of the bills" and allowing him to plan for his future. He said he was planning to buy a new home and watch his family grow.

"I'm used to a big family," he said. "That's all I've ever known. I wanted to buy a nice house and have more kids . . . Then the hammer fell."

After two years of being a plant employee, Swan suddenly found himself worried and waking to unsettling days of household "honey-dos." And with the only income being unemployment compensation, remodeling projects were out of the question and the to-do list eventually ran out.

"After a while you wake up and you're like, 'What do I do?'" he said. "Well, there wasn't anything left to do."

Except for one thing. Get back in school and train for a new career.

Now, Swan is studying for tests and handing in homework for the first time in five years. The adjustment is a little tough,

but it helps that every student alongside him in the afternoon HEQT program is a former Maytag-Whirlpool worker.

"They are all very eager to learn and I am enjoying teaching them," Kloepper said about his group of students in the afternoon.

When Swan's unemployment pay runs out, financial assistance from the federal Trade Adjustment Act will kick in. The TAA assists dislocated workers who go back to school by paying for their tuition, fees, books, travel expenses and childcare costs, as well as providing a supplemental income. He said it also covers the cost of expensive tools that each student in HEQT is required to have. With he and his wife now full-time students, every little bit counts.

"We are trying to make ends meet and pull through it," he said. "Things would be really tight without [TAA assistance]."

Swan has 104 weeks to finish the HEQT program on the government's tab. After that, he will try to become one of the Fabick flock of Swans. The one thing that should set him apart from his predecessors is that he will have an Associate of Applied Science and Technology Degree in Heavy Equipment Technology from Rend Lake College. Not all programs at RLC qualify for the TAA program. Dislocated workers should ask a Career Specialist with Man-Tra-Con about their particular retraining options.

25-YEAR ANNIVERSARY Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market celebrates with four programs

S.I.C.C.M. NEWSLETTER APRIL/MAY 1998

Since 1973, the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM) has been assisting member institutions with the administration of joint programs and services.

The activities of SICCM focus on the fulfillment of its major goals:

- To help its members utilize existing resources to the fullest extent possible;
- To avoid costly duplication of efforts;
- To plan cooperatively for the initiation of needed programs and activities;
- To share human and material resources to the greatest extent possible;
- To develop new delivery systems;
- To avoid costs for educational purposes;
- To develop more flexible and common administrative structures;
- To allow for effective student articulation and faculty sharing, and
- To increase educational opportunity and accessibility.

SICCM is organized as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.

The SICCM institutions jointly administer four important Allied Health programs.

Health Information Technology has been offered since 1988. Medical Laboratory Technology and Surgical Technology were organized in 1993. Occupational Therapy Assistant was initiated in 1994.

Students enrolled in these programs complete general studies requirements at their home campuses. Content courses, for the most part, are offered in the SICCM classroom and laboratory facilities in Herrin. Clinic requirements are fulfilled at selected locations throughout Southern Illinois.

A select number of qualified students from each college – the total varies by program – is accepted prior to the start of each program. After classes and fieldwork internships are successfully completed, students graduate from their entering college.

SICCM institutions, in addition to Rend Lake College, are John A. Logan College (Carterville), Shawnee Community College (Ullin), Southeastern Illinois College (Harrisburg), Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and SIU-Edwardsville.

RLC President Mark S. Kern is one of six members – one from each institution – who sit on the SICCM Board of Directors.

The staff is headed by Executive Director Jack Hill. Paula Berry, who taught previously at Rend Lake College, is completing her first year as Director of the Medical Laboratory Technology program.

FULL-TIME JOB AWAITS ▶ RLC Architectural students build relationship with Morton in Peoria

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 1998

They are creating more than pre-engineered, woodframe structures at Morton Buildings, Inc., the country's largest producer of everything from agricultural and residential structures to large turnkey commercial projects.

The company with corporate headquarters southeast of Peoria is building solid, working relationships, a network of friends and a quality, professional staff of drafting technicians. And it is doing so with the help of Rend Lake College.

Two Rend Lake College graduates have spent the past year-plus working for Morton Buildings; two more recently joined them.

Morton Buildings piloted its college programs about 10 years ago with nearby

Illinois Central College in Peoria. It has only recently expanded to two other community colleges in the state and is in the process of establishing "feeder" programs in Texas and Wisconsin as well.

"I can already tell, Rend Lake College probably is one of our more successful ones. We're hoping that program and relationship continues to grow down there," says Scott Weber, Human Resources Coordinator for Morton Buildings.

"The students are outstanding that we have had come out of that program. We had two start last week, and their work is phenomenal."

The credit, Weber insists, "has to go to the instructors at Rend Lake College, Rick Marlow and Kevin Weston. They like the type of building system we utilize – we like to call it 'Morton-izing' something, but it actually is a laminated-column frame construction that is a little more unique than stick-built frames – and they are sharing that kind of design with their students.

"Their students also are taught to think-through a project. That may be the biggest attribute they have over others that I see."

Through a unique arrangement with Morton Buildings, Inc., RLC students can have their second-year tuition costs in Architectural Technology picked up by Morton and a full-time position awaiting them upon graduation.

To be eligible for consideration, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of 16 credit hours per semester, maintain a minimum grade-point average of 2.4, graduate with an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Architectural Technology and agree to relocate in the Morton area and work for at least 18 months at Morton Buildings as a Drafting Technician.

Those selected, in addition to having second-year tuition costs paid, will have a dependable, full-time position, including benefits package, upon graduation. They will receive immediate, hands-on work experience through training classes following graduation and will gain invaluable experience working daily with professional engineers and architects.

"My employment with Morton Buildings has been a rewarding experience in many ways. Employment here has increased my confidence and knowledge in the architectural process," said RLC Alumus / Morton Drafting Technician Mike Joplin, a 1996 graduate from Benton who came along too

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Laura Kern authorized Work Keys Job Profiler

NEWS RELEASE MARCH 2004

Area businesses can turn to Rend Lake College to help pave the way to success by boosting their employees' abilities and productivity.

Laura Kern, Work Keys Coordinator in the RLC Center for Business Services, has qualified as an authorized Work Keys Job Profiler. The Center for Business Services assists small and large employers by providing training programs, workshops, seminars and other services, including workplace skills assessments.

The Work Keys system tells workers and employers the skill levels needed to perform tasks at full potential.

For businesses, Work Keys enables better hiring decisions, more fulfilled and qualified employees, an improved bottom line and reduced turnover, training costs and overtime. For employees, the result is greater career success.

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FYE cited (cont.)

semester, including myRLC, Warriormail, Blackboard, campus and library resources, differences between high school and college, expectations from instructors, time management, study skills, programs and degrees at RLC, calculating GPA, academic plans, financial aid and transfer services. Students will conclude with a service learning project.

"We are going to be discussing why it's important to read to children and doing a children's book drive," she said. "Studies have shown a student's reading level in third grade can determine whether they will access college or not."

FYE was chosen to be one of 16 participants for Share Fair.



Shelton, Impending Doom Robotics Club champions

APRIL 2008

PEORIA – Jacob Shelton, a Rend Lake College student in Industrial Electronics and Maintenance Technology, recently unleashed Impending Doom on members of the Central Illinois Robotics Club at the Peoria Lakeview Museum. For that, they gave him an award.

Shelton's robot, Impending Doom, won first place in the One-Pound Radio-Controlled Combat Category at the March 29 Robotic Contest. With saw blade and stunning speed, Impending Doom cut through the competition to victory.

Shelton and Doom won the first fight in about 10 seconds against Unity, a robot with dual saw blades.

In Round Two, Doom met Aluminum Sandwich, which featured a mass of electronic components between two thick slices of aluminum. Its primary weapon was a hinged wedge designed to lift the opposition and carry it around or flip it.

"It ended up going the full time limit," Shelton said. "It came down to the judges' decision. The crowd loved it. I won."

The championship fight was again with Aluminum Sandwich, which had worked its way through the consolation round. "This time, it was a much quicker match," Shelton noted. Shelton said training in classes like Basic Electronics and Motors/Control Circuits helped him perfect Doom.

"I burnt through I don't know how many LEDs before I realized you just put a resistor in the circuit board," he confided. Shelton estimates he spent 20 hours building the robot and about \$500 in hardware.

The 20-year-old NCOE grad will graduate from RLC this fall.

early to take advantage of this new program but who did go to work for the company after his college days.

"I continue to learn while solving a variety of construction problems. If there is something I can't figure out, there is always someone with more experience to help explain things."

Stephanie Sinkhorn, RLC Class of '97, likewise has been promoted to Junior Drafting Technician in a short time with the company. "I already have learned more than I thought was possible," admitted the Benton product. "The learning process here is a lot like it is at school . . . as soon as you catch on to one idea or new method, there is something else there waiting for you.

"The everyday experiences and challenges make the job both interesting and satisfying. Yet, I think what I like best about working for Morton Buildings is knowing that something I draw is really going to be built and used by someone."

Like Joplin and Sinkhorn, RLC graduates Heather Norman (Mt. Vernon) and Craig Rednour (Steeleville) are now among 2,000 Morton employees helping to design, build and sell 8,000-10,000 structures annually. More than 110 construction centers are spread throughout the U.S. although the concentration of engineers, architects, construction and design estimators, construction managers and approximately 30 Drafting Technicians is in the Illinois office.

Norman and Rednour are the first to be awarded the co-op scholarships. A third offer was extended, but Jeff Wix (Dahlgren) opted instead for an offer from Kehrer Brothers Construction. Yet another local product, Chris Palmer (Mt. Vernon), has joined the Morton sales force in Tennessee, according to Weston.

"About four years ago, I was asked to give a presentation at the State Teachers Convention in Bloomington. Kevin and Rick were there for that and liked what I had to offer. They introduced themselves after the presentation and we've been working together the last couple of years setting up this program with Rend Lake College," Weber explained.

Weber was the Drafting Department Manager for several years. As Coordinator of Human Resources, he trains Drafting Technician new hires the first 3-6 months.

"We train them in 'our' way of building," he added. "We're a little more quality-conscious than most builders. There is a

lot of hands-on training involved, under close supervision. We assign them jobs to do based on their abilities to that point.

"There is a lot of variety in what they will be designing, too. No one draws the same type of buildings day-in and day-out. Our products range from machine storage buildings all the way up to schools, churches and libraries."

"We look real closely at how they did their first year in the (Architectural) program and put them through the full interview process at the very beginning of their sophomore year. We're looking for quality people to join our team.

"We're only 3 1/2 hours away. The program and everything else about the company sells itself. Generally speaking, our people stay with us even after fulfilling their commitment . . . The first gentleman to go through the co-op program at Illinois Central is still with us, and that was about nine years ago."

DRUM ROLL, PLEASE ▶ **RLC Community Orchestra returns under Phifer following 25-year break**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 2012

The Rend Lake College Community Orchestra is back after a 25-year torpor and will premiere on stage as one of many performances at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at the 2012 RLC Spring Concert in the Theatre.

According to Community Orchestra Conductor Larry Phifer of Mt. Vernon, it is not exactly a "rebirth" of the Rend Lake Civic Symphony Orchestra – a not-for-profit corporation, separate from the college, that dissolved more than two decades ago. But it is a near-miss considering the orchestra board was strongly supported by RLC years ago and therefore became identifiable as the college's orchestra.

Phifer, who teaches for Rend Lake College, has 43 years experience teaching music in schools. He has played in three semi-professional orchestras and is now in his 30th year with the Paducah Symphony.

He said Mt. Vernon Township High School has the only prep orchestra program in the RLC district. He added Southern Illinois University-Carbondale has a fine orchestra. Yet Phifer said a void exists in orchestral music within the region and the revived orchestra at RLC aims to fill it.

"I am devoted to orchestral music," he said. ". . . We are hoping to support (Mt. Vernon Township High School) by having

a place for their students to play after they get out of school.”

But the RLC Community Orchestra is not just for players right out of high school. This orchestra is for anyone and everyone. Experienced players from the area who would like to pass their talent on to younger players are also strongly encouraged to join. The orchestra is centered on mentoring to improve everyone’s experience.

“Anytime I have played, I have always found that I will play up to a better player,” Phifer said. “. . . If you are playing with a person who outplays you, you are going to go up to that level. And that is the whole idea, get some younger kids in here with stronger players.”

Nancy German plays oboe in the orchestra. She is a retired teacher and graduate of Mt. Vernon Community College. She played in the orchestra there, under Tal Smith, in the 1960s. Mt. Vernon Community College is the forerunner of RLC.

“I love orchestra,” German said. “I’ve always been in community orchestras. I’ve played off and on for many years. I love music. I love to play the oboe and it’s exciting they are starting something again.”

Andrea Oliger of Belle Rive plays violin for the RLC Community Orchestra. It turns out, German taught Oliger in third grade.

“I played in high school,” Oliger said. “But I haven’t played in quite a while. This is my opportunity to get back into it and play with a group. It’s going well . . . slowly but surely. I haven’t played for a while, so jumping back in, it’s going to take a little bit to get going.”

Additionally, the RLC Community Orchestra gives students another option in the college catalog of Associate of Fine Arts Degree programs.

“It now opens it up that we have an ensemble that includes strings,” Phifer explained. “There is something for everyone.”

RLC Music Director Sara Alstat said the new orchestra is multifunctional.

“It will provide a training orchestra for the music students of Rend Lake College, and help develop orchestral music and orchestral musicians, especially string players, in Southern Illinois. It expands what our music program can offer students and it provides an outlet for adult musicians to continue their passion for playing in an orchestral ensemble. In order to provide a complete orchestral experience, we will schedule concerts throughout the year.”

The theme of the 2012 Spring Concert is “An Evening at the Movies.” It will feature not only the orchestra, but the RLC Concert Band and Concert Choir. Admission is free.

G.I. JOBS DESIGNATION ▶ **Number of student veterans on rise at RLC – Military Friendly School®**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

G.I. Jobs, the premier magazine for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, has awarded Rend Lake College the designation of Military Friendly School. The 2012 Military Friendly Schools® list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members and veterans as students.

In its effort to help student veterans find the right school, *G.I. Jobs* incorporated a survey of student veterans for the first time. This feedback provides prospective military students with insight into the student veteran experience at a particular institution based on peer reviews from current students. Student veteran survey feedback can be viewed at www.militaryfriendlyschools.com/2012list.

Michael Dakduk, Executive Director for the Student Veterans of America, agrees. “The Military Friendly Schools list is the go-to resource for prospective student veterans searching for schools that provide the right overall experience. Nothing is more compelling than actual feedback from current student veterans.”

Service members and veterans can also meet individual student veterans from the various schools virtually on the site to learn more about personal school decisions and the transition from the military to an academic environment.

President Charley D. Holstein, a retired U.S. Army officer, said he and his staff consider it an honor Rend Lake College made the list.

“Veterans are a special group of Americans and we are committed to ensuring their transition from war fighter to student is a seamless one,” said Holstein. “Being a veteran myself with combat experience, I enjoy each time I run into one of our veterans on campus and have the opportunity to hear about how he or she has served our great country. I echo the sentiments of our staff here when I say we are proud of being among *G.I. Jobs*’ Military Friendly Schools. We will continue to work hard at helping



LRC potential intern site for state Librarian Grant

NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 2007

The RLC Learning Resource Center will be an internship site for students who benefit from a recent grant awarded to the Network of Illinois Learning Resources in Community Colleges.

The library consortium in Illinois and Missouri has been awarded a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The grant will support the recruitment and training of a 20-student cohort for work in community college libraries, in partnership with the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

The grant is called Librarians Serving Community-based Higher Education: Preparing the Next Generation of Community College Librarians. It will provide a community college librarian-focused Master’s degree program for 20 students through U. of I. GSLIS over two years. The program will culminate with internship employment in one of 11 partner community college libraries in Illinois and Missouri.

The grant seeks to recruit a diverse group of candidates for the MLS Degree who will become well-prepared professionals serving the non-traditional, diverse, commuter-based student populations in academic libraries.

Candidates wishing to apply for the Librarianship Education program must meet requirements for admission to GSLIS (www.lis.uiuc.edu) and should have strong interest in librarianship in the community college setting. Once in, students develop relationships with participating community college library mentors.



Children's Center earns Gold Circle of Quality

NEWS RELEASE JULY 24, 2014

The Rend Lake College Foundation Children's Center is in a category by itself when it comes to quality of service. This week, the on-campus facility became the first and only Gold Circle of Quality program in the district.

A new statewide rating system called ExceleRate Illinois recently changed from awarding stars of excellence to learning and development providers to a circle format. There are four levels of the Circle of Quality designations: Licensed, Bronze, Silver and Gold.

The levels are awarded based on standards for teaching and learning, family and community engagement, leadership and management and qualifications and continuing education. Gold Circle programs must meet the highest standards in at least three areas.

RLCF Children's Center Director Brooke May said the Gold Circle award is a huge success for the center and is a testament to the hard work and dedication the staff puts in every day.

"This is a major accomplishment for us. We're the first in the area to be awarded a Gold Circle, and we're so proud of that," said May. "When the state began rolling from the old system to this new one, lots of programs were struggling to meet some of the requirements for the Gold Circle, and we didn't have any trouble because we make quality a priority every day. We've got an amazing center with the best staff. We got this because we earned it."

As a Gold Circle recipient, the RLCF Children's Center also was awarded a \$4,500

(Continued at far right on next page)

student veterans earn their education here at Rend Lake College."

The 1,518 colleges, universities and trade schools on this year's list prioritize the recruitment of students with military experience.

These schools are making the grade by offering scholarships and discounts, veterans' clubs, full-time staff, military credit and other services to those who served. The 2012 list of Military Friendly Schools® was compiled through extensive research and a data driven survey of more than 8,000 schools nationwide. Methodology, criteria and weighting for the list were developed with the assistance of an Academic Advisory Board (AAB) consisting of educators from schools across the country.

Lisa Price, Dean of Student Services at Rend Lake College, has coordinated multiple Army National Guard Yellow Ribbon events at the college. Those events are held to help soldiers at war reintegrate into society after their tours. Price said RLC participates annually in the local welcome home event sponsored by the Marion VA Hospital; the most recent was August 6.

"We are also in the process of gauging student interest in a possible Veterans Club on campus," Price added.

Financial Aid Advisor Cheri Rushing is the Veteran Affairs official on campus at RLC. In that role, she helps student veterans submit applications for military benefits and other financial aid, and officially certifies their enrollment to ensure they get timely payments. As the liaison between the student and the Department of Veteran Affairs, Rushing is on the RLC front lines of making sure student veterans get the service they deserve.

"It can be a timely process from beginning to end. I try to make them aware of it being such a timely process and most of them are already aware of that," she said.

According to her, the number of student veterans enrolled at Rend Lake is on the rise. "I see veterans on a daily basis. They are a great group to work with. Some share their stories and I find them very interesting. I am very proud of them and appreciative of what they've done, so it feels good to be in a position to help them in return, even if it is something as small as submitting an application or answering a question.

The college's homepage has featured a Yellow Ribbon for years. This came about as a Illinois Community College Student

Services statewide initiative to show support for student veterans.

RLC's Welding program, through its participation in the Helmets to Hardhats program, has been a career avenue for many veterans seeking gainful employment. Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, along with Senator Gary Forby and State Representative John Bradley, visited the program at RLC in August 2010.

"They fought for us in Iraq and Afghanistan," Quinn said then. "They should not have to fight for a job in Illinois. It is our duty on the home front to take good care of those who have borne the battle. And that's really the heart of Helmets to Hardhats."

A full story and detailed list of Military Friendly Schools® will be highlighted in the annual Guide to Military Friendly Schools and on a poster, both of which will be distributed to hundreds of thousands of active and former military personnel in October.

The newly redesigned website, found at www.militaryfriendlyschools.com, features the list, interactive tools and search functionality to assist military veterans with their school decisions.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES ► Evenings out could result in degree; ditto for staying home in two towns

REND LAKE COLLEGE CLASS SCHEDULE SPRING 2003

Work during the day or have other obligations that may have prevented you from pursuing a college education in the past?

No problem. Rend Lake College now assures you the opportunity to earn either an Associate in Arts Degree or an Associate in Science Degree even if you cannot take classes until the sun starts going down weekdays.

You have our word.

Enough required classes will be offered nights on an ongoing basis Fall Semester, Spring Semester and/or Summer Term to guarantee a student could eventually receive a diploma without ever attending a traditional daytime class. (Some courses in specific majors may not be available nights.)

Included in the college's "late-night" guarantee are 15 hours in Social/Behavioral Sciences (three courses required / 9 hours); nine hours in Mathematics (6 needed); 25 hours in Science (6 or 8); 12 hours in Humanities and Fine Arts (9); nine hours in Communications (9), Health Education (3), and RLC Orientation (1).

A minimum of 64 semester credit hours

generally is required in most two-year degree programs.

It is possible to enroll as a full-time college student this year and never have to leave town, provided you call Mt. Vernon [Pinckneyville] home. For others living nearby [in Perry County and nearby], chances are a college education will become much more attainable.

FACT: By taking classes only at the new RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon [new RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus], it is possible to be a full-time student during the 2002-03 academic year and complete at least the first year of an Associate in Arts Degree or an Associate in Science Degree.

This spring, for example, classes worth a total of 43 credit hours are scheduled through the MarketPlace [a total of 36 credit hours are scheduled through the Pinckneyville Campus]. A student can easily choose the 16 or so hours needed (without any conflicts in scheduling) toward the ultimate goal of 64-plus hours required to attain a two-year degree.

This does not take into consideration numerous one-day and evening computer courses at the MarketPlace, in addition to credit classes elsewhere in Mt. Vernon and Community Education classes.

RLC MarketPlace classes are scheduled mornings (starting at 11), afternoons and evenings. Included are such general studies courses as Accounting, Art Appreciation, Business, English Rhetoric and Composition, American History, Contemporary Math, Psychology, Sociology and Speech.

[This does not include other offerings in Pinckneyville, including numerous one-day and evening computer courses, telecourses (15 hours at Pinckneyville Community High School) and Community Education classes.]

RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus classes are scheduled mornings, afternoons and evenings. Included are general studies courses such as Computers, English Rhetoric and Composition, Health Education, Contemporary Math, Psychology, Child Psychology, Sociology and Speech.]

CO-OP ED PRODUCTS ▶ **BCHS impressed enough by 'tryouts' to hire two Computer Science grads**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MARCH 16, 2011

A couple of local graduates from the Computer Science program at Rend Lake College turned co-op positions for college

credit into paid positions at Benton Consolidated High School.

Jeremy Jackson, a Rend Lake College alumnus from Whittington, worked in a co-op position at BCHS for college credit in 2008-09. He is now the high school's full-time Network Specialist. Recent RLC grad Preston Nelson of Benton took the same co-op path from RLC to a part-time position at BCHS this spring.

"It's pretty cool," Nelson said while working in the high school's IT Department last fall. "The hours are good and I get college credit." The hours were so good, in fact, Nelson was able to get time off for a trip to Brazil. His love of traveling and missionary work has also taken him to Romania.

Sometimes referred to as co-op, on-job-training or internship, Cooperative Education is a method of instruction that places RLC students into jobs relating to their majors. It is attractive to both the student and employer because the employer typically gets a worker for less cost, and the student gains relative experience, gets financial assistance for college and sometimes, as in Nelson's case, is offered a job.

Marla Harp is the BCHS Curriculum and Technology Director. As the person Jackson and Nelson report to, she said having the co-op position has been a valuable resource. Harp writes grants for new technology at Benton High. And while she is thankful to have support from a pro-tech school board and Superintendent Dr. Kelly Stewart, her employees are quick to sing her praises, too.

"My job would be a lot more difficult if it wasn't for her," Jackson said of Harp. "The strong support system takes a lot of the stress off of me."

Since Jackson came on board, he has gained experience with major projects like installing fiber and a campus-wide internal and external monitoring system using web-based cameras. He also worked with sub-networking, coordinating a class-to-class video chat to France via Skype, setting up and maintaining netbooks for Social Sciences classes and a complete redesign of the school's website.

"The thing I've learned most is to have a willingness to learn new things," Jackson said. "Don't come in with a 'know-it-all' attitude."

They also mentioned Ricky Robinson, a longtime Technology Professor at RLC. In addition to teaching students, Robinson makes an effort to get involved with their



Gold Circle (cont.)

stipend to continue their excellent work. May said the stipend will be used to build a shaded structure outside for the infants play area, to purchase and install rubber mulch in the playground and to add to the playground fund for new outdoor equipment in future years.

The RLCF Children's Center has been accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children for more than a decade. The Illinois Department of Human Services noted areas of particular excellence at the center, including space and furnishings, personal care routines, activities and interaction, language and reasoning and structure toward children with disabilities.

The Children's Center is open to anyone in the general public, from RLC students and staff to the local community. There are two classrooms for ages 3-5. The free Pre-K classroom requires children to meet eligibility requirements, including a checklist and a screening for the child, all of which May said takes approximately 20 minutes.

This classroom is free, Monday-Friday, during the school year from 8-11:30 a.m."

The second classroom does not have any requirement to enroll and the schedule is flexible, allowing parents to choose the days of care needed. There is a daily cost for enrolling.

Both classrooms offer high quality care and will develop a child's learning experience.

"We do a lot of field trips, special activities, and parent / child events throughout the school year," May said.

The Children's Center also accepts infants and toddlers.



Local Wine Maker Small first VESTA grad for RLC

NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 11, 2012

The Rend Lake College Viticulture and Enology Science and Technology Alliance program recently celebrated its first graduate.

Randy Small of Carbondale earned the certificate. Small, 58, has taken VESTA courses for years. Since he is already in the workforce – Assistant Wine Maker at Blue Sky Vineyards in Makanda – enrolling in VESTA courses was more a way of developing as a professional than preparing for a career. The certificate was never part of the plan. But when he learned he was only a couple of classes shy of a certificate, he decided to go for it, he said.

When asked what he enjoyed most about VESTA, Small said one thing was his class in Wine Microorganisms because he used what he learned immediately on the job. Another thing he mentioned was going on field trips to conferences with students who were a lot like him.

Coordinator Candy Fitch-Deitz said about 1,000 students nationwide have enrolled in a VESTA course with 166 of those in Illinois. She said there are 17 partner schools involved in VESTA.

“The students in VESTA gain real-world, hands-on experience at field sites like vineyards and wineries all over the place,” said Fitch-Deitz. “Students, professionals in the industry and the general public can all find value in workshops through VESTA that increase their knowledge about viticulture and enology.”

Two classes can now be taken on-campus. A teaching vineyard was also established at the college earlier this year.

progress on the job and helps them with any guidance he can offer on specific problems.

Nelson – who is A+, Network+ and Security+ certified – worked with Jackson two days a week in the co-op. Nelson said he became much more familiar with working on networking a Windows domain during his co-op experience. Harp indicated communication and organization are the two biggest skills learned on the job there.

Paula Myers, with the RLC Community and Corporate Education Department, said RLC’s Cooperative Education Program is funded entirely by grants through the State of Illinois Board of Higher Education.

“Rend Lake College has received this grant for over 20 years,” she said. “The work experience enables students to earn college credit, wages and obtain hands-on classroom knowledge. Each year, at least 13 to 15 schools within the RLC district participate in the cooperative education program.”

Myers said most students find placement both Fall and Spring semesters and can earn up to eight hours of college credit.

1981 CAREER REPORT ▶ ICCB: 95% find jobs within Illinois, 67% work in-district after graduating

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 6, 1981

[For use as introductory story to series of News Releases pertaining to Vocational programs at Rend Lake College]

The week of February 8-14 has been designated as National Vocational Education Week: “Know-How for the Jobs of the ‘80s.”

Vocational-Technical programs at Rend Lake College have experienced tremendous growth since the college was created in 1967, to the point that today credit hours generated in Business Occupational, Technical and Health Occupational areas are greater than those generated in the Baccalaureate-Transfer areas.

In fact, a statewide survey conducted recently by the Illinois Community College Board revealed the majority of community college students are now enrolled in similar Occupational-Technical programs. This may be attributed to the fact most Occupational programs require a minimal time (one or two years) and financial investment; hence, the return on the investment, both economically and personally, is very high.

Studies by the ICCB also have found 95 percent of career-program students from community colleges statewide locate jobs within Illinois and 67 percent find jobs in their home districts, thus contributing posi-

tively to the overall economy of the state. Only 3 percent of those graduates seeking employment had not found jobs within nine months after graduating.

According to the report, the financial investment involved in attending a community college may be paid back within the first year following graduation, considering those students who complete two years or more of Occupation-Career programs earn an average of over \$2,500 more per year than students who attend less than one year of college.

Females also are increasing in Vocational-Technical programs which were once thought to be exclusively male. In Automotive Technology, for example, females represented just 1.8 percent of the total enrollment in 1977, compared to 18 percent in 1979. Mechanical and Engineering Technology figures are even more startling – 5.7 percent female in 1979 and 29.3 percent two years later. The percentage in Mining Technology has increased from 1.2 to 7.4 in that same period.

The growth of Rend Lake College’s Mining Department has been nothing short of phenomenal. Mining was introduced into the college curriculum in 1974, with one full-time instructor and seven students involved; today, nearly one-third of the college’s full-time instructional staff is in this area and more than 3,000 students annually benefit from the program, including approximately 2,400 mine employees undergoing retraining, 150 others sponsored by area coal companies in special programs and 450 college students working toward the two-year Associate Degree or Occupational Certificate.

Rend Lake College offers 18 Vocational-Technical programs.

TIMING RIGHT FOR DRONES ▶ Unmanned Aircraft campus sightings lead to productive, profitable careers

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 27, 2015

A new Occupational Certificate is flying into Rend Lake College next spring to give locals the chance to learn to operate Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) – commonly referred to as drones. The program, approved by the Illinois Community College Board in early October, will start with night classes in Spring 2016.

Unmanned aircraft can be used in a number of different industries for many different purposes, explained Chris Edwards, UAS Instructor. For RLC students and local

community members, the benefits of owning and operating a UAS are limitless, with many more improvements in coming years.

"This is going to be the next big thing in technology. The possibilities are almost endless," said Edwards. "In the next year, I see this becoming a field with high growth potential. According to statistics from the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, unmanned aircrafts will create approximately 100,000 new jobs by 2025 – a total economic impact of \$82 billion."

Edwards indicated a UAS can capture images to be used in photography and 3D printing; criminal justice professionals can use them to work crime scene investigations, search-and-rescue and surveillance, and local farmers can use them to work with Precision Farming applications.

The nine credit-hour occupational certificate includes three courses that can be taken consecutively during one semester.

"With the proper training and education, this technology has the ability to make people's lives better," Edwards said.

In "Intro to UAS," students will learn about the safety procedures, human factors, payloads and information gathering, while also incorporating flight simulations and live flying exercises.

The "Advanced UAS" course will specifically focus on using a UAS in the computer science, criminal justice and agricultural fields. It will also give students experience with programming and flying the UAS.

The final course, "UAS Law and Test Prep," will cover current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidelines on the flight of a UAS in U.S. airspace, plus any applicable state and federal laws. A special test preparation portion will also help students study the FAA material to pass the UAS Certification examination.

"From what we know at this point, the Section 333 Exemption will be replaced by a UAS Operators Certificate. This should give students who pass the exam the ability to work with the UAS in the national airspace for profit," said Edwards.

"If there ever was a program where the timing was right, it is RLC's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Certificate. The technology is exploding, and we have the right program and the right instructor," noted Applied Science and Technology Dean Chris Nielsen.

To become a certified UAS operator, students must pass a criminal background check, be 17 years of age, pass an aeronau-

tical knowledge test and be vetted by the Transportation Security Administration.



TGIF: Focused Friday can still result in A.A. Degree

NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

A large portion of the student population at Rend Lake College is made up of non-traditional students working full-time, which often can prove to be a demanding experience.

Through a new program kicking off this spring, students can earn an Associate in Arts Degree in two years by attending classes on Fridays only.

The Focused Friday program will take six semesters to complete. Credits earned are fully transferable to a four-year university as part of the Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education Core Curriculum.

According to Vice President of Instruction Jim Hull, the schedule will be made up of both face-to-face classes and on-line classes. The program is run in a cohort format, meaning students will, for the most part, take all of their classes together. Students can meet new people in similar situations and help each other with coursework through the duration of the program.

"Generally, students will be going to class together, and those relationships will help foster success," Hull said. These relationships will prove to be beneficial in the on-line courses as well.

Hull said there were two major factors which led to the creation of the Focused Friday program, the first being convenience. Many people who work full-time will be able to arrange to be off one day per week, perhaps by compensating with weekend shifts. The second was a response to economic factors, with travel to campus reduced to one day per week.

Hull said another starting group of classes will be offered next fall and each fall afterward.

PROGRAMS, DEPARTMENTS, DIVISIONS, MISC. AND MORE

A little bit of everything academics, a lot of other important things and then some; i.e., et al.

1971-72

■ ADVANCED PLACEMENT, PROFICIENCY

At their May 16 meeting, Trustees on second reading approved a policy on Advanced Placement and Proficiency Credit. Accordingly, a student enrolled at Rend Lake College may receive advanced placement and, in some cases, college credit provided he or she furnishes proof acceptable to the appropriate college authorities of knowledge in an area for which the individual has not received previous college credit. / May '72

1972-73

■ S.I.C.C.M. CONSORTIUM FOUNDED

Trustees approved formation of a consortium, the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market, to be comprised of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, Southern Illinois University and five community colleges - Rend Lake College, Kaskaskia College, John A. Logan College, Shawnee Community College and Southeastern Illinois College. / November '72

■ E.S.L. PROGRAM APPROVED AGAIN

The Early School Leaver (ESL) program was approved for a second year after Trustees were told 85 percent of expenses incurred the first year were reimbursed by the state Vocational Education Board. The program which helps high school dropouts return to school cost Rend Lake College about \$3,500 in the first year. Kishwaukee College, in upstate Malta, has the only other ESL program in the state. / May '73

■ GREENHOUSE, PIANO BIDS AWARDED

Approved May 15 for two other departments . . .

- A bid of \$21,418 was awarded for a greenhouse to be constructed on-campus. The winning bid was submitted by Lipps Construction Co. of Mt. Vernon.

- The purchase of a 3-year-old Steinway Concert Grand Piano at a total cost of \$7,468. It was estimated a comparable new piano would cost from \$11,000-\$12,000. / May '73

1973-74

■ MECHANICAL TO ARCHITECTURAL

Trustees approved a program name change, from Mechanical Technology to Architectural Technology, at the October 16 Board Meeting. / October '73

■ COSMETOLOGY AGREEMENT

The Board entered into a contractual agreement with the Frank family to provide Cosmetology instruction through the Richland Academy of Beauty Culture at a

rate of \$500 per student per academic year, beginning February 5, 1974. / January '74

1974-75

■ MINING NEEDS INSTRUCTORS . . .

Trustees were approached at the March 18 meeting with the need for two more full-time instructors in the Mining Technology program. Officials expect to have 49 sophomores next fall, including 33 full-time students, and approximately 60 freshmen. The program also has initiated parallel training for miners who work rotating shifts and orientation courses.

On-job-training was approved for students in the Automotive program, also.

/ March '75

■ . . . GROWTH THANKS TO OLD BEN

Trustees approved further expansion of Mining Technology at the request of Old Ben Coal Company, which is getting ready to open two new mines in the West Frankfort area. Old Ben anticipates educational training and retraining needs for at least the next 2-5 years; these programs are expected to generate an additional 1,200 credits on an annual basis and could require the employment of three new instructors. / May '75

1975-76

■ MINING TECH . . . FROM 270 TO 2,000

In a report to the Board of Trustees September 16, 1975, Dean of Vocational-Technical Education Ardell Kimmel indicated the third-year Mining Technology program has a total of 270 students enrolled in the fall and "we expect to serve 2,000 people in the Mining area this year." / September '75

■ AG LAND LAB APPROVED

The Board of Trustees approved the creation of a land lab for the Agriculture program at its September 16 meeting. / September '75

■ BEAUTY RENTS WOOD FLOOR SPACE

Trustees agreed at their October 21 meeting to renovate the fourth floor of the Wood Building on the Benton Public Square (4,300 usable square feet) and rent the space for \$550 per month for its Beauty Culture program beginning December 1. / October '75

■ TRANSFERS BOAST HIGHEST G.P.A.s

According to the Illinois Community College Board, Rend Lake College transfers achieved the highest grade-point average of all of the 49 community colleges in the state.

The state conducted a follow-up study of 1973 transfer students from all of the

Illinois community colleges . . . and the 3.0 GPA earned by RLC transfer students was the highest in the state.

The study also compared student GPAs earned at the community college level with those earned at senior colleges. RLC transfers improved their GPAs by six-tenths (.6) of a point, the greatest increase reported for any college.

The average comparison statewide showed a .2 decrease in GPA.

Comparing RLC student transfers with state averages . . .

PRE-TRANSFER ABILITY

(ACT Composite Standard Score)

Rend Lake College	20.2
State Average	20.0

PRE-TRANSFER G.P.A.

Rend Lake College	2.4
State Average	2.8

POST-TRANSFER G.P.A.

Rend Lake College	3.0
State Average	2.6

DIFFERENCE IN G.P.A.

Rend Lake College	+ .6
State Average	- .2

Reference: A Statewide Follow-Up Study of Fall 1973 Transfer Students from Illinois Public Community Colleges (Research Report #12) / April '76

■ CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT GRAD

John "Hondo" Howard of Mt. Vernon becomes the first graduate of the Construction Management program. / May '76

1976-77

■ NEW INLAND STEEL COAL PROGRAM

Board members were informed a new training program with Inland Steel Coal Company is scheduled to start November 29. Enrollees will be in class for 40 hours per week. / October '76

■ AG BANQUET, 'STUDENT OF YEAR'

The first Agriculture Banquet was held March 31. It was sponsored by BASF Wyandotte Corp., which also established an "Ag Student of the Year" Award for graduating sophomores and a scholarship for an outstanding freshman.

A report to the Board of Trustees April 12 also indicated 300-plus students representing 60 high schools took part in the recent FFA District Awards Contest hosted by RLC and the Southern Illinois Shop Skills Contest sponsored by the AAA Department brought 250 students from 30 high schools to campus. / April '77

■ AG LAND LAB START-UP

First year of operation for the Land Lab on-campus, which is an extension of the Agriculture program. It was proposed as

a learning tool for students while providing demonstration plots. / Summer '77

1977-78

■ MCKENDREE BRINGS JUSTICE

McKendree College is offering its Bachelor of Arts Degree in Administration of Justice on the RLC campus. / Fall '77

1978-79

■ PRACTICAL NURSING CLASS XVIII

The Practical Nursing School, which got its start under the auspices of Mt. Vernon Community College, recognized 54 students during Pinning Ceremonies for its 18th Graduating Class. / July '78

■ S.T.I.P II PROGRAM GETS NOD

The STIP II program was approved July 18 by the RLC Board of Trustees. / July '78

■ CO-OP GRANT TO AID EMPLOYMENT

A Regional and National Cooperative Education Grant for \$34,420 will enable Rend Lake College to assist students in gaining full-time employment. / September '78

■ MAGAZINE HIGHLIGHTS AG ON-JOB

The on-the-job training program for the Ag Mechanics program is featured in *Farm Power Magazine*. / December '78

■ MEXICAN JAZZ TROPHY PRESENTED

The presentation trophy and bronze medal won by the RLC Jazz Band and Director Larry Phifer at the Festival of Mexico were given to their special guests – the Board, faculty and staff – during the season's final concert May 18.

At the May 15 Board Meeting, Phifer expressed "muchas gracias" to the Board of Trustees for its participation in providing the opportunity for the trip. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many of the students. The Jazz Band played six performances in seven days and audience receptions were excellent. / May '79

■ A.D.N. PROGRAM EXPANDS BY DOZEN

Board members at their June 19 meeting expanded the Associate Degree Nursing program by 12 students. / June '79

1979-80

■ SKILLS CENTER DEVELOPED

The Developmental Skills Center was established. / July '79

1980-81

■ ESSAY WRITING SCHOLARSHIPS

The Board of Trustees, acting at its November 18 meeting, approved five scholarships for winning entries in the RLC English Rhetoric Essay Writing Contest. / November '80

1981-82

■ QUALIFICATION, RETRAINING

Rend Lake College is certified to provide Mining Technology and Electrical

training for Initial Qualification and Annual Retraining (both Surface and Underground).

According to Instructor Chuck Foster, "In every case, RLC courses exceed minimum standards."

Former RLC Mining Tech Coordinator / Instructor Brad Evilsizer, now Director of the Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals, has been meeting with a national standards committee as a representative of Illinois Gov. Jim Thompson.

Foster and fellow RLC Instructor Gene Mitchell also were issued special recognition by the Department of Mines and Minerals because of their knowledge of the industry and their emphasis on safety. / July '81

■ CAMPUS VISITS

The Illinois Community College Trustees Association will meet September 12 in Mt. Vernon at the Holiday Inn.

A North Central Association team will visit campus October 19-21 for the purpose of determining accreditation status. / Fall '81

■ CONTINUOUS MINER EVALUATION

Mining Technology Department Chair Ron Sanderson reported at the June 15 Board Meeting on completion of the evaluation phase for the 12 CM Continuous Miner. He also indicated RLC will be co-hosting, along with the U.S. Bureau of Mines and Minerals, a seminar/workshop for coal company management personnel responsible for production, safety and/or training. Instructors D.J. Johnson and Dwight Dame were recognized for their efforts in the development of the training program and promotion of the workshop. / June '82

1982-83

■ PART-TIME A.D.N. PROGRAM

A new part-time program approved at the July 20 Board Meeting will enable Licensed Practical Nurses to complete their Associate Degree Nursing training degree in two years while still working on a full-time basis. / July '82

■ CENTER FOR BUSINESS / INDUSTRY

A \$15,000 Grant awarded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs will help Rend Lake College establish a Center for Business and Industry to provide training and assistance.

A part-time employee will be hired to survey area business and industry leaders to identify their needs. It is hoped the center could become self-sufficient within two years.

RLC was one of 19 recipients. All but six of the state's 39 community colleges applied. / January '83

■ WELDING TUITION WAIVERS

Tuition waivers for winners of the Welding Contest were approved at the April 19 Board of Trustees Meeting. Intended to help attract high-quality students to Rend Lake College, the awards are similar to those previously approved for President's Scholars and winners of competitive Test of Engineering Aptitude, Math and Science (TEAMS) and Essay Contests. / April '83

1983-84

■ CAREER DAY

An estimated 550 students and faculty, including 120 high school guests, took advantage of Career Day '84 conducted in the RLC Gymnasium. / May '84

1984-85

■ COMMUNITY COLLEGE THEME

The National Community College theme in the early- to mid-'80s –

AMERICA'S ENERGY IS MINDPOWER
Make higher education your priority

1985-86

■ S.I.U.E. BRINGING M.B.A. TO R.L.C.

Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville has informed the RLC Board of its intentions to bring its Masters in Business Administration (MBA) program to the Ina campus beginning June 1986. / October '85

■ COMMUNITY COLLEGE THEME

When Rend Lake College and more than 1,300 other institutions of higher learning celebrated "National Community College Month," as declared by President Ronald Reagan, during February 1986 and "Illinois Community College Week" February 17-21, the theme emphasized –

OPPORTUNITY WITH EXCELLENCE
Visit your local community college

"By providing educational opportunities at costs and locations accessible to all who are qualified, community, technical and junior colleges have greatly enhanced the opportunity for every ambitious student, young or old, to enter a postsecondary school program. As community-based institutions, these schools provide varied programs and offer specialized training for more than one thousand occupations," Reagan noted in his proclamation.

Nearly half of all undergraduate college students in the nation today are enrolled in such institutions. Rend Lake College serves between 7,000-8,000 students from an eight-county district which includes most of Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson and Perry counties and parts of Wayne, White, Washington and Williamson.

Gov. James R. Thompson officially proclaimed "Community College Week" in honor of the 21st anniversary of the founding of the Illinois Community Col-

lege System and its role as a leader of the community college movement, which first began in Illinois.

1986-87

■ **STUDY ABROAD IN LONDON**

Rend Lake College is one of 24 Illinois community colleges participating in the Study Abroad program in London through the Illinois Consortium for International Studies. There are 40 total slots available each term. To be considered, a student must have 15 semester hours of credit with a minimum 2.5-point grade-point average.

RLC Instructor Joseph Rust will serve as Dean for the England campus Summer Term 1987. / September '86

■ **A.D.N. PROGRAM EXPANDS**

The Associate Degree Nursing program will be able to expand from 36 students to 48 with the addition of a new instructor, thanks to action taken at the February 17 Board of Trustees meeting. / February '87

1987-88

■ **FITNESS CENTER FIRST YEAR**

In its first year of operation, the on-campus Aerobics Super-Circuit Fitness Center generated 1,182 credit hours – one per person per semester – and \$22,000 in lab fees. / July '87

1988-89

■ **COMMUNITY COLLEGE THEME**

The National Community College theme by Fall 1988 –

COMMUNITY COLLEGES . . . WHERE AMERICA GOES TO COLLEGE

■ **COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT**

A special report at the July 19 Board of Trustees meeting by Community Services revealed 3,066 individuals were served during the past year through Community Education and Adult Education classes, workshops and other related programs. / July '88

1989-90

■ **J.T.P.A. CLIENT SERVICE CENTER**

The WELCOME mat is out at the JTPA Client Service Center, recently established on the Rend Lake College campus near Ina to coordinate opportunities for individuals who are eligible for all titles of the Job Training Partnership Act.

The JTPA Client Service Center will provide training and services to individuals determined eligible based on income, long-term unemployment, plant closures and/or special circumstances.

"The JTPA Client Service Center will better serve prospective students by being able to determine a client's eligibility and

beginning an employment/educational plan immediately," according to RLC Coordinator Paula Castagna.

Included are classroom training in both vocational and basic skills programs, assessment, counseling, on-the-job training, job skills training, job placement, follow-up and other services.

Tuition and fee waivers are available along with supportive services benefits, such as mileage and day-care expenses.

RLC Vocational-Technical Dean Carroll Turner emphasized the center reflects an expansion rather than a duplication of previous operations. "We're excited about the expansion," he said. "We have the opportunity to create a 'model' center on our campus."

The center is coordinated with policies and procedures determined by Rend Lake College, Illinois Farmers Union-Training, Inc. and JTPA. It is located in the North Oasis. / July '89

■ **OFFERINGS ATTRACT OVER 3,000**

Individuals participating in Community Service offerings during the past year – 3,063. / August '89

■ **PROJECT FIRST CLASS FUNDED**

The college is awarded a \$60,000 HECA Grant (September 1, 1989-August 31, 1990) for the establishment of Project First Class.

The purpose of the proposal is to encourage minority students with the potential to do college work and are currently in junior high and high school performing beneath grade-level standards.

The need was identified by the Recruitment and Retention Committee. The grant was written in cooperation with Mt. Vernon Township High School, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and staff.

An individual with a teaching background will be hired to work with up to 50 minority students in Mt. Vernon, with funding also available for tutors and outside activities. / September '89

■ **WELCOME TO SALZBURG, AUSTRIA**

Study Abroad opportunities through Rend Lake College are available for the first time in Salzburg, Austria. / Fall '89

■ **CHILD CARE RESOURCE / REFERRAL**

The Child Care Resource and Referral program was funded by the United Way of Chicago to plan and develop a community college resource and referral services center for the Marion-north region.

The purpose is to provide counseling and information to parents, organizations and employers on child care options, recruitment, training and support of providers, as well as the collection and analysis of supply-and-demand data. / January '90

1990-91

■ **BACCALAUREATE DOMINATES**

Breakdown of credit hour generation for FY91 – 55% baccalaureate; 37% occupational; 8% basic skills/developmental. / March '91

1991-92

■ **PROJECT FIRST CLASS BOASTS 109**

According to Coordinator Camille Jones, during the 1991-92 academic year Project First Class boasted 109 participants – 42 high school students, 55 in grades 5-8 and 12 in fourth-grade or below.

Her report to the Board of Trustees at its February 18 meeting described a variety of methods utilized to encourage minority students, such as part-time tutors, parental development, role modeling and academic and enrichment activities.

/ February '92

1992-93

■ **STATEWIDE I.A.I. INTRODUCED**

The Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI), a statewide effort to facilitate the transfer of students among Illinois colleges and universities, was officially launched in January. / January '93

1993-94

■ **YES, WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS**

Rend Lake College is now accepting major credit cards as a means of payment for tuition and fees, as well as books and other supplies and clothing from the RLC Retail Store. / Fall '93

■ **SKILLS CENTER MOVE**

The Skills Center moved into its open computerized facilities in the renovated Industrial Tech Building. / November '93

■ **CAREER-MINDED STUDENTS VISIT**

A visitation program for serious junior and senior high school students was established as a win-win situation . . . a great recruiting tool for the college and a very beneficial experience to encourage young students.

The brainchild of Science Instructor Barbara Davenport and Counselor Sara Davenport, the one-time, one-class visitation program was designed "for serious students only wanting to make a possible career decision. Students work through their junior or senior high school teacher to make an appointment for the visit to a class or lab "to help in determining if they might like to pursue a degree or career in that area of study." / January '94

■ **E.S.L. PROGRAM VERY EFFECTIVE**

A report released by the state indicates the Early School Leaver program at Rend Lake College serves its district more effectively than all but one other program (Illinois Central) in the state. / May '94

1994-95

■ BUSINESS, COMMUNITY SERVICE UNITE

As a cost-saving measure, Community Services and the Center for Business and Industry were merged. / July '94

■ COMMUNITY COLLEGE THEME

The National Community College theme by Fall 1994 –

COMMUNITY COLLEGES . . .

WHERE LEARNING NEVER ENDS

■ A FULL DAY OF CLASSES

Imagine class at 7, work, credit for lunch, a return to work, then a course nightcap (and don't forget to work out in between!)

Care to start your day with a 7 a.m. Developmental Math course or Health Education 1101?

How about a noon hour break from the office for "Principles of Effective Speaking?"

Perhaps your concentration level is higher later in the day. Then may we suggest "Creative Writing" or one of two Office Systems Technology classes, "Beginning Shorthand" and "Medical Terminology."

Amid all the (minor) controversy created by Rend Lake College's decision to open an off-campus aerobic super-circuit fitness facility, a willingness to bring more daytime classes to the new Mt. Vernon Attendance Center unfortunately has been overshadowed.

The Fall 1994 Class Schedule just released for the educational facility, located in the Sister Joanne Building of the Good Samaritan Regional Health Center, includes the aforementioned classes, plus a first-semester "Rhetoric and Composition" session at 1 p.m. on a Monday-Wednesday-Friday basis, a Developmental English course and two other Developmental Math classes.

Additional classes could still be added, especially Tuesday-Thursday mornings or afternoons the other weekdays.

Hoping to provide an incentive "worm" for prospective students who may be early birds due to jobs or family commitments, college officials have scheduled two different classes to start at 7 a.m.

"Health Education," HEA 1101, will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sharing the 7 a.m. time slot the other three weekdays will be "Computational Math," MATH 1401.

Other classes are scheduled for 8 and 10 a.m.; noon; 1, 3 and 5 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.

■ MINORITY TEACHER GRANT

Eastern Illinois University, working in cooperation with Rend Lake College and Danville Area Community College, is recipient of a \$150,000 Higher Education Cooperative Act (HECA) Grant from the

Illinois Board of Higher Education for its "Minority Teacher Identification and Enrichment Program."

The ultimate goal is to increase the number of minority teachers in Illinois.

Rend Lake College – in particular the grant-funded "Project First Class" program – and DACC will help in identifying potential teachers among minority students at community colleges as well as at feeder schools. / November '94

1995-96

■ ADULTS DISCOVER INTERNET

A \$23,500 grant from the Illinois Community College Board will enable students in the Mt. Vernon Adult Learning Center to benefit from "Tech-Know Computer-Assisted Instruction."

The program is intended to help adult learners discover the Internet . . . dubbed "the information highway." Promoting Excellence in Adult Education grant funds are meant to enhance computer classrooms and upgrade them technologically. / September '95

■ D.L. FOR MT. VERNON, PINCKNEYVILLE

Mt. Vernon Township High School and Pinckneyville Community High School enter into Distance Learning contracts with Rend Lake College. / October '95

■ MARKETING MEDALLION AWARDS

Rend Lake College was recognized in two categories at the Medallion Awards Ceremonies, part of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations Conference October 10-13 in South Bend, IN.

One Bronze Medallion was for the Rend Lake College Foundation video, "Generations of Excellence," in the Video College Promotional Program category. The fundraising piece which featured numerous student, staff and RLCF interviews, as well as community supporters, was prepared by Baldwin Media Development Owner Bruce Baldwin.

[In May 1995, the animated logo of a burning flame from the lamp of learning on the RLC's official seal won a prestigious national Telly Award. There is only one Animation Division in the annual competition, according to Baldwin. Oscar-like Telly Award statues were awarded to Baldwin, RLC Foundation Director Herb Winemiller Jr., RLC President Mark S. Kern and Director of Marketing and Public Information Bob Kelley.]

A second District III Bronze Award in Sports Publications cited the Spring 1995 RLC Lady Warriors Softball Guide.

NCMPR District III is comprised of institutions from five states. / October '95

■ 'PARTNERSHIPS IN EDUCATION'

At their June Board meeting, Trustees

learned the Adult Education and Literacy program, "Partnerships in Education," is the recipient of a special Illinois Community College Board certificate for "Promoting Excellence."

Adults age 16 and older no longer enrolled in high school are served by the comprehensive program, along with their families.

Family Investment Centers are located in communities throughout the RLC district – Benton, Mt. Vernon, McLeansboro, Christopher and Pinckneyville. The "Partnerships in Education" logo emphasizes Family, Volunteers, Education to Careers, Building on the Basics, Family Education Child Development and Computer Workplace.

Family Investment Centers enable students to prepare for the General Educational Development (GED) Test, U.S. and Illinois Constitution tests, improve reading and math skills, learn computer skills, job-seeking skills and more. Classes at various sites are available mornings, afternoons and evenings. / June '96

1996-97

■ NATIONAL SOCIETY IN PSYCHOLOGY

Instructor Carolyn Stewart is the sponsor for the new Psi Beta Chapter of the National Honor Society in Psychology for Community and Junior Colleges.

/ September '96

1997-98

■ AS/400 COMPUTER PURCHASED

A new AS/400 computer system will be purchased through a lease agreement with Bank of Illinois in Mt. Vernon. It will cost the college \$22,351.75 in 1998, 1999 and 2000. / November '97

■ CAREER LIBRARY ESTABLISHED

A new Career Center has opened in Room 202 of the Academic Building. The satellite center which serves five counties with an extensive career library, was created in conjunction with the Illinois Employment and Training Center (IETC). / November '97

■ EISENHOWER SCIENCE GRANT

A \$50,000 Dwight D. Eisenhower Science Grant from the Illinois Board of Higher Education has been awarded for the proposal submitted by John Fisher and Larry Williams for "A Faculty Development Project to Integrate Technology Applications into Science."

The series of weekend and summer in-service programs will be conducted for high school Chemistry and other Science instructors. Project leaders will develop and implement nine Science curriculum modules to be introduced into the high school curriculum. / January '98

■ OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS PERFECT

Two consecutive classes in Occupational Therapy offered through the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market found Rend Lake College products passing with flying colors – with a 100 percent pass rate. National scores were 94.76 in 1996 and 96.96 in 1997. / April '98

■ WELFARE-TO-WORK GRANT

A \$239,000 Welfare-to-Work grant, more specifically an Illinois Job Advantage Employment and Training Targeted Service Initiative sponsored by the Illinois Department of Human Service, will be used to transition 125 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) clients from welfare to work.

Grant monies will help provide a comprehensive assessment, case management, supportive services, job-readiness skills training, unsubsidized employment placement, job retention support services and follow-up. / May '98

■ AVIATION MECHANICS CONSORTIUM

Trustees approved entering into an Airframe and Power Plant Aviation Mechanics program consortium with 25 other community colleges. Classes will be taught at the University of Illinois Aviation Institute at Willard Field utilizing Lincoln Land C.C. courses. / May '98

1998-99

■ FITNESS CENTER UPDATE

Coordinator Ronnie Ressel provided the Board of Trustees with an update on RLC Fitness Centers – first established on-campus in 1986 and expanded to a Mt. Vernon facility on the Good Samaritan Regional Health Center campus in 1994 – at its July 21 meeting.

Average enrollment has doubled from 1,235 per year between 1987-94 to 2,467 from 1995-98. Whereas the Wayne Arnold Aerobics Super-Circuit Fitness Center serves primarily traditional-age college students, the Mt. Vernon center caters more to the 30-50 age crowd. / July '98

■ MICROBIOLOGY OFFERED ONLINE

Rend Lake College will become one of the new-age technology pacesetters this fall when a section on "Basic Microbiology" is offered for the first time via the Internet. At least three other courses are expected to go online by Spring 1999.

/ August '98

■ CHEMISTRY BETWEEN R.L.C., I.S.U.

Thanks to the efforts of RLC Instructors John Fisher and Mike Mullen, Illinois State University is donating \$40,000 in science lab equipment to be used to strengthen and update Advanced Chemistry courses at Rend Lake College. There is a pos-

sibility the community college will get a \$48,000 Infrared Spectrophotometer donation as well, provided it is not needed by ISU staff. / August '98

■ CENSUS PREP CLASSES FREE

Because the U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting Southern Illinoisans to work for the 2000 Census, with over 400 hirings anticipated in coming months, Rend Lake College will be offering a series of free Census Prep courses in Benton designed to increase individual test scores.

The higher your score, the better chance you have of getting hired and being considered for advanced positions, according to representatives of the sponsoring Adult Education and Job Placement programs.

The program is specifically designed to address the topics included on the Census Field Employee Selection-Aid Test, which evaluates applicants for work as Census Enumerators, Crew Leaders and Clerks. Topics include: Clerical Skills; Reading Skills; Number Skills; Interpreting Information; Organizational Skills; Interpersonal Skills; Basic Test-Taking Strategies, and Employability Skills.

Sessions are scheduled Mondays and Wednesdays from noon until 3 p.m. at the RLC Family Investment Education Center, 406 E. Main St., in Benton.

Census Prep training does not guarantee employment, but it should help participants improve test scores. / October '98

■ LOG CABIN PLAYHOUSE

Students in the Construction Occupations program at Big Muddy River Correctional Center built a log cabin playhouse for the RLC Foundation Children's Center.

Earlier this fall, BMR building trades students contributed an 8-foot by 8-foot children's playground which was raffled off for free by RLC volunteers manning a booth at the DuQuoin State Fair. / November '98

■ S.I.C.C.M. TAKES OVER METRO C.C.

The Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM) has taken over control of the beleaguered Metropolitan Community College in East St. Louis, at the request of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). A name change will accompany the takeover – to East St. Louis Community College Center. The East St. Louis facility had been scheduled to close in October prior to its takeover by the ICCB Board.

SICCM was organized in 1973 to provide joint health care programs through Illinois institutions. Members in addition to Rend Lake College are John A. Logan College, Shawnee Community College, Southeastern Illinois College, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and SIU-Edwardsville. / November '98

■ COMPASS POINTS WAY

Spring Semester '99 marks the first time the RLC Counseling Center will be utilizing the computerized assessment test, COMPASS, for determining student placement. / January '99

■ TWO GOES INTO ONE

The Social Science and Arts and Communications Departments have been converged into the Liberal Arts Department. / March '99

■ MCAFOOS, KUBOTA MAKE DONATION

Owner Tom McAfoos of F.B. McAfoos, a local full-service Kubota dealer in Benton, assisted Rend Lake College in obtaining a recent donation of 10 new engines and manuals from Kubota Tractor Corp. The gift will support new technician training in small gas engine repair. / March '99

■ SENIOR LEARNING INSTITUTED

"Lifelong Learning" and "Where Learning Never Ends" have long been themes synonymous with opportunities made available through community colleges. But never have these slogans become real action words more than they are expected to if the Rend Lake College Foundation Institute for Learning in Retirement lives up to its billing.

Seniors citizens who take advantage of the educational offerings will find 29 classes to choose from Spring '99, beginning April 1. Examples include "Navigating the Internet," "Illinois Correctional Tour," "Understanding the Country of Iraq," "Was Great-Great-Grandfather a Horse Thief? How to Find Out" and "What Happens When I Can No Longer Take Care of Myself?"

[At the April 20 Board of Trustees meeting, approval was given to waive tuition for those age 55 and older enrolling in Institute for Learning in Retirement classes.] / April '99

■ PUBLIC ASSISTANCE STUDENTS

A letter from Illinois State Board of Education Director of Administration Daniel J. Miller informed Barbara Bauernfeind 134 public assistance students at Rend Lake College subsequently increased their earnings enough to have their assistance grants either reduced or canceled. The estimated annual savings of \$398,256 to the state was attributed to the help they received from Rend Lake College. / May '99

2000-01

■ TRUCKING OVER TO COLLINSVILLE

The Truck Driver Training program at Rend Lake College is covering a lot more territory than it has in the past. The RLC name and logo are getting twice as much exposure on the road these days.

That is because Rend Lake College's Truck Driver Training program has opened a "branch" office in Collinsville at the request of Southwestern Illinois College (formerly Belleville Area).

In addition, college representatives are offering Driver Education classes for the first time to those who recently turned 15 years of age and adult learners.

New four-week classes in Truck Driver Training start on a regular basis on both the RLC campus in Ina and in Collinsville. Driver Ed classes are made available on an as-needed basis. Classes are limited, however.

The trucking program has undergone several changes since its start in the early '90s. For instance, classes are a week longer, contact hours required have increased to 160 and the training day has shortened from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Approximately one in five students is female. Classes are offered for college credit and are taught by college instructors who are Illinois Secretary of State-certified.

But some things never change: It is safe to say nearly 100 percent of those persons successfully completing the program can find employment in the trucking industry if they want to work. / October 2000

■ S.T.A.R.S. GRANT PERFECT x 3

The application for a five-year grant renewal for the Student Transfer and Retention Support (STARS) program received perfect (100-point) scores from all three readers. / June '01

2001-02

■ AUTO STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

Board members received copies of a letter Southern Illinois University-Carbondale representatives sent to the RLC Automotive Technology program congratulating the college regarding its recertification of the prestigious National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) Master Level standard of excellence. / November '01

2003-04

■ SECURITY AND WEAPONS

In action at the October 14 Board meeting, Trustees granted permission for all certified Security personnel to carry weapons. / October '03

■ WELCOME TO STUDIO R.L.C.

Studio RLC, the Paul Mitchell-affiliated Cosmetology program at Rend Lake College, opened for business at its state-of-the-arts facilities in the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon. / February '04

■ S.I.U.C. WEEKEND B.S. DEGREE

RLC is teaming once again with Southern Illinois University-Carbondale to

benefit area residents. SIUC will offer its Weekend Bachelor of Science Degree for working adults in Mt. Vernon. Students will attend every other weekend at the RLC MarketPlace. A similar opportunity was available previously from 1986-93.

/ April '04

■ TECH PREP TUITION WAIVERS

The RLC Board approved the establishment of Tech Prep Tuition Waivers. / April '04

2004-05

■ LOCAL PSYCHOLOGY CLUB

Rend Lake College students interested in the mysteries of the mind can now take advantage of the Psychology Club, an addition to the college's long list of student activities.

According to Associate Psychology Professor Jeannie Mitchell-Collins, who will sponsor the club, any RLC student is welcome to join, regardless of major. The first meeting of the group is scheduled for 3 p.m. Wednesday, August 25, in the North Oasis pit area, and plans call for regular monthly meetings afterward.

Activities Mitchell-Collins has in mind for the club include a field trip, community service activities and a guest lecturer. During the monthly meetings, members will have liberal control over what types of discussions and activities are held.

Mitchell-Collins said starting an independent local Psychology Club, rather than starting a local chapter of an established national group, allows RLC's Psychology Club to create its own bylaws and save its members money on initiation fees. / August '04

■ NATIONAL QUALIFIERS 'ZONED IN'

Jo Beth Weber said there is no disputing the fact: The Hitting Zone at Rend Lake College played a large part in helping her daughter and other members of the Jefferson County Sports Authority 10-and-Under travel softball team make their way to national competition in Texas.

Weber said her daughter, Hannah, is one of several girls on the team who has been refining her softball skills at The Hitting Zone.

Jo Beth Weber claims her daughter's batting skills have improved, as well as her ability to chase down pop flies and grounders.

"They have really taught Hannah the proper form for fielding balls," Jo Beth Weber said of Bobby Simpson, Director of The Hitting Zone, and Assistant Baseball Coach Chad Opel.

The team qualified for the National Pony Association Mustang-level tournament held last month in Harlington, TX, near the Mexican border. The team,

sponsored by Quality Times, is 19-2.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for these girls," said Weber.

The Hitting Zone, located on the south side of the RLC campus in Ina, is a training facility dedicated to the enhancement of baseball and softball skills and the physical well-being of Southern Illinois athletes. The facility features an artificial turf surface throughout, three batting cages, two pitching mounds, a videotaping and viewing room and an observation deck for parents and guests.

Participants can receive instruction in hitting, pitching, fielding, catching, throwing, baserunning/sliding, baseball rules and situations, attitude and much more. Instruction is available for individuals, groups of six to eight players or for entire teams.

[Editor's Note: In November 2012, Jo Beth Weber was elected as a Judge on the Second Judicial Circuit Court and Resident Circuit Judge for Jefferson County, IL.]

/ August '04

■ R.L.C. OFFERS NATIONAL E.M.T. EXAM

Rend Lake College recently has been named a site for the administration of the National Registry Examination for Emergency Medical Technician-Basic, according to Leslee Stein-Spencer, Chief of the Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Emergency Medical Systems and Highway Safety.

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians provides a mechanism to help assure the protection of the public, according to the organization's Web site. NREMT verifies achievement of minimal competencies of EMTs through the establishment and implementation of uniform requirements of EMT training, examination and continuing education.

Those who successfully complete Emergency Medical Care I at RLC can apply to take the National Registry EMT-Basic exam. Rend Lake College also offers an Occupational Certificate program which meets Illinois Department of Public Health standards for training as an EMT-Intermediate. / September '04

■ L.P.N. STUDENTS REACH \$40,000

By selling holiday pins in the shape of pumpkins and snowmen, Rend Lake College's Practical Nursing students have reached the \$40,000 mark for the RLC LPN Scholarship Endowment.

Everyone in the Practical Nursing curriculum participated in the sale, which is under the auspices of the Practical Nurse Student Organization. The pins were handmade by LPN students, so no two were exactly alike. Pins sold for \$1 each.

According to Bonnie Tolbert, class

sponsor and Practical Nursing Associate Professor, the LPN Endowment was set up by LPN students about 20 years ago. Scholarships cover tuition for summer courses.

"Traditional forms of financial aid do not always pay for summer tuition, so this assistance is very beneficial," said Dr. Sharon Beasley, Allied Health Division Chair.

According to Pat Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer of the RLC Foundation, six awards were given last year. Any Practical Nursing student enrolled in Summer Term classes is eligible to apply for the award. / December '04

■ MCKENDREE AIMS TO PLEASE

McKendree University, which already offered its Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at Rend Lake College, is now offering two more four-year programs to area residents through its Accelerated Instruction from McKendree (AIM) program. The RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon will host classes in a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master of Arts Degree in Teacher Development. / February '05

2005-06

■ FULL-TIME DIRECTOR REQUIRED

Peggy Dolce was hired as Director of the RLC Foundation Children's Center after the college recently learned it is recipient of a second Illinois State Board of Education Pre-K Grant, which will enable the college to serve an additional 20 children. By expanding the Children's Center capacity above 50, the Illinois Dept. of Children and Family Services requires a full-time Director. / August '05

■ C.T.N.A. PARTNERSHIP

The college has entered into a partnership agreement with Continental Tire of North America. Students who have completed one year of Industrial Electronics or Maintenance Technician programs may be eligible to join a cooperative program. Students completing the co-op program and selected by CTNA will have the second year of college expenses (not to exceed \$3500) paid by CTNA. They must agree to work for the company for at least 18 months after graduation. / January '06

■ E.S.L. TEACHER CERTIFICATE

An English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher Certificate is available through Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville at the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon. / January '06

■ B.S. IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Mid-Continent University in Mayfield, KY is offering a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management through its

Advantage Adult Accelerated Program. Classes are planned Thursday evenings on the Rend Lake College campus for the next 18 months. / February '06

■ BUSINESS START-UPS

Among those receiving assistance from the RLC Small Business Development Center in the second half of 2005 . . .

BUSINESS START-UPS AND ACQUISITIONS:

- The Emporium on the Square – Benton shops owned by Steve and Nancy Pace
 - Willis Distributing and Fabricating, Inc. – Ag/Auto-related Manufacturing business products; Jeff Willis, owner
 - Ward's Pressure Washing Company – Mike Ward home-based in Mt. Vernon
 - Teel Electric Services – Joseph Teel's 24/7 contracting in West Frankfort
 - 9th Street Grill – Downtown Mt. Vernon restaurant; Laura Thacker-Rob Lupa
- / February '06

■ POLICE TRAINING APPROVED

When Criminal Justice graduates are hired by city police departments, county sheriffs' offices and security agencies, they are required to attend the Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois for 10 weeks. Students now can make themselves more marketable to law enforcement agencies by completing this training at Rend Lake College prior to employment.

"This is a unique, state-wide program. It is similar to PTI, but it is geared for students who have not already been hired as police officers," said Jim Hull, RLC Vice President of Instruction. "The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board has approved this program as training for pre-service officers."

The basic training students will receive is the same as what they would receive at the Police Training Institute, and the result is graduates who are more appealing to potential employers. It can cost a law enforcement agency an estimated \$7,000 to send a new hire to PTI, plus the officer receives pay during that time and is not available to work for 10 weeks.

Employers can hire graduates of RLC's program and know they will have an officer who can start immediately. The Illinois Law Enforcement Academy at RLC provides all required training. / March '06

■ FABICK CATERPILLAR 'DEAL'

There is a massive demand for trained Heavy Equipment Technicians in today's industrial world. Fabick Caterpillar and Rend Lake College have joined forces to fill this growing need for Fabick and other dealerships with an exciting new two-year program.

College administrators hope to have the Heavy Equipment Technician program, a

two-year curriculum which will result in an Associate in Applied Science Degree, up and running by Fall Semester. RLC already has a Heavy Equipment Technology program, but this new offering will be somewhat different, featuring a curriculum tailored to meet the needs of Fabick and Caterpillar.

Students also will obtain the skill sets needed by the industry's other major dealers, including John Deere and Komatsu.

"It is a partnership, but both Rend Lake College and Fabick are committed to providing training for technicians for all brands of equipment, not just Caterpillar," said Jim Hull, RLC's Vice President of Instruction. Exposure to more brands and types of equipment will result in better technicians.

Fabick, headquartered in Fenton, MO, has been a Caterpillar dealership since 1925 and employs more than 600 at 12 locations throughout its 99-county Caterpillar territory.

In addition to classroom and laboratory work, there will be a heavy emphasis on internships.

Students in RLC's program will have the advantage of working in the new 22,300-square-foot Applied Science Center. The building features multiple bays and plenty of working area, as well as a five-ton hoist for moving heavy equipment and a service pit which will allow students to work underneath equipment.

The Applied Science Center was a major factor in Fabick's decision to select Rend Lake College as a training partner. "The facilities knocked their socks off," Hull said. "They told us it was better than some of their ThinkBIG schools." ThinkBIG schools are specific training programs run by Caterpillar with which RLC's program is not affiliated.

"The big draw for this program is the demand for technicians," Hull said. "Just with Fabick alone, they tell us they need 150 trained technicians today. Caterpillar North America needs 3,500 trained technicians today, and worldwide, Caterpillar needs 40,000 today. That doesn't even touch on the technicians needed by the other major dealers. The demand is definitely there." / March '06

■ AUTO PARTS STORE CLOSED

The college's agreement with the NAPA Auto Parts Store was terminated by action taken at the April 11 Board of Trustees meeting. / April '06

■ A.S.E. RE-CERTIFICATION

The Automotive Technology program received NATEF/ASE Certification for five more years.

"This is great news for automotive-

minded young people and their parents," said Donald Seyfer, NATEF Chair. "Because this program increases cooperation between local education and industry leaders, it gives added assurance Rend Lake College graduates will be employable entry-level technicians.

"As a result of the quality education provided by RLC, the motoring public will benefit because better repair technicians will join the work force," Seyfer added.

Upon completion of the evaluation, NATEF recommended RLC be certified once again by ASE, a non-profit organization which tests and certifies repair technicians in addition to certifying automotive training programs. / June '06

2006-07

■ SHOE STOP AWARD-WINNER

OWENSBORO, KY – Shoe Stop, a company which features a local branch at the Rend Lake College MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon, IL, has been named recipient of the Small Business of the Year Award from the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce.

Shoe Stop was recipient of the Small Business of the Year Award for companies with 11 or more employees. Owner Mark Shively opened the business in Towne Square North in 1999, opened a second store in Mt. Vernon in 2003 and has grown to employ a total of 40 people.

Shively's previous experience in the shoe business has taught him that price, selection and service all go together to make a successful shoe store. To better compete with larger stores that have more buying power, Shively has partnered with other retailers around the country to form a buying group and to open letters of credit directly with shoe manufacturers.

That strategy, along with making container load purchases to achieve better wholesale pricing, has allowed Shoe Stop to buy low and be price-competitive with anyone. / July '06

■ NURSING INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM

Trustees approved the Nursing Instructor Tuition Reimbursement Program at the September 12 Board meeting.

According to administrative rationale: "Rend Lake College, like all community colleges in the area, faces a shortage of qualified applicants for positions as Associate Degree Nursing Instructors. Illinois State Statute requires that these instructors possess a Master of Science in Nursing Degree with two years of clinical experience.

"There are very few MSN-prepared nurses in Southern Illinois, and those who exist are working in area hospitals full-time. This procedure would provide

an incentive for part-time and full-time Nursing faculty to pursue their MSN Degree with a commitment to teach for the college after its conclusion."

Under the arrangement, RLC Nursing Instructors with a BSN Degree and two years of clinical experience are encouraged to enroll in a Master's program for no more than nine credit hours per semester while continuing to teach, at least on a part-time basis. Individuals would be reimbursed for tuition of a maximum of six credit hours per semester (maximum \$200 per credit hour cost) provided they maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Recipients would be expected to continue teaching at RLC, at least part-time, upon completion of an accredited program; they would be responsible for continued employment with the college on a basis of two semesters teaching for each semester for which they were reimbursed tuition. / September '06

■ DISPLAY OF NUDE ART WORK

Trustees approved a Board Procedure April 10 regarding the Display of Art Work, which states: "At no time will nude work be allowed to be displayed in any location other than the Art Room. Art work representing nudes is defined as any piece of work that either displays or depicts a nude body, in any pose. This will include pictures, paintings, sculptures, drawings or photographs. / April '07

■ 'GROW YOUR OWN LEADERS'

Mary Bornheimer's proposal, "Grow Your Own Leaders – How to Identify and Develop Future Leaders Inside Your Community College," has been accepted by the Education Program Review Committee as one of the programs for the ACCT Community College Leadership Congress in San Diego September 26-29.

The presentation, scheduled Friday, September 28, from 9-10:15 a.m. at the Manchester Grand Hyatt, is based on the Rend Lake College Emerging Leadership Institute implemented for the first time in 2006. A synopsis:

"The need for leaders in community colleges is greater now than ever before. Learn how to develop future leaders internally through an innovative Emerging Leadership Institute. This presentation will focus on the importance of ongoing leadership training for employees, the practicalities of growing your own leaders and how to develop such a program on a limited budget." / April '07

2007-08

■ ON-CAMPUS S.I.U.C. SERVICE CENTER

"Starting this semester (Fall 2007), Rend Lake College and Southern Illinois Uni-

versity-Carbondale have taken an extra step to help make the transition between our two institutions a smooth one.

"We believe our service can be of significant aid to our future students. While attending Rend Lake College, students can come to the SIU Service Center with any questions or concerns they might have about transferring to SIUC.

"We will be able to assist students by providing information such as how their credits will transfer, help with registration, general campus information, who to contact and much more.

"My office hours for the current Fall Semester are Monday and Wednesdays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. I am located behind Student Records in the Administration Building on the Rend Lake College Campus.

"If you have students you know are planning to transfer to SIUC, please encourage them to take advantage of this service! Thanks!"

Brianna Bowman, SIU Service Center

/ September '07

■ CHILDREN'S CENTER RE-ACCREDITED

The RLC Foundation Children's Center is held to the highest child care standard in the country. For the past six months, it has been tested on that standard of excellence. Officials found out today (October 2) the program passed with flying colors. Being accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children was a huge leap for the center when it opened in 1998.

Monday's news was another milestone as officials learned of being reaccredited until 2012. Since NAEYC created its accreditation system in 1985, the honor has become a widely recognized sign of high quality in Early Childhood Education programs. There are more than 10,000 NAEYC-accredited programs, serving over 850,000 young children and families.

NAEYC Accreditation represents the mark of quality in Early Childhood education. To earn it, the Early Childhood Education program at RLC volunteered to be measured against the most robust and rigorous national standards on education, health and safety.

"Our center is one of the best in Southern Illinois and the nation," RLCF Children's Center Director Peggy Dolce said. "Our administration and teaching staff are involved in quality early care and education for children."

Becoming accredited through the NAEYC is a three-tiered process. First, the Center conducts a self-study to evaluate 10 areas of the program's operations. Then it submits a candidacy report to the NAEYC. Finally, the Center is visited by

a representative of the NAEYC. That visit took place at RLC in July. / October '07

■ WIRELESS USAGE POLICY

With the arrival on-campus of Wireless High-Speed Internet, it was deemed necessary for Trustees to approve a Wireless High-Speed Internet Acceptable Usage Policy, as well as stating "permissible and prohibited conduct for using the service to access the Internet." / October '07

■ MISSOURI ST. VITICULTURE / ENOLOGY

Biology Associate Professor Steve Holman informed the Board of Trustees November 13 Rend Lake College has been selected to participate in a grant project with Missouri State University's Viticulture and Enology Science and Technology Alliance.

Rend Lake College will receive about \$500,000 over the next four years from the grant funded by the National Science Foundation.

For that, Rend Lake College will offer online courses in Viticulture, the study of grapes and vineyards, and Enology, the study of wine and the making of wine. Associate Degrees and Occupational Certificates will be offered. / November '07

■ GRAD COURSES AGREEMENT

Board members approved a Memorandum of Agreement between Rend Lake College and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale to offer upper-division or graduate courses and degree completion programs for the students of the RLC District. / May '08

2008-09

■ BONNIE AG STUDENTS RETURN

A reunion July 25 for RLC Ag Alumni who graduated from the program when it was located in the old Bonnie Grade School facility attracted 28 former students.

Those present included Charles Allen, Lloyd Allen, Bob Bauersach, Larry Beaty, Margaret Bines, Gerald Cox, Wayne Hails, Dale Hiron, David Hofer, Jackie Johnson, Jerry Johnson, Dennis Kaufman, Raymond Koy, Junior Lane, Scott McMaster, Marshall Mills, Dwight Mooney, Eddie Newell, Garry Pierce, John Sapp, Jerry Schierbaum, David Shultz, Gary Simons, Bill South and Dan Tinsley.

Also part of the gathering were Instructors Mark Kern, Ardell Kimmel, David Scott and Carroll Turner. / July '08

■ ACADEMIC BOARD ACTION

The RLC Board of Trustees, at its August 12 meeting . . .

- Formalized a Dual-Credit Agreement between Rend Lake College and District High Schools.

- Approved the Academic Transfer Partnership between Illinois Community Colleges and Western Illinois University's Board of Trustees Bachelor of Arts Degree Program, offered online. / August '08

■ NURSING CLUB FUND-RAISING

It has been one of the best years in scholarship fund-raising history for Practical Nursing students at Rend Lake College.

The approximately 60 students on course to complete the program to become Licensed Practical Nurses this summer recently hit the streets and raised over \$3,000 for their scholarship fund invested with the RLC Foundation. It is the most students have raised in the fund-raising event over the past decade.

"I'm very impressed to have a fundraiser of this magnitude coming from a student club," said Foundation CEO Pat Kern. "I think it speaks highly of their passion and enthusiasm to help other students going through this program. The Nursing department . . . is very close-knit. Because of that, they become a key alumni group and remain connected."

Kern said the money raised will be added to the endowed scholarship fund's \$43,000 balance to bring the total to \$46,000 in secure investments. The principal balance is never touched. / Spring '09

2011-12

■ INMATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Officials are scrambling to find another college to take over inmate vocational programs at two area prisons after the state's uneven payment record forced Rend Lake College to terminate its contract for the provided services.

RLC President Charley Holstein is working with Illinois Community College Board and Illinois Department of Corrections to find a college interested in taking over programs at Big Muddy River and Pinckneyville correctional centers, RLC Spokesman Nathan Wheeler said. The college's contract with IDOC will end no later than February 1.

The future is uncertain for the vocational programs' eight employees.

"The RLC Board's hope is that these employees will keep their jobs and find a smooth transition through a contract with another institution," he said.

The issue of the state's all-too-frequent lapse in payments for the services provided at the centers was brought before the RLC Board last year. The board asked for assurances that more timely payments would be made; however, timeliness continued to be a problem.

At any given time over the past few years, the state was about \$200,000 behind in payments to the college, Wheel-

er said. Recent payments lowered that amount to a current balance due of approximately \$118,000.

"Obviously our Trustees and administrators feel the uncertainty of state funding for these programs, coupled by the cost of providing them, is concerning enough to make the difficult decision to terminate the contract," Wheeler said. "Our Board of Trustees Chairman, Bryan Drew, emphasized our responsibility to serve the residents of our district at our main and satellite campuses supersedes provision of programming at area correctional facilities. And I think everyone would agree with that."

Stacey Solano, IDOC spokeswoman, said while the programs are not mandatory, the state will look for another college to take over the contract. / November '10

– Becky Malkovich, *The Southern*

2012-13

■ WARRIOR CAFE OPENS

Big news in Volume I, No. 1 (September 20, 2012) of the campus-newspaper-with-no-name (soon to become "*The Clocktower Chronicle*") . . .

The Warrior Cafe is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Student Center. It features food prepared by RLC Culinary Art students such as cookies, muffins, pies and breads. Menus will be placed on campus bulletin boards on Mondays. Take-out orders only, boxed to go. Cash only. / September '12

■ NEW ARTS PUBLICATION, "LAKE"

A new Rend Lake College Arts publication, "*Lake*," is now available for distribution on-campus, according to the October 11 *Clocktower Chronicle*. It is being produced by students and staff in the Liberal Arts Division. / October '12

■ ALL IN FOR LAMBDA NU

All 25 sophomores in the Radiologic Technology program at Rend Lake College have joined Lambda Nu, the national honor society for the radiologic and imaging sciences. It is the first time since the organization was brought to the RLC campus in November 2010 that every student has decided to take advantage of what it offers.

"As their teacher, it is incredibly rewarding," said RLC's Lambda Nu representative, Bria Robinson. "Radiologic Technology is not an easy program. Our students must stay focused throughout the two years in order to successfully complete it. I appreciate how they all have stepped up and taken accountability for their own success. As their teacher I can give them all the information and knowledge I have, but how they utilize

this information is what will bring them their greatest achievement. And obviously they all have done this quite well."

One student, sophomore Megan Wren of Harrisburg, said, "I joined Lambda Nu because it gives you scholarship opportunities and looks great on a résumé."

The fact every sophomore joined also means they all meet the GPA requirement to join, which is a very respectable 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0-point scale).

"That they all qualify says to me our students are taking their program of study very seriously. They have a drive and dedication to the field of radiology that will help take them far in their new profession after graduation," Robinson said. / November '12

■ JOUR 1103: FOUR FREE CREDITS

Sign up for Journalism 1103, which is the student newspaper practicum, and your tuition will be waived.

Participating on the newspaper provides all kinds of possibilities for you to express your creativity and get to know your college. There are many different roles to publishing a newspaper on-time and in-style, and packed with all kinds of fun and useful information.

Not only is your tuition waived for this one-credit practicum, but RLC President Terry Wilkerson has agreed to give three credit hours of free tuition (the following semester; approximate worth: \$300) to students successfully completing JOUR 1103. / January '13

■ GUITARIST LAUSELL PERFORMS

Dr. Isaac Lausell, an internationally acclaimed classical/jazz guitarist who teaches at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, was one of the featured performers playing a Thelonius Monk piece at the Rend Lake College Theatre Wednesday, February 6. Sharing the stage during the Classical Guitar Concert with Lausell were members of the SIUC Guitar Orchestra and Southern Illinois' own virtuoso and educator, Joseph Palermo. The concert, which was followed by a master class, was free to attend and sponsored by RLC's Cultural Events Committee and the guitar program at SIUC. / February '13

■ OIL AND NATURAL GAS TRAINING

Responding to recent legislation, officials from Rend Lake College and South-eastern Illinois College announced the two institutions have signed a cooperative agreement to provide an array of training opportunities for the emerging oil and natural gas industry. Combined, the two districts have more acreage under lease to the industry than anywhere else in the state.

"This is another example of a community college alliance that reaches across district boundaries and works to provide industry and residents of our region the training they need," said RLC President Terry Wilkerson.

Officials indicated as the industry takes root, workforce needs will have to be met. Workers will need custom training, as well as other possible credentials, such as certificate and degree programs.

"Since the state has passed legislation to regulate this energy sector, colleges like SIC and RLC will be asked to train our local workforce for a variety of jobs as this industry emerges in the region," said Dr. Jonah Rice, SIC President.

Both colleges will provide SAFELAND training, a custom safety program, as well as other special training. SIC has submitted a custom training certificate program to the state for approval. RLC plans on creating an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Oil and Natural Gas.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts shale gas will account for nearly half of the natural gas produced in the United States by 2035. / June '13

2013-14

■ SIGN LANGUAGE WORKSHOPS

Sign Language I and II Workshops will be offered beginning in September through Rend Lake College's Community and Corporate Education Division.

The workshops will concentrate on fundamentals of American Sign Language.

Sign Language I will cover topics from the alphabet and numbers to colors and classroom items, while also introducing a basic understanding of the culture of the hearing impaired. It is scheduled Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. between September 16-25 in the One-Room Schoolhouse on-campus.

SL II will emphasize phrases and sentences into the curriculum and is for the advanced student . . . same days, times and place, September 30 to October 9.

The instructor will be Amy Richards. Each is worth .5 credit hours or 8 Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs). / August '13

■ HELP! IN WRITING, COMMUNICATIONS

Rend Lake College students needing an extra opinion on their class paper or speech now have the option to visit the Writing Center or Communications Lab throughout the week for tips and suggestions from experienced staff.

"We identified the need for tutoring, especially in writing and communication, and we found that professionals in those areas needed to be available throughout the day to help our students," said Dean

of Liberal Arts Henry Leek. "The Communications Lab (North Oasis 125) and Writing Center (NO 138) have posted hours when students can drop in or make an appointment to visit."

Adjunct English Instructor Bill Robinson and Kelsey Landis, who is finishing a Master's Degree in English from DePaul University, will be available in the Writing Center, which will be manned 47 hours per week due to demand.

Adjunct Speech and Business Instructor Dana Uhls will be working in the Communications Lab, which will be open about 24 hours per week. / September '13

■ FIRST C.N.A. CONFERENCE

A free Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Conference will be held in Rend Lake College's Theatre from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, October 18, for those interested in learning more about their field.

The conference is the first of its kind at RLC and will feature several sessions and guest speakers. First to speak will be Phil Gillespie, Ombudsman of Shawnee Alliance for Seniors in Carterville, who will address culture change.

Speaker Tracy McCord of Hospice of Southern Illinois will follow with a session on Hospice Care. Three afternoon breakout sessions will focus on Communication, The Language of Culture Change and Hospice Case Study.

The CNA Conference is sponsored by RLC, Certified Nursing Assistant Educator Association and Illinois Nurse Assistant/Aide Training Competency Evaluation Program of Southern Illinois University. / October '13

■ MOCK THEATRE AUDITIONS

For actors wondering if they have what it takes to go pro, this is the chance to find out. Rend Lake College has been selected as the site of the Illinois Theatre Association's next mock audition. This clinic December 2 from 2-5 p.m. in the RLC Theatre puts actors in front of experienced directors and casting representatives.

The actor has 90 seconds on stage. Afterward, the judges will offer feedback to a select number of participants. The mock audition gives actors "insider information" about what to expect at the ITA's professional auditions in February at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

RLC Theatre Director and ITA member Tracey Webb said Allan Kimball, South-eastern Illinois College Theatre Director, suggested organizers consider RLC as a venue. Webb said hosting is an honor and a great opportunity for local actors.

"It is free for students and ITA members and only \$10 for everyone else. I encourage anyone serious about acting

to join; ITA members get information on upcoming auditions and extra training opportunities. You can join online," said Webb. "This is very exciting. This is a great opportunity to help actors prepare for professional auditions. I am definitely encouraging my students to do this."

According to the ITA, the mock audition teaches actors things like how applications are chosen, what to expect at auditions and how to make the most of 90 seconds on stage. Areas covered can include stage entrance, the introduction, choice of material, ability for others to connect to an audition piece and how to exit the stage. The clinic also will include a discussion on headshot/résumé submissions and hints on how to prepare for professional auditions. A few actors will be chosen to perform their audition pieces in front of the audience, and be given feedback by the facilitators. / November '13

■ STUDENT NURSES ASSN. OFFICERS

The newly created Rend Lake College Student Nurses Association (RLC-SNA) is looking for acting officers to begin next fall. Support from the South Central Illinois Area Health Education Center (SCI-AHEC) and a grant should help the new organization; faculty advisors are hoping to see the club get started with capable student leadership as well.

RLC-SNA is open to all students currently enrolled in the Practical Nursing or Associate Degree in Nursing programs, or any other student who might be considering nursing as a major area of concentration. / April '14

■ HEALTH/WELLNESS FAIR AWARD

Plans are in the works for Rend Lake College's first Health and Wellness Fair, which will be held in Spring 2015. The event and other activities will be offered thanks to a Community Engagement Award of \$4,500 from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine Greater Midwest Region.

The RLC Health and Wellness Fair will be a community affair to educate attendees on a number of health care issues. There will be exhibits and health care professionals present, as well as a special activity for children, called Body Health Walk.

"The National Library of Medicine is an association that provides educational materials to health care professionals or anyone teaching in a health field," explained Beth Mandrell, RLC Reference Librarian.

"We received a Health Information Literacy Award to help us reach out into our community through our students."

The Body Health Walk will provide a

number of stations and activities set up for students of all ages, with curricula appropriate for each age group. Local schools will be invited to participate.

The Health and Wellness Fair will tie in with a Health Awareness Week on campus, the first of its kind.

Another aspect of the award will be a new Health Information website through Rend Lake College. It will link to the services provided by the National Library of Medicine and will be available for students and patrons to utilize. / June '14

2014-15

■ A FAIR MEAL BY CULINARY ARTS

The DuQuoin State Fair will kick off with a flavorful boost from Rend Lake College's Culinary Arts program later this month.

Culinary Arts students, staff and volunteers will join hands with other local businesses to serve a four-course meal for local and state dignitaries at the DuQuoin State Fair Opening Day Media Dinner Friday, August 22. The dinner kicks off the two-week-long fair.

Instructor Jeff Fairbanks said the four courses will include an appetizer, soup or salad, entrée and dessert, all prepared with local produce and meat. Each course also will be paired with local wines. Some of the businesses involved are Seasoning Bistro in Benton, Uncle Joe's BBQ in Ina and Pheasant Hollow Winery in Whittington.

"The Culinary Arts program has participated in past years with this event, and we stress to our students the importance of getting out there and doing exhibitions like these," said Fairbanks. "Our volunteers also will be helping out with some food and wine demonstrations on August 29. It should be a good experience for everyone involved."

During the dinner and subsequent demonstrations, Fairbanks, RLC Culinary Arts Lead Instructor Robert Wilson and other chefs will give a short presentation about how the food was prepared and why.

"There will be all sorts of people there ... and maybe Gov. Pat Quinn. The bands may also eat that night, so we might be serving Foreigner, too," said Fairbanks.

[A little later, it was announced the RLC Viticulture and Enology Science and Technology Alliance (VESTA) likewise will participate in DuQuoin State Fair demonstrations.

The Rend Lake College reps will be taking part in wine-tasting activities alongside the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association (IGGVA), including free daily food and wine pairing demonstrations.] / August '14

■ THIRD GRANT IS THE CHARM

For the third time, Rend Lake College's Coal Mine Training Center is receiving a Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety Grant to increase training options for coal miners and firefighters. The grant of \$92,247 is the largest of the three RLC has received in recent years – \$73,000 in 2012 and \$50,000 in 2009.

The RLC project, titled "Mine Emergency, Prevention and Preparedness Project," will restructure and expand on current mine training curriculum and create a new teaching environment using weather-tight sea containers. These two additions will challenge miners and rescue teams with skills including patient extraction, advanced firefighting skills, rope rescue, smoke exploration and confined space training.

Chris Nielsen, RLC Dean of Applied Science, said this grant will help relieve some of the financial burden from the participants and companies who participate in the one- and two-day training sessions. "We currently do fire training for the industry, with several sessions each week, and this grant will benefit the miners starting by paying for instructor costs. Without the grant, the coal companies pay the entire cost of instruction, facilities and equipment use," said Nielsen.

Additionally, the grant will help RLC expand on the coal firefighting training center by adding a multilevel mine facility north of the current fire tunnel at the Coal Mine Training Center.

"This will also allow us to expand our training center so we can train fire brigades and pay for the cost of instruction," said Nielsen. "We will produce new firefighting curriculum and host a mine skills rescue contest and a Mine Emergency Response Drill during the year."

There are currently 22 active mines in the 14 Illinois counties surrounding RLC. Those mines collectively employ close to 3,800 miners, and in 2013, produced slightly over 52 million tons of coal.

RLC also draws miners and firefighters from across the country to train in the state-of-the-art facility. Ron Rains, the lead firefighting instructor at RLC, said the grant will only increase the success of the Rend Lake College program. / October '14

■ CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANT

A new program for those interested in the health care industry will start Fall Semester 2015, and students can register now for general education courses leading up to the Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) program at Rend Lake College.

All general education courses are required for those who want to complete the Associate Degree program. At two years

and 66 credit hours, students can begin the program now to get a semester ahead of schedule.

There also will be a one-year, 36-credit hour certificate program offered, and students can register for some existing courses, such as Health Care Terminology, Anatomy and Physiology Fundamentals, Intro to Pharmacology and others.

The program will prepare students to work in medical offices, clinics and other outpatient facilities doing a number of tasks, including maintaining appointment schedules and medical records, billing, recording vital signs, obtaining medical histories and drawing blood.

Kim Robert, Dean of Allied Health, said the Associate Degree will better prepare students for jobs in the community with more communication skills and better opportunities for supervisory roles in an office setting.

"We're excited about the new Certified Medical Assistant program because we recognize it as a need for our students in the ever-changing health care industry," said Robert. "Both the degree and the certificate are a response to the needs in our district. It is all new, and we can't wait to get started next fall."

Medical assistants are projected to have much faster than average job growth by 2022, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, with more than 162,000 jobs coming into the market in the next eight years, a 29 percent increase.

After graduation, students can sit for the American Association of Medical Assistants examination. / December '14

■ L.A.P.D. EXPERT WITNESS

Students in Rend Lake College's Criminal Justice program got an up close and personal look at life in the field with Forensic and Criminal Investigative Analyst Michelle Doscher during a presentation earlier this week.

Doscher is a native of McKenzie, TN, who is currently working on her Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Forensic Psychology through Walden University while living in Mt. Vernon.

With years of work in criminology through the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Scientific Investigation Division, Doscher became an expert witness for the LAPD in crime scene investigations, toxicology, narcotics and blood alcohol. She also helped lead the crime laboratory to accreditation by the American Society of Crime Lab Directors.

During the presentation, Doscher shared tips of the trade with RLC students interested in a career in law enforcement. She also talked through several cases she worked with the LAPD, letting students

ask questions and make educated guesses based on the information she gathered as a forensic analyst.

One high-profile case she spoke about was the O. J. Simpson murder case, of which she caught the tail-end at the beginning of her criminology career with the LAPD. She said the changes she saw first-hand were huge in all areas of law enforcement.

"Everything changed after that case, from the way we presented ourselves to the training we received," said Doscher. "We had more money to purchase new and updated equipment, and for our departments to send us out for training. We learned how to write documents of a crime scene while on the scene, with the idea they're going straight to court right afterward." / February '15

■ CERTIFIED MACHINISTS NO. 1

Illinois' manufacturing industry is growing stronger by the year, as evident by the number of residents becoming certified machinists . . . a number that continues to grow annually. In 2014, the state led the nation for the first time in number of certified machinists at 2,285.

The Illinois Manufacturing Association (IMA) announced last month a total of 18,947 certificates were awarded in 2014 by the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) across the nation. Illinois certificates grew by 36 percent over 2013, when the state was listed in second nationally. Many of these certificates came from 28 community colleges, including Rend Lake College, that partner with the IMA to offer a number of manufacturing programs.

"Rend Lake College is proud to be a part of this growing industry by offering machining programs and classes to our students," said Chris Nielsen, Dean of Applied Science and Technology. "It's good to know what we're teaching is vital to the growth in our area and across the state." / February '15

■ TAKE O.N.E. BEFORE STARTING

Take the first step in online education with Rend Lake College's new orientation program, Online Navigation Essentials (ONE). RLC students enrolling in online or hybrid courses this fall will get to experience the world of online learning before ever accessing their credit course.

Developed by RLC's Online Learning Committee, ONE 1500 is designed to prepare students for online or hybrid courses by providing an introduction to the software and terminology, as well as providing helpful hints and tips to succeed. RLC students will be required to complete ONE prior to gaining access to

their online or hybrid course.

"Rend Lake College has implemented this new orientation for online and hybrid students to help them be more successful and understanding of the online courses they choose to take," said Chris Kuberski, RLC Vice President of Academic Instruction. "ONE will be a great way to help students recognize if online or hybrid courses are a good option for them and for their education before they are placed into the course."

An online class is defined as a course that is completely online, without any face-to-face classroom, laboratory, clinical or field meeting time required. Similarly, a hybrid course is one in which students substitute portions of classroom, laboratory, clinical or field meeting time with an online component. / February '15

■ ILLINOIS A.H.E.C. NETWORK

The Illinois Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Network will continue to develop throughout the state thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration.

The Illinois AHEC Network currently has four centers statewide – Rend Lake College, Fairfield Memorial Hospital, KSB Hospital in Polo and the Health and Medicine Policy Research Group in Chicago.

The four locations are part of a statewide initiative to provide specialized rural and urban medical education, pre-professional health careers development and exposure and activities and opportunities for students to participate in community health events.

Since its inception on RLC's campus in Fall 2013, the South Central Illinois (SCI) AHEC and Director Kelli Stover have provided support to students of all ages in local communities. One of the biggest projects is the annual Discovery Camp.

"Every year we host the Discovery Camp, a free, two-day experience for students in Grades 7-12 who want to learn more about health careers," said Stover. "It's a great opportunity to explore several careers and decide if it's something they will look into in their future."

In addition, the SCI-AHEC also coordinates job shadowing, Health Career presentations, Rural Health experiences, Community Health Initiative grants, educational funding for local students, In-A-Box toolkits for local grade and high school teachers and continuing education programs for health care professionals.

According to information from the National Center for Rural Health Professions at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford, the four current AHEC centers served nearly 25,000 pro-

gram participants from 2011 to 2014. In 2014 alone, there were 8,200 students and health professionals participating in the AHEC Network sponsored programs.

The Illinois AHEC Network provides educational programs to address the development and retention of the state's health workforce in both rural and urban areas. The goal is to improve access to and quality of care for the under-served. / February '15

■ CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORS

Several members of the RLC Criminal Justice Advisory Council met recently to talk about the program and what changes may lie in the future to benefit students who graduate and go into the workforce.

Those present were Darla Fitzjerells, Chief Probation Officer 2nd Judicial District; Honorable Judge Jo Beth Weber; Jeff Bullard, Detective Captain of the Mt. Vernon Police Department; Sheriff Travis Allen of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department; Gary McGill, RLC Chief of Police, and Damon Sims, RLC Assistant Chief of Security, as well as Ron Meek, RLC Criminal Justice Associate Professor. / April '15

■ ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH AGREEMENT

The Board of Trustees approved Articulation Agreements with two institutions in regard to Rend Lake College's Graphic Design Associate in Applied Science Degree program.

Stephens College in Columbia, MO, articulated its Bachelor of Science Degree in Graphic Design Communications. Rocky Mountain College of Arts + Design (CO) did likewise with its Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Graphic Design.

Both agreements allow students to seamlessly transfer upon completion of the required coursework at Rend Lake College. / May '15

■ MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Award-winning author and inspirational speaker Kim Olver will be stopping by Rend Lake College Tuesday, May 19, to provide an informative and educational workshop about mental health for professional and personal development.

Olver, a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC), will speak from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the RLC Theatre. Her workshop, called "Success Strategies for Working with Individuals with Mental Health Concerns," will help professionals, family members and friends learn to maximize success for those with mental health anxieties.

At the beginning of her presentation, Olver will have participants list the five basic human needs and identify the deficit needs in those with whom they work. She will then discuss ways for attendees

to help those they serve by having needs met in a responsible way. / May '15

■ VOLUNTEERS HAHS, SOBECK SALUTED

Nancy Hahs and Rebecca Sobeck: two unsung heroes at Rend Lake College who continue to devote their time and energy to students enrolled in Adult Education and Literacy programs.

Hahs has been nominated for the Spotlight on Service Award through the Illinois Secretary of State's Adult Volunteer Literacy grant and is one of only 10 tutors across the state to win. The Opdyke native has spent the last year volunteering as an Adult Literacy tutor at RLC, where she works one-on-one as well as in small groups with ESL (English Second Language) students.

After learning about the ESL Program from a church association, Hahs decided to put her knowledge of the Japanese language to the ultimate test. Currently, she serves learners from five different countries.

"This is one of the most rewarding projects I have ever encountered. I love helping people learn and succeed," said Hahs. "People who come here have dreams and hopes. They can't possibly accomplish either one of these if they can't communicate or understand our language. I think people should be taught so they can become givers, and not takers."

Hahs attended a special ceremony and luncheon at the Illinois State Library in Springfield where she received a \$200 check to be used for RLC's Adult Volunteer Literacy program, an Illinois Blue Book with her name, and a special plaque.

Similarly, Sobeck received special recognition from the Delta Kappa Gamma Society of Women Teachers at a special ceremony May 2 in Murphysboro for volunteer tutoring in Franklin County. The honor came after three years of tutoring students who wished to take the GED - now known as the High School Equivalency (HSE) test.

Sobek, originally from Mulkeytown and an alumni of RLC, now lives in Coello with her husband. As a child, she dreamed of becoming a teacher, but life took her on a different path. She was employed by Franklin-Williamson Illinois Bi-County Health Department when an automobile accident in 2011 did not allow her to return to work. Needing something to help fill her time, and after learning about RLC's Adult Volunteer Literacy program, she decided to follow her teaching dream.

"It feels so good to be able to give to someone else a little bit of yourself and make a friend in return," said Sobek. "It was a win-win situation where I could

learn to help someone else while getting help for myself."

Sobek said she will never forget her first student . . . a woman who needed tutoring for the math portion of the HSE test. Despite some learning problems, the student dedicated a lot of time and effort working on math, Sobek said. In the end, the student succeeded and received her GED. Sobek and the student were past nominees for the Spotlight on Service award. / May '15

■ MORE TEAMWORK WITH MO-BAPTIST

Rend Lake College graduates will soon have five options to continue their higher education with Bachelor Degrees through Missouri Baptist University. Currently, MBU offers four degrees on the RLC campus and is planning to add a Bachelor of Arts in Management Fall Semester.

Students will complete the Associate Degree program in their field of interest before taking the remaining credit hours from MBU on the RLC campus. Graduates will be prepared for careers as management analysts, operations managers, store managers, office managers, business owners, customer relations managers, property managers and many more.

Other programs between RLC and MBU are Criminal Justice and Behavioral Science with focus areas of Psychology, Sociology and Social Work. A Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice started in Fall 2012. Bachelor Degrees in Behavioral Science started in Spring 2015.

"Rend Lake College students really like the classes from MBU, because they last for eight-week time periods and we accept up to 90 transfer credits from RLC," said Dr. Julia Schroeder, Dean of the Southern Illinois Regional Learning Centers. "That means students only need another 40-42 credit hours from MBU to get a Bachelor's Degree. Plus, the students are very prepared to enter the programs at MBU and they do quite well." / May '15

2015-16

■ CHAMBERLAIN ONLINE OPTION

Graduates of RLC's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program will have a new online opportunity to continue their education starting this fall. Rend Lake College has teamed with Chamberlain College of Nursing to give graduates a seamless transition into a Bachelor's Degree program.

Under an articulation agreement signed at the July 14 Board meeting, Chamberlain College of Nursing, located in Downers Grove, will accept RLC Associate Degree Nursing graduates, provided they successfully complete the agreed upon coursework.

ADN graduates will be awarded up

to 72 credit hours in transfer, and will have to complete a minimum of 47 credit hours with Chamberlain for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree (BSN). Students will be required to submit an application, have a minimum grade-point average of 2.0 and hold a current and active Registered Nurse license.

According to the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, ADN registered nurses have a median pay of \$65,470 and work in hospitals, physicians offices, home health care services and nursing care facilities. The industry is expecting a faster than average growth – 19 percent or 526,800 new jobs – between 2012 and 2022 due to an emphasis on preventative care and an aging population. / July '15

■ HINDS A WINNING SPEAKER

Rend Lake College has one of the top 10 national speakers in its midst. Jesse Hinds of Bluford spent the spring and summer of 2015 rehearsing and perfecting a speech for the Cengage Learning Student Speech Video Contest, and was named as one of six honorary winners.

The 33-year-old History major said his persuasive speech focused on the efforts of Compassion International, a Christian organization that advocates to end spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty for children around the world. Hinds and his wife, Ann, sponsor a child through the organization, and his speech encouraged others to do the same.

"We sponsor a child and it's something I've become very passionate about," explained Hinds. "I talk about it as much and as often as I can. An idea is not important unless you can communicate it."

Every spring, Cengage Learning hosts the Student Speech Video Contest, wherein four students are named Grand Prize Winners and six are named Honorary Winners from across the country. Hinds and the other five honorary winners received \$250 awards.

Hinds said public speaking is very important for students going into many different career paths, and is essential for his future career as an ordained minister. Currently, Hinds serves as an Associate Minister at Wesley United Methodist Church in Mt. Vernon, where he helps lead small groups and Bible studies.

After graduating from RLC in May 2016, Hinds said he will continue his History degree at Southern Illinois University before going into seminary school.

He said Dr. Elizabeth Bailey-Smith's Speech class last spring helped him work on the public speaking skills he will be using regularly for the rest of his life.

"Dr. Bailey-Smith asked me to enter

the contest and initially I said no, but she was very persistent. She supported and encouraged me to enter because she thought I'd do well, and she was right," said Hinds. / September '15

■ FILM PRODUCER/DIRECTOR VISITS

Film Producer and Director Dan Steadman dropped by the RLC Theatre Monday afternoon to speak with Tracey Webb's Acting class. His lecture covered the business of acting, writing and everything in between.

Steadman is an independent film Producer and Director who just recently finished his latest film, "Proximity." The movie includes a small role featuring St. Louis Cardinals Pitcher Adam Wainwright in his first-ever comedic role on film. It is sure to be a nice treat for all of the Cardinals fans in the area.

"It was very cool. He's into comedy," said Steadman about Wainwright. "We gave him a comedic role we thought would be very different for him."

Steadman started off working in television all over the country from Michigan to Florida and California. He recently worked his way back to the Midwest, doing independent feature films such as "Belleville," and now "Proximity" – filmed mostly in the Centralia area. Steadman says he really enjoys working with people from the Midwest.

"After they watch I want people to say, 'Yeah that's me. That's the Midwest. That's my take on things, you know? . . . They're all just people and they really are actors from the Midwest. We did cast from here and members of our crew are from here as well."

He hopes audiences connect with the characters of "Proximity" and find them relatable. Steadman's passion for truth echoes throughout his writing.

"It's not like I'm writing these characters to be role models," he said. "I just want people to see truth in it."

He encouraged students in the Theatre class to tell their own stories. He also offered ideas on getting started and furthering themselves in the film business. He touched on topics from writing to editing and acting, and the process of selecting his own actors and crew members.

Steadman said he was happy to be able to talk with the students at RLC and that he was excited to find even more creative minds in the southern Illinois area.

"I hope the students will be a part of our red carpet premiere in December," he said. "I hope they take advantage of all the fun things we will be doing next month."

"Proximity" is a romantic comedy. Wainwright plays just one of three men in a love triangle that Ella (Jackie Manker)

finds herself in while returning to her mom's summer cottage in Centralia. Rounding out the triangle are young jazz musician Tyler (Cody Heuer) and wealthy surgeon Dr. Gordon (Bill Finkbiner) in this PG 13-style romantic comedy.

"I was thrilled Adam Wainwright wanted to be in this, and that he trusted me," says Steadman. "Truthfully, we've all seen athletes on shows like Saturday Night Live – unsuccessfully doing comedy. But in the case of Adam, he really pulled up his black dad socks and played a nerdy ex-boyfriend of our lead character, Ella. He was really funny."

Steadman left Webb's class with one final thought. "If you are a storyteller of any kind – in any genre – tell personal stories that only you can tell." / November '15

■ NURSE ASSISTANT ADVISORS

Members of the RLC Certified Nurse Assistant Advisory Board met to discuss the status of the program's curriculum and determine if any upgrades are necessary to benefit students who graduate prior to going into the workforce.

Present for the gathering were Mariah Minor of Mt. Vernon Healthcare and Rehab, Linda Mueller of Coulterville Rehab and Healthcare, Ian Zane Perkins of Stonebridge Senior Living and Christy Simpson of Mt. Vernon Healthcare and Rehab. They were joined by Regional Program of Study Coordinator Betty Musgrave, CNA part-time Instructor Lillian Bogan, CNA Associate Professor Ashley Marthaler, RLC Clinical Coordinator of Radiologic Technology Bria Robinson and RLC Dean of Allied Health Kim Wilkerson. / March '16

■ CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORS

Members of the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee met to share ideas and discuss the future of their field and what changes can be made to help better prepare RLC students after graduation.

Participants included Sheriff Travis Allen, Jefferson County; Sheriff Steve Bareis, Perry County; Sean Dees, President of Advanced Investigative Services; Michelle Doscher, retired Los Angeles Police Department Criminalist; Assistant Chief Trent Page, Mt. Vernon Police Department; Steve Peeples, retired Illinois Department of Corrections Parole Agent, and Julia Schroeder, Dean of Southern Illinois Regional Learning Centers for Missouri Baptist University.

Also, RLC reps Damon Sims, Assistant Chief of Police; Ron Meek, Criminal Justice Associate Professor; Scott Peeples, Criminal Justice Instructor; Ricky Robinson, Computer Networking Professor, and Chris Nielsen, Dean of Applied Science and Technology. / April '16

STUDENT / STAFF ART AWARD-WINNERS

Program paints pretty picture of a longstanding success story recognized far and wide

1977-78

■ SUSAN KOLOJESKI

The administration continues to hear good things about one of its own . . . the RLC Art Instructor. From Pat Hackley and the Lincoln (NE) Quilters Guild for "her fine presentation during Quilt Symposium '77" and from WSIU Director of Programming Virginia Mampre, who had the "pleasure of working with her as she produced and directed four half-hour films on patchwork." / August '77

■ SUSAN KOLOJESKI

RLC Art Instructor awarded a finalist medal in the Great Quilts of America Contest, sponsored by the U.S. Historical Society, Good Housekeeping and the Museum of American Folk Art. "Wrappers," a baby quilt, was made from Xerox Color Transfers of chewing gum wrappers, pieced together in the traditional "Roman Stripe" pattern. Her award-winning quilt, designed and created by Kolojeski, was one of almost 10,000 entries in the nationwide competition.

Kolojeski received her Master's Degree from the Chicago Art Institute and has been working with quilts for several years. Entries were judged on overall beauty and attractiveness, design interpretation, color selection and combination, appropriateness of materials used, quilting technique and workmanship and originality of design. / May '78

1978-79

■ SUSAN KOLOJESKI

The Art Instructor from Rend Lake College was a guest lecturer at the Chicago Art Institute November 30 as part of the Museum Education Department's continuing series of presentations. Her lecture, "An Illinois Quilt Tradition," was held in conjunction with an exhibition of quilts in the Chicago Art Institute's permanent collection of quilts; accompanying illustrations were of Southern Illinois quilts and their makers.

Four of Kolojeski's color photographs of Southern Illinois quilts are featured in the December issue of *Bluegrass Woman*, a Kentucky bimonthly magazine. The photographs were used to illustrate an article by Nancy Adams entitled, "Patchworks: History in Patterns." / December '78

■ SUSAN KOLOJESKI

Trustees were informed the RLC Art Instructor received a Merit Award in Illinois State Museum craft competition for her quilt, "Wrappers." Dr. Harry Braun also announced Kolojeski had just been

notified the quilt has been selected for "Stitchery 79" competition of the Embroiders Guild of Pittsburgh, one of the largest and best known needlework exhibits sponsored annually in the United States. / February '79

1979-80

■ SUSAN KOLOJESKI

A letter from Coordinator Janet Carl Smith and the Cultural Center of the City of Chicago relative to the exhibition, "Quilts: A Tradition in Southern Illinois," developed and curated by the RLC Art Instructor, stated: "Ms. Kolojeski created an exhibit that has generated high praise from both critics and the general public." / February '80

1981-82

■ PAULINE STEWART

An oil painting by Rend Lake College Student Pauline Stewart was awarded "Best of Show" honors during October in the Illinois Community College Art Competition held in Kankakee.

The painting, entitled "Abstract Tree," was one of three submitted by the Ewing resident. It earned her a \$100 monetary award.

Other entries judged best by critic James Butler were an oil painting, "Still Life I," by Roberta Waszak Chamberlin of Joliet Junior College, first, \$50; an untitled clay sculpture by Kathy Kamm of Belleville Area College, second, \$25, and a basket, "It Won't Hold Water," by Toni Salterfield of Eastern Illinois University, third, \$10.

Two other Rend Lake College students, Vera Drennan and Carrie Peacock, submitted entries to the competition, which included 66 pieces of art from 15 colleges. Six of the 20 Honorable Mentions awarded by James Butler of Illinois State University went to the three RLC representatives, whose works included oil paintings, a watercolor painting and a drawing in ink.

According to RLC Instructor Kathleen Nicholson, the intent of the competition is to validate the efforts of students in their first and second years of study and to encourage those efforts which succeed at effectively combining the universal elements of line, color, value, texture and shape in creating a work of art. / October '81

■ KATHY NICHOLSON

The RLC Art Instructor exhibited her work February 6-April 15 at the Visual Art Center of the Alexandria (LA) Museum. She also presented a workshop there in conjunction with the exhibit. / March '82

1982-83

■ CAPPS SHOWS TWO PIECES AT S.I.U.C.

Two pieces by Sarah Capps, RLC Art Instructor, are on exhibit through September 19 at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in an invitational metals show.

"Twenty Years of Metal from SIUC" features the work of L. Brent Kington, Director of the School of Art, and his former graduate assistants. The exhibition is in the University Museum, located in Faner Hall.

The two works by Capps are "Luna Neckpiece II," a chased sterling silver necklace, and "Luna Handmirror," made of chased copper, brass, ivory, teak, moonstone and a mirror.

Capps also is a prize-winning painter. Recently, one of her watercolors, entitled "He Has Always Lived There," claimed two awards at the Mitchell Museum's "Southern Illinois Artists Competition." Her work won the "Best of Media" Award and the "Carl Lincoln Schweinfurth Purchase Award." / September '82

1983-84

■ WINNING TRIO AT 'TOWN/COUNTRY'

Three of the six RLC students who had works accepted in the 24th Annual Jefferson County "Town and Country Art Show" were winners and will have their efforts entered in regional competition.

Wilma Jenkins Highsmith claimed two blue ribbons and one red ribbon with her entries, "Tulip With a Bee," "Still Proud" and "Lunch on a Covered Bridge."

Therese Howard won a blue ribbon in watercolor with her work, "Daughter in Wedding Dress" and a red ribbon in acrylics for "Surprise," while Dorothy Williams was awarded blue and red ribbons, respectively, for "Back Side of Williams Farm" and "Isolated."

Other students whose pieces were displayed in the exhibit March 23-25 at the Times Square Mall in Mt. Vernon are Betty Renshaw, Paula Beaty and Elsie Nadolski.

Pieces receiving a ribbon are eligible to be entered in the regional "Town and Country Art Show" that displays work from 20 Southern Illinois counties. It is slated June 8-10 at the Cedarhurst Art Center in Mt. Vernon. / April '84

■ EVANSVILLE MUSEUM AWARD

A watercolor by RLC Instructor Sarah Capps, entitled "Cabbage," earned one of four \$1,500 Purchase Awards from Mead Johnson and Company in competition at the Evansville (IN) Museum of Arts and Science. Capps also was a guest of honor

at the museum June 9 for the Second Annual "Realism Today" Awards Preview showing. / June '84

1984-85

■ J.A.L.C. 'PURCHASE AWARD'

Art Instructor Sarah Capps was recipient of the "Purchase Award" at the John A. Logan College Art Exhibit. Her work, purchased for \$500, will remain behind as part of the permanent collection at the Carterville-based community college.

"Celebrate Southern Illinois," a show by area artists, is scheduled September 30-October 14.

The winning painting by Capps, "Blue Haze," captures an autumn landscape scene in the state park near Salem.

Judges for the show were Michael O'Brien, Visual Arts Curator for the Illinois Arts Council in Chicago, and Martin DeWitt, Director of the Burpee Art Museum in Rockford.

The juried arts exhibition is funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council. / September '84

■ TWO CLAIM CEDARHURST HONORS

Two RLC Art students took honors in the Mt. Vernon Art Guild Fall Exhibition at the Cedarhurst Art Center.

Marlene Webb (Ewing) boasted top honors, the Grumbacher Bronze Medalion Award presented to the best work in any painting medium, with a watercolor painting entitled, "Emily."

Therese Howard (Orient) claimed three ribbons with different entries. Her watercolor, "Cat Fight," and her pencil sketch, "Cat Nappin," each received first-place blue ribbons, while another watercolor, "Trick or Treat Trio," was awarded a red ribbon. / November '84

■ ILLINOIS C.C. JURIED ART EXHIBIT

Nine Rend Lake College students had a total of 11 pieces accepted for entry in the annual Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibit at the Kankakee C.C. Art Gallery. Any student enrolled during the last two years is eligible. / February '85

1985-86

■ 'MID-STATES ART EXHIBIT'

Rend Lake College Art Instructor Sarah Capps has had a painting accepted in the 38th Annual "Mid-States Art Exhibit" held at the Evansville (IN) Museum of Arts and Sciences.

Her oil painting, entitled "Graveyard - Big Hill Kentucky," was one of 60 accepted works out of nearly 600 entries submitted.

The exhibit, which runs throughout the month of November until December 1, is open to artists residing in Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. / November '85

■ TWO STUDENTS TAKE HONORS

Two nontraditional Art students - Elsie Nadolski and Marlene Webb - did RLC Mentor Sarah Capps proud by claiming "Best of Show" and "Best of Media," respectively, in the Mt. Vernon Art Guild Fall Exhibit at the Cedarhurst Art Center. / November '85

■ ILLINOIS JUCO OPEN ART

Five RLC students have recently had work accepted in the 1986 Illinois Junior College Open Art Competition. It is sponsored by the Art Students League of Southern Illinois University and is open to all students currently enrolled in an Associate of Arts program in any community college within the State of Illinois.

The show will be on display from February 24-March 20 in the Faner Gallery at SIU-Carbondale.

The works of RLC students selected are "Cat Fight" and "Two Little Dolls" by Therese Howard and "My Neighbor Got a New Hat" and "Woman in a Red Kimono" by Marlene Webb, in addition to "One Million Dogs" by Felicia Manis, "A Day at the Circus" by Elsie Nadolski and "Holly" by Rose Marie Pestka.

Judges were L. Brent Kingston, Director of the School of Art at SIUC, Head of Graduate Studies Michael Onkean and Associate Professor of Design Larry Briggs. / January '86

■ 'BEST OF SHOW' FOR WEBB

Rend Lake College's Marlene Webb of Ewing and Felicia Manis of Thompsonville walked off with top honors in the Illinois Junior College Open Art Competition sponsored by the Art Students League of Southern Illinois University.

A watercolor by Webb, "My Neighbor Got a New Hat," earned her the \$200 "Best of Show" Award, along with a \$1,000 Mitchell Fellowship for continuing education in art.

Manis received a "Purchase" Award sponsored by SIUC University Relations for a tempera design, "One Million Dogs."

Presentations were made February 24 at an awards ceremony in Faner Gallery on the Carbondale campus. / February '86

■ 'TOWN AND COUNTRY'

Two advanced Art students from RLC were among the award-winners in the recent "Town and Country Art Show" held at Times Square Mall in Mt. Vernon.

Rose Pestka (Scheller) claimed three second-place awards for "Riverwalk," "First Snow - Green River" and "Dawn Reflections." Elsie Nadolski (Mt. Vernon) also took second with an acrylic, "My Home." Their work was selected from approximately 150 entries. / April '86

1986-87

■ '10th STREET MARKET' A WINNER

A painting of a local fruit market is on display at the Evansville (IN) Museum of Arts and Sciences.

The watercolor, entitled "10th Street Market," is the work of RLC Art Instructor Sarah Capps and was recently purchased for the Corporate Collection of Mead Johnson & Co. of Evansville. The painting portrays a Mt. Vernon business.

The work can be viewed through July 20 as part of the "Realism Today" exhibit.

Mead Johnson & Co. also owns another watercolor painting by Capps. "Cabbage" won a \$1,500 Purchase Award from that company in the 1984 "Realism Today" exhibition. / July '86

■ KINGTON EXECUTES SCULPTURE

Brent Kingston, a Professor in the School of Art at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, has executed a kinetic sculpture from his stainless steel series in honor of the upcoming 20th Anniversary celebration of Rend Lake College. The 10-foot by 6-foot work is scheduled to be dedicated in November. / August '86

■ FORMER STUDENT FIRST AT LOGAN

Former RLC Art student Therese Howard won first place in the Drawing category at the 1986 Painting and Drawing Show which opened November 15 at John A. Logan College in Carterville.

Howard (Orient) received the \$150 first prize for her pen-and-ink drawing entitled, "Fresh from the Vine: The Early Morning Harvest."

The exhibit featuring work by Illinois artists residing south of Interstate 70 was judged by John Streetman of the Evansville (IN) Museum of Arts and Sciences. / November '86

■ CAPPS, MITCHELL IN BIENNIAL SHOW

RLC Art Instructors Sarah Capps and Debra Mitchell have had work accepted into the "Sixth Biennial Watercolor Illinois" exhibition to be held at the Tarble Arts Center at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

The entries by Capps, "King of the Hill" and "Maude," are both recent works done in transparent watercolor. Mitchell's piece, "Pahankic," is done in gouache and opaque media.

The show will be January 9 through February 1. / December '86

■ EIGHT REPRESENT R.L.C. AT STATE

Eight Rend Lake College students have had work accepted in the "Illinois Community College Art Exhibition," which will be on display to the public through February 26 at Kankakee Community College.

Included are an oil painting by Dorothy Allen (McLeansboro) entitled, "Summer's Child"; two works by Misti Rae Collins (Wayne City), "Nightwatch," a pen-and-ink, and "Cosmic Casa," tempera; "Leaf," a pen-and-ink drawing by Cheryl Dame (Sesser), and a tempera design by Stephen Garipey (Benton), "Land of the Kings."

Also, a pen-and-ink optical illusion by Cathy Morgan (Mulkeytown), "Mass Confusion"; a tempera design by Tina Morgan (Zeigler), "Butterfly Land"; a watercolor painting by Peter Omiotek (Mt. Vernon), "Pete's Pumpkin," and a tempera painting by Ken Walls (Coello), "Oriental Scholar." / February '87

■ 'LEAF' TURNS INTO CASH FOR DAME

Eight Rend Lake College Art students, including cash award-winner Cheryl Dame (Sesser), have been cited for "Awards of Excellence" in Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition competition at Kankakee C.C.

Dame claimed one of the top eight awards in the annual statewide event with her ink drawing, "Leaf." [See preceding story for others recognized.]

Edward McCullough, nationally known sculptor, served as judge. / March '87

■ 'TOWN AND COUNTRY' HONORS

Two Art students from Rend Lake College were among award-winners at the annual Jefferson County "Town and Country Exhibit" conducted March 21-22 at Times Square Mall in Mt. Vernon.

Elsie Nadolski (Mt. Vernon) walked away with one first-place ribbon and one second for her watercolors, while Therese Howard (Orient) won a first for her pen-and-ink and two seconds for acrylic pieces. / March '87

■ 'TOWN AND COUNTRY' II HONORS

Two RLC Art students took honors recently at the regional "Town and Country Art Exhibit" held at Taylor Motors in Benton, according to Instructor Sarah Capps.

Therese Howard of Orient took "Best of Show" distinction with her pen-and-ink drawing, "Fresh from the Vine, the Early Morning Harvest." Mt. Vernon's Elsie Nadolski claimed the first-place ribbon for her watercolor, "Stormy Night I."

As a result of their showing in regional competition, both students' works are eligible to go to the State "Town and Country Exhibit" to be held in Champaign this September. / May '87

1987-88

■ HOMETOWN ARTIST MAKES GOOD

RLC Art student Gerald Mayberry, a sophomore from McLeansboro, captured first place with his charcoal/chalk drawing, "After the Gig," in competition

September 18-19 as part of the annual McLeansboro Fall Festival.

Mayberry is an Art major. His work also won awards in the annual Student and Faculty Art exhibition held last spring on the RLC campus. / September '87

■ WEBB & FRIENDS DOMINATE

Three of the top four awards in the "Southern Illinois Women - Their Art and Craft" exhibit were claimed by Rend Lake College students.

The exhibit will be on display September 11 through October 5 in the John A. Logan College Galleries in Carterville.

Receiving "Best of Show" honors was RLC's Marlene Webb (Ewing).

Sue Stotlar (Benton) earned a first-place award and had her work purchased by the host school. Therese Howard (Orient) received a third-place award.

RLC Art Instructor Sarah Capps also will have work exhibited. / September '87

■ R.L.C. WELL-REPRESENTED

The Art program at Rend Lake College is well-represented with six works in the 12th Biennial Southern Illinois Artists Open Competition and Exhibition on display through October 18 at the Mitchell Museum in Mt. Vernon.

The exhibit includes: "King of the Hill," a watercolor by RLC Art Instructor Sarah Capps; "Cactus and Tomatoes on Window Sill," an acrylic by Therese Howard (Orient); "Sandblaster," a watercolor by Alma Lohrum (Mt. Vernon); "Surrogate Garden #18," gouache, by Instructor Debra Mitchell; "After the Parade," pastel by Sue Stotlar (Benton), and "It was Sweet and Good," watercolor by Marlene Webb (Ewing).

Competition was open to Southern Illinois artists south of Interstate 70. Works represented a variety of media - paintings, drawings, graphics, mixed media, fibers, sculptures and clay. / September '87

■ THREE CLAIM ART GUILD HONORS

Three RLC Art students claimed awards in the recent Mt. Vernon Art Guild Autumn Art Exhibit held at the Cedarhurst Art Center.

Sue Stotlar of Benton took two awards. She received the Judges' Choice Award for a pastel entitled, "Light and Shadows," and her untitled watercolor earned a blue ribbon.

Two blue ribbons were awarded to Ewing artist Marlene Webb. Her winning entries were a watercolor, "Cindy," and an untitled mixed media painting.

Therese Howard of Orient was the recipient of a blue ribbon for her acrylic, "Tomatoes for Lunch," and won a red ribbon for her alkyd painting, "Noon Break."

The Autumn Art Guild competitive

show, an annual event open to all area artists, was judged by Vic Connor of Olney Central College. / November '87

■ TWO ARTISTS IN AT JOLIET

Two Rend Lake College Art students had work accepted in the Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition held during February and early March at the Laura A. Sprague Gallery of Joliet Junior College.

RLC was represented by a tempera painting entitled "The Amazing Tree," by Rhonda Eaton of Mt. Vernon and another tempera work, "Contentment," by Sherry Taylor of Benton.

The annual competition is open to all community colleges in the state. Ten colleges participated, with 49 works selected from 350 entries. / March '88

■ MITCHELL FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

Two Art students from Rend Lake College, Therese D. Howard of Orient and Elsie Nadolski of Mt. Vernon, are recipients of \$2,000 Mitchell Fellowships presented by the Art Department of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Three Mitchell Fellowships in all were awarded to prospective students who submitted their art work for scholarship consideration and admission into the SIUC Art program.

Howard is a 1987 graduate of Rend Lake College and has served as a teaching assistant in the Art program under the direction of Sarah Capps. Nadolski will be receiving her Associate of Arts Degree from Rend Lake College in May. / April '88

■ EVANSVILLE 'PURCHASE AWARD'

Honored to have one of only 36 entries chosen from the total of 392 submitted nationwide, RLC Art Instructor Sarah Capps was even more ecstatic to learn her painting was recipient of a Purchase Award at the 1988 Evansville "Realism Today" Exhibition. / June '88

1988-89

■ 'WATERCOLOR: ILLINOIS '89'

Sarah Capps, RLC Art Instructor, recently received the David and Susanna Buchanan Purchase Award in the Watercolor: Illinois '89' exhibition at the Tarble Arts Center on the Eastern Illinois University campus in Charleston.

Capps won for her painting, "The Greenhouse Effect." Seventy-seven artists entered 181 works. / January '89

■ 'SEVEN PAINTERS / FIVE STATES'

Art Instructor Sarah Capps is one of the regional artists to be invited to exhibit four works each in "Seven Painters / Five States." Participants are from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri. / April '89

1989-90

■ SIX IN STATE JURIED ART EXHIBIT

Six students from Rend Lake College had works accepted into the Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition, which is on display during the month of February at the Kankakee Community College Art Gallery.

Of the nine entries submitted by RLC students, eight were accepted into the contest which emphasizes the best in community college art work from all over the state, according to RLC Instructor Sarah Capps.

"To have this many of our entries accepted is a remarkable achievement for our students and proves to me Rend Lake College students can compete with the best anywhere," Capps said.

Local participants include Susan Schulz (Pinckneyville) with two entries, "Quencher" and "Gothic Jewel," both done in tempera, and Donna Todd (Dix), also with two entries, a watercolor entitled "Can I Have Him Please" and "Grand Canyon," an acrylic painting.

Also included are Linda Johnson (Mt. Vernon) with her oil painting, "Irish Wolfbound"; Michelle Nelson (Mt. Vernon), with a watercolor, "Thelma's Cat"; Heather Montague (Mt. Vernon) with a tempera design, "Grinding Gears," and Steve Schwarz (Pinckneyville) with his oil painting, "Salvage at Fisher's Garage." / February '90

■ CAPPS TIMES 4 AT EVANSVILLE

Sarah Capps has four watercolor paintings on display in a regional exhibit, "Seven Painters / Five States," through April 1 at the Evansville (IN) Museum of Arts and Sciences.

The show features artists from Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Illinois. Capps was the only artist from Illinois asked to participate.

Her watercolors depict scenes from Southern Illinois life – parades, church picnics and special ceremonies, such as the one in "Memorial Day," a scene illustrating recent services in Salem. / March '90

1990-91

■ THERESE HOWARD

The RLC graduate and part-time instructor claimed top honors at the "Arts in Celebration" Fine Arts Competition exhibit at Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Carbondale. The exhibition featured 45 works of Illinois artists south of Interstate 70 from a total of 205 entries.

Howard received the \$1,000 Southern Illinois University Foundation "Purchase Award." / October '90

■ MIDSTATES ART 'MERIT AWARD'

RLC Art Instructor Sarah Capps has won acclaim once again in competition through the Evansville (IN) Museum of Arts and Sciences.

She is recipient of the Psi Iota Xi, Zeta Psi Chapter, Graphic Arts or Watercolor Merit Award in the 43rd Annual Mid-states Art exhibition. The Belle Rive artist received one of 13 monetary purchase and/or merit awards for her watercolor, entitled "Stillness."

The exhibit, which runs through December 9, is open to artists residing in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee. Out of nearly 500 entrants, 49 pieces were chosen for the exhibit, which features works in all medias.

Works were judged by John W. Coffey, Curator of American and Modern Art at the North Carolina Museum of Art. / November '90

■ BIENNIAL WATERCOLOR EXHIBIT

Three paintings by Rend Lake College Art Instructor Sarah Capps have been accepted into the Eighth Biennial Watercolor Illinois Exhibition on the Eastern Illinois University campus in Charleston.

The exhibit runs from December 7 through January 13 in the Tarble Arts Center. / November '90

■ 'REALISM TODAY' EXHIBIT

Art Instructor Sarah Capps has had her watercolor, "Morning Chores," accepted in the Ninth Annual "Realism Today" Exhibition at the Evansville (IN) Museum of Arts and Sciences. The show, which runs through July 14, showcases contemporary realism and features artists from Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio and Tennessee. Capps won Purchase Awards from "Realism Today" shows in both 1984 and 1988. / June '91

1991-92

■ HOWARD 'BEST' AT DUQUOIN FAIR

Two artists with RLC connections were winners in recent competition at the DuQuoin State Fair. Instructor Therese Howard was dominating. Nine of the 11 works she submitted were accepted and two won "Best of Show" accolades in the DuQuoin State Fair Professional Art Exhibit. In addition to her two "Bests" – an oil entitled, "Portrait of the Artist," and a watercolor, "T.C. on the Front Porch" – six other Howard entries received first-place ribbons, and she picked up two seconds and a third.

Art student Gene Krone (Tamaroa) won two first-place ribbons and a second in the Amateur Class Art Exhibit with his oil paintings, "The Pathway," "Grandma's Iris" and "Cats at Play." / September '91

■ ART PROGRAM 'FINEST IN S. ILLINOIS'

The RLC Board of Trustees received copies of a letter from L. Brent Kington, Director of the School of Art and Design at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale which stated:

"Under the dedicated and capable guidance of Sarah Capps, your college has without question the finest (art) program of all the community college programs in the Southern Illinois area . . ."

". . . I have always found the students from Rend Lake College very competitive and very well prepared to enter advanced study in the arts at SIUC." / June '92

■ BRISTOL-MYERS PURCHASE AWARD

Art Instructor Sarah Capps earned the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company Purchase Award at an annual exhibit hosted by the Evansville (IN) Museum of Arts and Sciences. She also has agreed to hang a 10-year retrospective exhibit next spring in conjunction with the Student Art Advisory Commission. / July '92

1992-93

■ DYE PAINTING ON 'THE GUIDE' COVER

An oil painting by Rend Lake College Sophomore Tony Dye was featured on the cover of the September/October edition of *The Guide*, a publication of Equitable Reserve Association. The landscape, entitled "Dunnervitter," was the first-place winner in the insurance company's 17-21 age category in its annual art competition.

The Mt. Vernon artist was aware his work had been judged best in his age group, but he was not aware it would be on the cover (bottom half) of the publication. "I pulled it out of the mail and did a double-take. It took me awhile to realize it was my painting I was looking at," he admitted. The bimonthly magazine is distributed in 12 Midwestern states.

"Dunnervitter," which means "thunder" in German, shows a country road with crops on both sides, a barn in the distance and an approaching thunderstorm.

Dye's artwork was on display from May through July in Equitable's corporate headquarters in Neenah, WI.

In addition to the winner, Dye also received an Honorable Mention in the same contest. In three previous years entering the age-group competition, he garnered two second-place finishes, a third and another Honorable Mention. / September '92

■ WATERCOLOR 'PURCHASE AWARD'

"Morning Chores," a watercolor by RLC Instructor Sarah Capps, was recipient of the David and Susanna Buchanan Purchase Award in the Ninth Biennial Watercolor: Illinois exhibition at Tarble Art Center in Charleston.

Her painting was presented the second-highest award in the competition by Juror Jeanette Pasin-Sloan, nationally recognized watercolorist. At the close of the exhibition, "Morning Chores" will be added to the Buchanan's private collection. Capps also won the Buchanan Award in 1989. / October '92

■ NEAVILLE WINS 'JUROR'S AWARD'

Betty Neaville of Pinckneyville claimed one of the 10 "Juror's Awards" at the Annual Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition. Her award-winner was a jewelry necklace constructed from wrapped and woven fine brass wire. Five of 39 works selected for inclusion in the February 8-26 exhibition at Joliet Jr. College were by RLC students. / February '93

■ 'DINNER ON THE GROUNDS' CHOSEN

"Dinner on the Grounds," a painting by Sarah Capps which depicts an old-fashioned church picnic scene, is one of 98 pieces selected from over 1,500 submitted by more than 500 artists for the Berkeley (CA) Art Center Association's Ninth Annual "National Juried Exhibition, Part II, Works on Paper."

The winning entries will be on display July 18-August 22 at Berkeley Art Center.

Awards totalling \$1,500 were made by Jurors Rupert Garcia, Karen Tsujimoto and Rupert Jenkins after viewing actual works and will be announced at the opening reception.

"Dinner on the Grounds" has been reproduced in limited prints. Its acceptance into a national show represents a first for Capps, a frequent winner in competition throughout the Midwest. / July '93

1993-94

■ HOWARD 'BEST OF SHOW' AT FAIR

RLC graduate and part-time Instructor Therese Howard walked off with "Best of Show" honors in the Professional Watercolor category at the DuQuoin State Fair. Her award-winning entry was a small painting of a "Dock at Rend Lake."

/ September '93

■ CAPPS JUROR AT LINCOLN HOME

The RLC Art Instructor will serve as a Juror for the Illinois Artisans Program Spring Jury session to be held at the Lincoln Home Artisans Shop Conference Center Monday, March 21.

Capps will be one of three jurors statewide to select artists for acceptance into the Illinois Artisans Program which is represented by three Illinois Artisans shops – the State of Illinois Center in Chicago; Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, and the Southern Illinois Arts and Crafts Marketplace in Whittington.

/ March '94

■ ARTISTS OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

The Rend Lake College Art program was well-represented in the Artists of Southern Illinois Exhibition held in conjunction with the HerrinFesta Italiana in Herrin May 27-30 and featuring artists and craftsmen from all over the region.

The exhibition was organized by Joyce Fisher, a Rend Lake College Art student and wife of Chemistry Instructor John Fisher.

Winning the Julia Harrison Bruce Foundation Merit Award for her watercolor, "Derelicts," was RLC Art Instructor Sarah Capps. She also won the Richard Simmons Memorial Award for "Close Encounters at the Drive-In Theater" and the People's Choice Award – Artist – First Place.

Dayna Hartley (Centralia) claimed the Marjorie and Sam Stotlar Merit Award for her watercolor, "The Elvis is Alive Museum." Ken Plumlee (Tamaroa) won the DeBernardi Merit Award for his oil painting, "Cantas 'A' Glow."

Awards were selected by Juror Bonnie Speed, Director of Visual Arts for the Mitchell Museum in Mt. Vernon. / May '94

1994-95

■ ART STUDENT EDNA AUSTIN, 87

Part-time RLC art student Edna Austin is proof community college's live up to their motto, "Where learning never ends." The 87-year-old resident of Texico has studied art under Sarah Capps since 1985, when she retired from the restaurant business – Austin's Restaurant, well-known for its fried chicken and homemade pies, in Dix, near the Interstate 57 exit – and started taking classes with her daughter-in-law, Jane Austin. / Fall '94

■ ILLINOIS STATE FAIR 'BEST OF SHOW'

"Derelicts," a watercolor by Sarah Capps, earned the "Governor's Award / Best of Show" at the Illinois State Fair Professional Art Exhibition. Following the August 12-21 fairgrounds display, the photo-realist painting of old tractors at a Sesser repair shop will be placed in the collection of the Executive Mansion in Springfield.

Capps also claimed a third-place ribbon for "Close Encounters at the Drive-In Theater." "Close Encounters" also took "Best of Show" distinction earlier in the summer at HerrinFesta Italiana competition.

Four works by the talented, photo-realist painter Capps are part of the Bristol-Myers Corporation collection after she earned Purchase Awards and others in competition at the Evansville (IN) Museum of Arts and Sciences. / September '94

■ EPILEPSY FOUNDATION BENEFITS

Rend Lake College art students, through class-sponsored Halloween projects, raised \$433 for the Epilepsy Foundation. / October '94

■ DOLLY NICKEL

The Adult Education Counselor entered three of her photographs in the "Town and Country Art Show" at Cedarhurst Art Center and walked off with two prizes.

Nickel received the "Judges' Choice" Award – Best of Show for one photo and a Blue Ribbon for another. / November '94

■ WATERCOLOR: ILLINOIS

RLC Art faculty and students will be well-represented at the Tenth Biennial Exhibition – Watercolor: Illinois to be held December 3-January 22 at Tarble Arts Center in Charleston.

Two works were accepted from both RLC Art Instructors, Sarah Capps and Therese Howard, and from part-time Media Graphics employee/art student Dayna Hartley (Centralia). Alma Petry, an alumnus of the Art program, had one of her watercolors accepted. / November '94

■ ILLINOIS C.C. JURIED ART EXHIBIT

Four "Juror's Awards" were presented to Rend Lake College students in the annual Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition, on display during February at the Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery at Joliet Junior College.

"Juror's Awards," the highest distinction given to selected entries, went to: Craig Daniels (Mt. Vernon), for "Stealth," a belt buckle in the Jewelry competition; Ellen Heise-Shelton (Mt. Vernon), for "Kindness II," a paper collage; Linda Lane (Mt. Vernon), for "Lion Buckle" in Jewelry competition, and Nina Peacock (Mt. Vernon), for "It's a Nice Froggy Day, Mommy," a watercolor. / February '95

1995-96

■ CAPPS AGAIN DOMINATES STATE FAIR

A year after taking two of the top three honors awarded, RLC Art Instructor Sarah Capps submitted entries to the Illinois State Fair Professional Art Exhibition which finished 1-2 in Watercolor competition for 1995. Overall, 68 pieces were accepted in six categories for display August 11-20 in the Artisan's Building on the Springfield State Fairgrounds.

First-place honors were awarded to "Pure Gold," a landscape featuring a creek which runs by her family home. Runner-up was "Sunfield II," another landscape of sunflowers in a field east of Ewing. / August '95

■ HOWARD SHINES AT DUQUOIN

Art Instructor Therese Howard won three first-place awards at the Art Ex-

hibition held at the DuQuoin State Fair August 26-September 4.

Her two prismacolor drawings, "Sarah" and "Civilizations," were both winners, as was her pastel still life, "Tomato & Plants." / September '95

■ JASPER (IN) COMMUNITY ARTS

Both Sarah Capps and Therese Howard have had work accepted into the Jasper Community Arts Commission 1995 Juried Show, to be held at the Krempp Gallery at the Jasper (IN) Civic Auditorium from September 1-27.

Capps entered a watercolor painting entitled, "Bridge," which received a Merit Award. Howard entered a watercolor called "Rocks and Water."

Competition was open to any artist who is a native of or lives in Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio or Michigan. Thirty entries were accepted. / September '95

1996-97

■ GREAT RIVERS C.C. ART EXHIBITION

Rend Lake College Art students claimed two of the three top honors in the Great Rivers Community College Art Exhibition at John A. Logan College in Carterville.

The competition was open to students at RLC, Logan, Belleville Area, Kaskaskia, Lake Land, Lincoln Trail, Olney Central, Shawnee and Southeastern Illinois.

Winning the top award of \$100 was RLC's Brenda Webster McCollum (Benton) with her entry, "Retired," an acrylic painting of old tennis shoes. McCollum, according to Art Professor Sarah Capps, "has gotten a lot of 'wear' out of those shoes." The painting also took Best of Show in the annual Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition last February and the Southern Illinois Arts and Crafts Marketplace Purchase Award in this spring's 14th Annual Student/Faculty Art Exhibition. It also received Honorable Mention in the Artists of Southern Illinois Fine Arts and Crafts Exhibition at the HerinFesta Italiana earlier in the summer.

One of the two \$50 art exhibition awards was claimed by Jennifer Kashycke Melton (Mt. Vernon) for her acrylic, entitled "Jane," a very large, three-dimensional painting on canvas and wood of her pet horse. Her painting was recipient of a Patron Award, The Sollami Company Award, in HerrinFesta Italiana competition and Honorable Mention in the Student/Faculty Exhibition. It has been accepted for competition in the statewide community college exhibit.

Also having work exhibited in the Great Rivers C.C. Art Exhibition are RLC Art students Donna Morton (Mt. Vernon), Diana Todd (Thompsonville) and Sharon Voyles (Mt. Vernon).

Serving as judge for the show was Artist John Siblik. / July '96

■ ILLINOIS VETERANS HOME PAINTINGS

Two watercolor paintings with patriotic themes have been purchased from RLC Art Instructor Sarah Capps by the State of Illinois and will find permanent residency in the new Illinois Veterans Home in Anna. The exchange was through the Capital Development Board's Art-in-Architecture Program.

"Memorial Day" shows an old-fashioned, small-town ceremony (in Salem) featuring a semi-circle of about 70 American flags, with World War II veterans on one side and Vietnam vets on the other in pre-Desert Storm days.

"Fourth of July Parade" is a street scene of the Sweetcorn-Watermelon Festival in Mt. Vernon depicting a cross-section of parade activities.

A Fine Arts Review Committee selected 11 finalists from over 400 works submitted by 93 Illinois artists. / September '96

■ FOUR SHINE AT CEDARHURST

Four RLC representatives dominated honors in the Cedarhurst Art Guild's "Fall Art and Craft and Photography Exhibit."

Student Brenda Webster McCollum (Benton) continued her winning ways with the "Best of Art" award and staff member Dolly Nickel (MT. Vernon) claimed "Best of Photography."

McCollum took top honors with her watercolor, "Trying to Stay Dry." She also won a first-place blue ribbon with an acrylic, "Strawberry Pot," and a second with another acrylic, "Retired."

Nickel, RLC Adult Education Counselor, was best with a black-and-white photo. She also received a second-place red ribbon.

Jennifer Melton (Mt. Vernon) took home three blue ribbons for watercolors - "Jane," "Reflections" and "A Dog and Her Boy."

Theresa Glover (Waltonville) won a blue ribbon for her graphite, "Greg and Jonathan at Brookside." / October '96

■ MELTON, MCCOLLUM WINNERS

Two Rend Lake College Art students took top honors in the annual Palette and Brush Club Fall Art Show and Sale held at the Community Arts Center in Centralia October 25-27.

Earning one of the three major awards in the exhibit, the prestigious Grumbacher Gold Medallion Award, was Jennifer Kashycke Melton (Mt. Vernon) for her watercolor, "Childhood Reflections." Along with the gold medallion and ribbon, the Grumbacher Company also presented Melton with a \$200 gift certificate for Grumbacher artists' products.

Also receiving honors was Brenda McCollum (Benton) for her acrylic, "Waiting for the Axe." McCollum earned one of five First Place Awards for her entry.

Melton claimed one of five Honorable Mentions as well.

"These two students are remarkable within a group of excellent art students now enrolled at the college," said RLC Art Professor Sarah Capps. "They are racking up an impressive show record that is unusual for students at this level. I expect a great future in art for both." / October '96

■ 'GIANT' WATERCOLOR MERIT AWARD

"There Were Giants" by Sarah Capps was recipient of the Barbara Bishop Werden Best Traditional Watercolor Merit Award from the Drawing/Watercolor: Illinois 11th Annual Biennial Exhibition at Tarble Art Center on the Eastern Illinois University campus in Charleston.

It was the top award the painting was eligible for since the artist did not make it available for purchase consideration. Capps, who had two other works accepted, is a two-time winner of the prestigious David and Susanna Buchanan Purchase Award (1989 and '92).

Five works in all were accepted by Rend Lake College artists, with Therese Howard and Sharon Voyles joining Capps. "Grandma," a watercolor and watercolor pencil drawing, was Howard's accepted entry. Voyles was successful with her watercolor, "The Street - Stockholm." / December '96

■ MELTON LEADS WATERCOLOR SWEEP

The 1997 Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibit will have 27 works on display by Rend Lake College students, including a 1-2-3 sweep of honors in the Watercolor competition.

Blue Ribbon winner Jennifer Melton heads the RLC contingent that accounts for six of the 29 top awards presented. The annual exhibit, at Kankakee Community College February 8-27, features 135 pieces from a total of 191 entries submitted.

"Best of Show" honors went to Joliet Jr. College representative Georgina Hunter for her watercolor/mixed media painting entitled, "De Ja Vue."

Mt. Vernon resident Melton claimed one of the six first-place awards in various media categories. "Cat Nap" was her Watercolor winner.

Last year's "Best of Show" recipient, Brenda Webster McCollum (Benton) was runner-up to Melton with her entry, "Magnolia-Alpha," while another non-traditional RLC student, Sharon Voyles (Bluford) took third with her work, "The Street - Stockholm #15."

Other award-winners for RLC, which

is a co-sponsor of the annual competition along with Kankakee and Joliet, are:

Glenda Thompson (Benton), third-place in Painting for "At Laguna Beach."

Megan Mitchell (Opdyke), Honorable Mention in Design for "Under the Sea."

Julia Bizzell (Dix), Honorable Mention in Printmaking for "Palms with Water."

Eight two-year institutions are represented. Winners were selected by Kenneth Holder, Professor of Art for Illinois State University. / February '97

■ TWO IN WATERCOLOR U.S.A.

Watercolor USA, considered by many to be the premier watercolor showing in the United States, boasts works by two Rend Lake College artists at the Springfield (MO) Art Museum.

"There Were Giants" became just the second entry ever selected by Watercolor USA from Sarah Capps. "Giants" previously claimed the Barbara Bishop Werden Best Traditional Watercolor Merit award from the Drawing/Watercolor: Illinois 11th Biennial Exhibition at Eastern Illinois University.

Similar honors for "Cat Nap" represented a phenomenal achievement for RLC student Jennifer Kashycke-Melton (Mt. Vernon), who has been painting seriously for only about three years. "Cat Nap" also was a first-place award-winner earlier in the year at the Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition in the Watercolor category and was recipient of the top Southern Illinois Artisans Shop Award in the 15th Annual Student-Faculty Art Exhibition on-campus.

"For a student who has only been seriously painting for about three years, this is a phenomenal achievement," Capps said of Kashycke-Melton. "She is one of the best students we have had come through the program in several years. She is good not only in watercolor but in several other media as well. I can't tell you how proud I am of her. I was in my 40s before I was accepted into a national exhibit, and this is only my second one!" / April '97

■ S.I.U.C. SCHOLARSHIP FOR ELIMON

RLC Art student Jean Elimon (Thompsonville) has been selected to receive a Mitchell Scholarship worth \$1,000 from the School of Art and Design at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

The award was granted "on the basis of slides of your work," according to Director Robert L. Paulson, adding, "Congratulations on being a winner in this competition. The competition was very strong and decisions difficult."

Elimon likewise is recipient of an SIUC Academic Scholarship. / May '97

1997-98

■ A 'GIANT' AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

"There Were Giants" earned the Award of Excellence for Sarah Capps in the Jasper (IN) Community Arts Commission 1997 Juried Art Show. / August '97

■ ART AUCTION NETS \$2,700

The annual RLC Art Auction October 11 reported making \$2,200 before a late bid of \$500 was received for the "52 Cadillac" painted and donated by Melissa McClement. / October '97

1998-99

■ ILLINOIS C.C. JURIED ART EXHIBIT

Two RLC Art students, Megan Mitchell and Ruby Reinhardt, have had work accepted in the Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition held at the Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery at Joliet Junior College. It runs through March 19.

Mitchell, a sophomore from Opdyke, had a monoprint on handmade paper titled "La Fesse" accepted.

Reinhardt, from Pinckneyville, had an untitled pen-and-ink watercolor accepted.

Both entries were created Fall '97. Governors State University Art Professor Joyce Morishita served as juror. / March '98

■ 'EIGHT WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE'

RLC Art Instructor Sarah Capps is one of the featured contributors in a new traveling exhibit, "The Midwestern Landscape: Eight Women's Perspective."

Artists are from Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana and Michigan.

The show is debuting at the Freeport Arts Center through September 6. The last of four stops on the tour will be Rend Lake College March 2-26. In between, it will be hosted by Paris and Springfield.

Three works by Capps are included – "Bridge," "Pure Gold" and "Sunflowers II." "Bridge" depicts a fall scene with fallen tree limbs across a large rock; "Pure Gold" is an award-winning painting of a creek bottom featuring the fall colors of gold and yellow, and "Sunflowers II" features a scene near Frisco of a field of sunflowers surrounding an old barn. This is the first time her work has been part of a traveling show.

According to Curator Richard Boschulte, the landscape artist is hoping "to impart to all who see this show a heightened sense of value for the land and a renewed appreciation for the beauty of the landscape that surrounds us. I believe the eight artists I have selected present an excellent survey of contemporary trends in Midwestern landscape painting.

"They present a variety of painting styles, from the crisp realism of works by Capps, Susan Koch (Freeport) and Ellen Wegener (Dewitt, IA) . . . to the heightened luminescence of Julie Kiefer-Bell (DeKalb)

. . . the richly complex colorism of Audrey Ushenko (Ft. Wayne, IN) . . . the expressive brush work and surfaces of *plein-air* painters Diane Canfield-Bywaters (Stevens Point, WI) and Melanie Parke (Kaleva, MI) . . . and the intuitive abstractions of Susan Maakestad (Wellman, IA).

"These artists share a personal connection to the landscape; they live where they paint, and they paint where they live."

Capps, noted Boschulte, "paints scenes of creek bottoms near her Belle Rive home in Southern Illinois, capturing the contemplative quietude of the waters bathed in the light filtering through canopies of sycamores and oaks." / July '98

■ NEW MILLENNIUM EXHIBIT

Three area artists with a Rend Lake College connection have had works selected in preliminary judging for the prestigious Illinois Women Artists: The New Millennium exhibit.

RLC Art Professor Sarah Capps, art student Brenda Webster McCollum (Benton) and former student Sue Stotlar (Benton) have all had paintings selected for the show sponsored by the National Museum of Women in the Arts, located in Washington, D.C.

Capps is in the running with her watercolor painting, "Awakening." Stotlar's entry, "Good Times," is a pastel on tinted watercolor paper.

From 1,200 slides submitted statewide, 100 works were chosen. Three regions – Cook County, Central Illinois and Southern Illinois – were judged separately by four judges to make up the works. These finalists will now be sent to Chicago, where Juror Clare Henry, Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts, Glasgow, Scotland, will do the final selection.

Between 20 and 30 of these entries will then be chosen and displayed at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C. From there they will tour various avenues in Illinois until the year 2001. It is scheduled to be in Southern Illinois during June 2000. / December '98

■ R.L.C. DOMINATES GREAT RIVERS ART

Rend Lake College Art students won first place, second place and one of two merit awards given at the fourth annual Great Rivers Community College Art Exhibition held at John A. Logan College. It will run through January 1999.

The exhibition was open to nine community colleges in Southern Illinois, with four submitting entries – RLC, host Logan, Southeastern Illinois and Shawnee.

Of the four awards presented, first place was claimed by Brenda Webster McCollum (Benton) for her watercolor, "Past Pleasures." McCollum returned to school

a few years ago and has won numerous awards since for her art work.

Second went to another RLC rep, JoAnn Mondino (Benton). Mondino is a non-traditional student, who had never painted before this semester. She won for her oil painting, "Our Red Dogwood."

Bob Pina (Zeigler), a musician whose ensemble has played at the opening of the RLC Student/Faculty Art Exhibit for several years, won a merit award for an oil painting, "Autumn Light." He has painted for awhile but had never before taken classes until recently.

Dr. Dennis Taylor of the SIU School of Art and Design served as juror. He praised RLC students for their "good use of perspective, handling of the media, strong spatial qualities and fresh use of light and color." / December '98

■ ILLINOIS C.C. JURIED ART EXHIBIT

With Rend Lake College hosting the Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition February 2-26 for the second time, 35 of 91 works on display represent RLC students. A total of 202 entries were submitted statewide for consideration.

Four of the top eight awards presented by Juror Ed Shay went to RLC artists.

Judged best in Painting was a folk art work in oil, "Winter on the Lake," by James Simmons (McLeansboro); Simmons also claimed the Ceramics category with "Group of Boxes." Printmaking honors went to Tommy Miller (Sesser) for "Later That Night," a monoprint; a copper piece by Jennifer Melton (Mt. Vernon), "Eyeball Necklace," won in Jewelry / February '99

1999-2000

■ PINA FIRST AT STATEWIDE EXHIBIT

Ten institutions throughout the state submitted entries for Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition 2000 . . .

- One of the four first-place awards resented was claimed by a Rend Lake College art student. Robert Pina (Zeigler) took top honors in the Painting category with his oil on canvas, entitled "Interior: San Simeon."

- One of four second-places awarded went to RLC's JoAnn Mondino (West Frankfort) for her acrylic, "Spring on the Guadalupe," also a painting.

- RLC student artist Michael Green (Mt. Vernon) rated one of four third-place awards for his graphite, "Skull," in the Black-and-White Drawing competition.

- Merit awards to Brenda Webster McCollum (Benton) and Jessica Rogers (Mt. Vernon) gave Rend Lake College a total of five of the 20 pieces singled out for recognition, more than any other art program in the state. Rogers was the

lone Merit recipient in Sculpture for her creation in wood, "Vortex." McCollum was one of three Merit winners in Mixed Media for "Fog Beneath the Mountains," in handmade paper.

In all, 17 works from Rend Lake College contributors were accepted for the annual exhibition, which runs through February 25 at the Kankakee Community College Learning Resource Center Gallery.

The lone participant from RLC with two entries accepted was Geraldine Reichert (Ashley) with her oil painting, "Mesa Verde," and an untitled acrylic.

Juror Barry Skurkus, Professor of Art at North Central College, selected 90 works to be included from 200 submitted.

No other college had as many pieces singled out for recognition or had more firsts or seconds than Rend Lake College, a two-time host of this statewide exhibit in recent years. Kankakee and Illinois Central each had four award-winners, and Joliet Junior College three. / February '00

2000-01

■ BEST TRADITIONAL WATERCOLOR

RLC Art Professor Sarah Capps has won the Barbara Bishop Werden Best Traditional Watercolor and Drawing Exhibition at the Tarble Arts Center in Charleston.

It is the second time in the last three years one of Capps' works has claimed this prestigious award.

Her winning entry, "Wellspring," depicts a woodland scene with water.

It is one of two pieces Capps had accepted. The other is a drawing entitled, "The Candy Lady."

In addition to her previous "Best" in 1998, Capps has won other purchase awards in the show twice previously.

Capps also is the "Featured Artist" for the month of November at the Illinois Artisans Shop and Visitors Center. Six of her paintings were showcased on the main wall.

Capps demonstrated her watercolor techniques at the Artisans Shop November 18 as part of an ongoing series of demonstrations sponsored by the center. / November 2000

■ ROGERS EARNS JUROR'S AWARD

Seven Rend Lake College art students had works accepted into the Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition held at Joliet Junior College, with Jessica Rogers (Mt. Vernon) winning a Juror's Award for a wire necklace, entitled "Silver Spin."

The show - open to all community colleges in the state - was on display from February 19-March 16 at the Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery.

Other students who had entries chosen

are Scott Maxey (Mt. Vernon) for "Hot Jimi," a paper mosaic; Chris McGuire (Mt. Vernon) for "Jerry," a paper mosaic; Bob Pina (Zeigler) for "Makanda," oil painting; Sue Stewart (Mt. Vernon) for "Axe Necklace," copper-and-brass jewelry; Glenda Thompson (Benton) for "Reflections: Copper & Brass," watercolor, and Janice Threatt (Belle Rive) for "Kathy's Garden," oil painting. / February '01

■ HERRINFESTA ITALIANA EXHIBIT

Over the Memorial Day weekend, RLC painting student Bob Pina (Zeigler) won the Maude Phemister Memorial Award at the HerrinFesta Italiana Art Exhibit. Pina, a noted Southern Illinois musician, is gaining recognition as a fine painter as well. He has won several awards in the RLC Student-Faculty Exhibition and the Illinois Community College Art Exhibition and shown work in area galleries.

/ May 2001

2001-02

■ STATE FAIR ART SHOWS

In August, RLC Instructor Sarah Capps and former student Sue Stotlar (Benton) had work accepted in the Illinois State Fair Professional Art Exhibition.

The DuQuoin State Fair was good to another RLC painting student. Sue Stewart (Mt. Vernon) had six works in drawing, painting and sculpture accepted into the amateur art show. Five of her entries received awards, including Best of Show for her watercolor painting, "The French Market." Stewart also won two first-place awards in drawing and two third-place ribbons for an oil painting and a clay sculpture. / Fall 2001

■ JASPER COMMUNITY ARTS EXHIBIT

Art Professor Sarah Capps and her sister, RLC painting student Janice Threatt (Belle Rive), both had watercolors accepted in the Jasper Community Arts Juried Exhibition 2001. The show, held at the Krempp Gallery on the grounds of Vincennes (IN) University, is open to artists in Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. / Fall 2001

■ SPRINGFIELD MUSEUM AWARD

Rend Lake College's Sarah Capps was recipient of an award at the 41st Annual National Juried Exhibition at the Springfield Art Museum. / June '02

PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM / NCLEX – PRACTICAL NURSE BOARD PASS RATES

▲ 2014	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.	▲ 1998	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	96%	REND LAKE COLLEGE	38	N/A	35	92.1%
Illinois	-	-	-	-	Illinois	-	-	-	87%
National	-	-	-	-	National	-	-	-	86%
▲ 2013	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.	▲ 1997	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	97%	REND LAKE COLLEGE	31	N/A	28	90.3%
Illinois	-	-	-	-	Illinois	-	-	-	86%
National	-	-	-	-	National	-	-	-	89%
▲ 2012	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.	▲ 1996	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	96%	REND LAKE COLLEGE	31	N/A	29	93.5%
Illinois	-	-	-	-	Illinois	-	-	-	90%
National	-	-	-	-	National	-	-	-	91%
▲ 2011	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.	▲ 1995	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	96%	REND LAKE COLLEGE	49	N/A	44	89.8%
Illinois	-	-	-	-	Illinois	-	-	-	92%
National	-	-	-	-	National	-	-	-	82%
▲ 2010	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.	▲ 1994	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	REND LAKE COLLEGE	47	N/A	45	95.7%
Illinois	-	-	-	-	▲ 1993	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
National	-	-	-	-	REND LAKE COLLEGE	55	N/A	54	98.2%
▲ 2009	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.	REND LAKE COLLEGE *	33	N/A	30	90.9%
REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	98%	* First class of Part-Time Practical Nursing students				
Illinois	-	-	-	-	▲ 1992	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
National	-	-	-	-	REND LAKE COLLEGE	61	N/A	59	96.7%
▲ 2008	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.	▲ 1991	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	98%	REND LAKE COLLEGE	67	N/A	64	95.5%
Illinois	-	-	-	-	▲ 1990	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
National	-	-	-	-	REND LAKE COLLEGE	63	N/A	58	92.1%
▲ 2007	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.	Illinois	1,134	-	979	86.3%
REND LAKE COLLEGE	65	N/A	65	100%	National	27,528	-	23,950	87.0%
Illinois	-	-	-	91%	▲ 1988	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
National	-	-	-	87%	REND LAKE COLLEGE	54	N/A	50	93.0%
▲ 2006	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.	Illinois	-	-	-	89.0%
REND LAKE COLLEGE	63	N/A	62	98.4%	National	-	-	-	89.0%
Illinois	-	-	-	93%	▲ 1987	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
National	-	-	-	88%	REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	86.0%
▲ 2005	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.	Illinois	-	-	-	84.0%
REND LAKE COLLEGE	39	N/A	37	94.9%	National	-	-	-	87.0%
Illinois	-	-	-	91%	▲ 1986	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
National	-	-	-	89%	REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	92.0%
▲ 2004	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.	Illinois	-	-	-	85.0%
REND LAKE COLLEGE	37	N/A	36	97.3%	National	-	-	-	89.0%
Illinois	-	-	-	92%	▲ 1985	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
National	-	-	-	89%	REND LAKE COLLEGE	57	554.0	55	96.0%
▲ 2003	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.	Illinois	-	-	-	87.0%
REND LAKE COLLEGE	45	N/A	42	93.3%	National	-	491.3	-	90.0%
Illinois	-	-	-	92.0%	▲ 1984	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
National	-	-	-	88.0%	REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	93.0%
▲ 2002	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.	Illinois	-	-	-	87.0%
REND LAKE COLLEGE	33	N/A	33	100.0%	National	-	-	-	92.0%
Illinois	1,227	-	1,092	89.0%	▲ 1983	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
National	46,850	-	40,291	86.0%	APRIL	5	537.4	5	100.0%
▲ 2001	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.	REND LAKE COLLEGE	579	489.1	498	86.0%
REND LAKE COLLEGE	32	N/A	29	90.6%	Illinois	14,975	527.4	13,927	93.0%
▲ 2000	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.	National	-	-	-	-
REND LAKE COLLEGE	33	N/A	32	97.0%	OCTOBER	* 47	551.5	47	100.0%
Illinois	-	-	-	84%	REND LAKE COLLEGE	1,645	513.1	1,481	90.0%
National	-	-	-	85%	Illinois	30,048	530.0	27,644	92.0%
▲ 1999	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.	National	-	-	-	-
REND LAKE COLLEGE	33	N/A	32	97.0%	* Achieved highest overall scores since the program began				
Illinois	-	-	-	87%					
National	-	-	-	86%					

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM / NCLEX – REGISTERED NURSE BOARD PASS RATES

▲ 2014	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	85%
Illinois	-	-	-	-
National	-	-	-	-
▲ 2013	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	75%
Illinois	-	-	-	-
National	-	-	-	-
▲ 2012	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	94%
Illinois	-	-	-	-
National	-	-	-	-
▲ 2011	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	77%
Illinois	-	-	-	-
National	-	-	-	-
▲ 2010	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	83%
Illinois	-	-	-	-
National	-	-	-	-
▲ 2009	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	87%
Illinois	-	-	-	-
National	-	-	-	-
▲ 2008	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	88%
Illinois	-	-	-	-
National	-	-	-	-

▲ 2007	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	49	N/A	44	89.8%
Illinois	-	-	-	86.0%
National	-	-	-	85.0%
▲ 2006	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	42	N/A	39	92.9%
Illinois	-	-	-	89.0%
National	-	-	-	88.0%
▲ 2005	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	35	N/A	32	91.4%
Illinois	-	-	-	89.0%
National	-	-	-	87.0%
▲ 2004	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	42	N/A	33	78.6%
Illinois	-	-	-	87.0%
National	-	-	-	85.0%
▲ 2003	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	25	N/A	20	80.0%
Illinois	-	-	-	87.0%
National	-	-	-	87.0%
▲ 2002	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	47	N/A	40	85.1%
Illinois	2,987	-	2,599	87.0%
National	15,753	-	13,548	86.0%
▲ 2001	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	40	N/A	35	87.5%
▲ 2000	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	39	N/A	N/A	N/A
▲ 1999	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	26	N/A	23	88.5%
Illinois	-	-	-	82%
National	-	-	-	85%
▲ 1998	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	39	N/A	34	87.2%
Illinois	-	-	-	81%
National	-	-	-	86%
▲ 1997	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	24	N/A	N/A	97%
Illinois	-	-	-	86%
National	-	-	-	88%
▲ 1996	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	55	N/A	50	90.9%
Illinois	-	-	-	87%
National	-	-	-	88%
▲ 1995	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	59	N/A	57	96.6%
Illinois	-	-	-	91%
National	-	-	-	90%
▲ 1994	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	98%
▲ 1992	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	54	N/A	50	92.6%
▲ 1980	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	25	-	25	100%
Southern Illinois Collegiate				
Common Market – 5 Schools	* 80	-	70	87.0%
* None of the other four schools had a 100% pass rate				
▲ 1979	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	11	-	11	* 100%
* First perfect score in five-year history of RLC ADN Program				

NCLEX – PRACTICAL NURSE BOARD PASS RATE (CONT.)

▲ 1982	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
APRIL				
REND LAKE COLLEGE	4	607.3	4	100.0%
Illinois	563	476.8	496	88.1%
National	12,821	507.6	11,898	92.8%
OCTOBER				
REND LAKE COLLEGE	50	512.6	46	92.0%
Illinois	1,683	481.4	1,498	89.0%
National	30,035	497.4	27,332	91.0%
▲ 1978	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	57	516.9	54	94.4%
Illinois	-	496.1	-	93.5%
National	27,950	502.4	25,770	92.2%
▲ 1969	Every RLC Practical Nursing graduate who took the state licensure exam passed and the program ranked No. 3 in the state.			
▲ 1974	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	N/A	544.5	N/A	N/A
Illinois	-	507.5	-	-
National	-	516.1	-	-
▲ 1969	RLC Practical Nursing graduates ranked No. 1 in the state on state licensure exams, scoring 76.3 points above the national average. Only three RLC students out of nine classes since 1961-62 have failed to pass the exam in their first attempts.			
▲ 1962	Total Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
REND LAKE COLLEGE	18	N/A	18	100.0%
Illinois	-	-	-	-
National	-	-	-	-

STUDENT NEWSPAPER EDITORS / AWARDS

RLC CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE

▲ 2012-13 – 2015-16

LuAnn Droege, Senior Editor
(Centralia Sentinel)
Nathan Wheeler, Editor (RLC)

RLC TIMES

▲ 2006-07

Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 2005-06

Blake Edwards
Stephanie Ratajczyk
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 2004-05

Sara Rose Pillers (Mt. Vernon)
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 2003-04

Kate Edwards
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 2002-03

Sara Cairns (Valier) / Fall
Brooke Bernard / Spring
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 2001-02

2nd Place, American Scholastic Press Assn.
Ryan Dodson (Mt. Vernon)
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 2000-01

2nd Place, American Scholastic Press Assn.
Ryan Dodson (Mt. Vernon)
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1999-2000

2nd Place, American Scholastic Press Assn.
Sarah K. Roberts (Mt. Vernon)
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

REND LAKE COLLEGE TIMES

▲ 1998-99

3rd Place, American Scholastic Press Assn.
Gina McClerren (Thompsonville)
Travis Donoho
Amanda Lindsey
Eric McLain
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1997-98

C. Dale Houseworth
Amanda Lindsey
Amanda Pillers (Mt. Vernon)
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1996-97

2nd Place, American Scholastic Press Assn.
Linda Krutsinger (Benton) / Fall
Sara Bean (Harmony) / Spring
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1995-96

Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1994-95

3rd Place, American Scholastic Press Assn.
Deanna Hammel (Sesser)
Krista Marchetti (Mulkeytown)
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1993-94

Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1992-93

2nd Place, American Scholastic Press Assn.
Chris Cluck (McLeansboro)
Steve Rheinecker (Pinckneyville)
Jim Muir, Staff (Benton)
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1991-92

Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1990-91

2nd Place, American Scholastic Press Assn.
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1989-90

1st Place, American Scholastic Press Assn.
Mike Peeples
Doris F. Troutt (Opdyke)
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1988-89

3rd Place, American Scholastic Press Assn.
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1987-88

Joy Kirkpatrick, Editor
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1986-87

2nd Place, American Scholastic Press Assn.
Peggy Davis, Staff (Belle Rive)
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1985-86

2nd Place, American Scholastic Press Assn.
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1984-85

Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1983-84

Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1982-83

Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

▲ 1981-82

Kathy McCarty
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

RLC TIMES

▲ 1980-81

Gina Mitchell (Benton)
Michael P. Mullen, Advisor

THE PRESSING TIMES

▲ 1979-80

Susan Burgess, Editor
Cindy Caldwell, Sports Ed. (Christopher)
Sue Davis, Advisor
Bob Kelley, Advisor

▲ 1978-79

Bill Dennison, Editor
Gerald H. Buchanan, Advisor

▲ 1977-78

Mitch Fulford, Editor (Mt. Vernon)
Theresa Piper, Editor
Scott Mones, Advisor

▲ 1976-77

Danny Tennant, Editor (Benton)
Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Advisor

▲ 1975-76

Scott Ellis, Editor (Mt. Vernon)
Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Advisor

▲ 1974-75

Bob Dempsey, Editor (Pinckneyville)
Mary Jo Cockrum, Co-Editor
Larry Lewis, Co-Editor
Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Advisor

▲ 1973-74

Don Crider, Managing Editor
Karen Shadoan, Managing Editor
Bob Dempsey, Man. Ed. (Pinckneyville)
Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Advisor

▲ 1972-73

Suzi Woolley (Benton)
Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Advisor

▲ 1971-72

Karen Book, Editor (Mt. Vernon)
Brenda Record, Editor
Bob Jenkins, Editor
Courtney Cox, Columnist (Benton)
Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Advisor

▲ 1970-71

Rick Nance, Editor (Mt. Vernon)
Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Advisor

▲ 1969-70

Kathie Estes (Mt. Vernon)
Dr. Barbara Luchsinger, Advisor

THE PYRAMID TIMES

▲ 1968-69

Ollie Karen Dowler, Editor (Mt. Vernon)
Dr. Barbara Luchsinger, Advisor

▲ 1967-68

Diana Ferguson, Editor (Mt. Vernon)
Dr. Barbara Luchsinger, Advisor

YEARBOOK EDITORS

RENDITION

▲ 1980-81

Maria Franscavitch (Mt. Vernon)
Vince Cain, Advisor

▲ 1979-80

Maria Franscavitch (Mt. Vernon)
Vince Cain, Advisor

TARN

▲ 1978-79

Penny Biggerstaff (McLeansboro)
Vince Cain, Advisor

▲ 1977-78

Shirley Clark Followell
Jill Hyten
Vince Cain, Advisor

▲ 1976-77

Darryl Barker
Julie Johnson
Alan Wilson
Vince Cain, Advisor

▲ 1975-76

Lyne Mabry (Valier)
Vince Cain, Advisor

▲ 1974-75

Valerie Gibbons (Mt. Vernon)
Dan Northcutt
Lois Mackey, Advisor
Vince Cain, Advisor

▲ 1973-74

Lou Ann Waters, Editor
David Whitney (Mt. Vernon)
William T. Brammier, Advisor

▲ 1972-73

Donna Kimmel (Mt. Vernon)
William T. Brammier, Advisor

▲ 1971-72

Dianne Hill (Mt. Vernon)
William T. Brammier, Advisor

▲ 1970-71

Awarded First-Place Certificate
by Columbia Scholastic Press Assn.
893 points of possible 1,000
Jean Derges, Editor (Mt. Vernon)
William T. Brammier, Advisor

▲ 1969-70

Paula Mitchell (Mt. Vernon)
William T. Brammier, Advisor

▲ 1968-69

Karen Prasuhn (Mt. Vernon)
John H. "Jack" Traver, Advisor

▲ 1967-68

Warren Wright (West Frankfort)
Robert Greene
John H. "Jack" Traver, Advisor

R.L.C. THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

▲ 2015-16

The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb)

Godspell (Spring Musical directed by Sara Alstat)

▲ 2014-15

The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb)

Les Misérables (Spring Musical directed by Sara Alstat)

▲ 2013-14

Treasure Island (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb)

Little Shop of Horrors (Spring Musical directed by Sara Alstat)

▲ 2012-13

Tom Sawyer (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb)

Into the Woods (Spring Musical directed by Sara Alstat)

▲ 2011-12

Father of the Bride (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb)

Anything Goes (Spring Musical directed by Tracey Webb)

▲ 2010-11

The Three Musketeers (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb)

South Pacific (Spring Musical directed by Tracey Webb)

▲ 2009-10

Oliver Twist (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb)

Cabaret (Spring Musical directed by Tracey Webb)

▲ 2008-09

A Christmas Carol (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb)

Annie Get Your Gun (Spring Musical directed by Tracey Webb)

▲ 2007-08

Get Smart (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb)

Cinderella (Spring Musical directed by Tracey Webb), all four performances Sold Out

▲ 2006-07

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb)

Grease (Spring Musical directed by Tracey Webb), each performance Sold Out / 1,530

The Coney Island of Dr. Moreau (Kids Musical directed by Tracey Webb)

▲ 2005-06

Miracle on 34th Street (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb), 1,140 tickets sold

Beauty and the Beast (Spring Musical directed by Tracey Webb)

When in Rome (Kids Musical directed by Tracey Webb)

▲ 2004-05

Pride and Prejudice (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb)

Chicago (Spring Musical directed by Tracey Webb)

Tumbleweeds (Kids Musical directed by Tracey Webb)

▲ 2003-04

It's a Wonderful Life (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb)

Footloose (Spring Musical directed by Tracey Webb)

Gone With the Breeze (Kids Musical directed by Tracey Webb)

▲ 2002-03

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb)

Show Boat (Spring Musical directed by Tracey Webb), Sellouts 3 of 4 performances

The Twelve Dancing Princesses (Kids Musical directed by Tracey Webb)

▲ 2001-02

M*A*S*H (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb)

A Funny Thing Happened on Way to the Forum (Spring Musical / T. Webb)

Kilroy Was Here (Kids Musical directed by Tracey Webb)

▲ 2000-01

The Beverly Hillbillies (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb)

Phantom of the Country Opera (Spring Musical directed by Tracey Webb)

Flapper (Kids Musical directed by Tracey Webb)

▲ 1999-2000

Robin Hood (Fall Play directed by Tracey Webb)

Once Upon a Mattress (Spring Musical Comedy directed by Tracey Webb)

Snow White (Kids Musical directed by Tracey Webb)

▲ 1998-99

The Butler Did It (Fall Play directed by Tracey Brouillette)

Meet Me in St. Louis (Spring Musical directed by Tracey Brouillette)

Music Americana: A Patriotic Salute (Kids Musical directed by Tracey Brouillette)

▲ 1997-98

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (Spring Musical directed by Tracey Brouillette)

▲ 1995-96

Babes in Gangland or "The Godmother" (Fall Melodrama directed by Judy Espy)

▲ 1994-95

The Wild Flowering of Chastity (Satirical Melodrama directed by Judy Espy)

/ Featuring RLC grad and part-time Instructor Rebecca Biggs as Chastity Wildflower

▲ 1985-86

Two by Two (Spring musical directed by Joseph H. Rust)

▲ 1984-85

You're a Good Man Charlie Brown (Spring musical directed by Joseph H. Rust)

▲ 1983-84

Seduced (Spring production directed by Joseph H. Rust)

Vanities (Spring comedy directed by Joseph H. Rust)

▲ 1982-83

Side by Side by Sondheim (Fall musical review directed by Joseph H. Rust)

▲ 1981-82

The Moon is Blue (Fall comedy directed by Joseph H. Rust)

The Children's Hour (Spring drama directed by Joseph H. Rust)

▲ 1980-81

The Good Doctor (Fall play directed by Joseph H. Rust)

Angel Street (Melodrama directed by Joseph H. Rust)

▲ 1979-80

Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-Moon Marigolds (Dir. by Michael S. Tick)

▲ 1977-78

We Must Kill Toni (December) (Mystery comedy directed by Pat Patterson)

Story Theatre (May) (Grimm Bros. Fairy Tales / Aesop Fables dir. by Rhonda Baker)

▲ 1976-77

The Diary of Anne Frank (November) (Drama directed by RLC Grad Fred Vallowe)

Godspell (May) (Rock musical under the direction of Larry Phifer)

The Hairy Man (March) (Spring drama directed by Student Brent Lappin)

▲ 1975-76

Bus Stop (November) (Fall comedy directed by Cheryl Foley)

Kiss Me Kate (inc. **Taming of the Shrew**) (Dir. by Cheryl Foley & Keith Drayton)

▲ 1974-75

A Thurber Carnival (Fall comedy directed by Cheryl Foley)

Brigadoon (Spring musical directed by Cheryl Foley)

▲ 1973-74

Unnamed melodrama featuring Hope & Manly Rash (Fall production)

The Hairy Man (Reader's Theatre)

Carnival (Spring production)

▲ 1972-73

You're a Good Man Charlie Brown (Fall production)

Our Town (December production)

The Boy Friend (Spring musical comedy production)

▲ 1971-72

Love Rides the Rails: Or Will the Mail Train Run Tonight (Fall melodrama)

Amahl and the Night Visitors (December opera)

You're a Good Man Charlie Brown (Spring musical directed by Cheryl Foley)

▲ 1970-71

The Ballad of the Sad Cafe (Fall production directed by Cheryl Merkens)

MAME (Spring musical)

▲ 1969-70

Dark of the Moon (December production)

Once Upon as Mattress (Spring Musical directed by Cheryl Merkens)

▲ 1968-69

Arsenic and Old Lace (Fall production directed by Cheryl Merkens)

Little Mary Sunshine (Spring musical directed by Cheryl Merkens)

▲ 1967-68

Showtime USA (Fall Variety Show co-directed by Bettye Sistler and William Farmer)

The Rainmaker (February production)

The Glass Menagerie (Spring production directed by Bettye Sistler)

BLACKOUTS

▲ 1993-94 / BLACKOUTS

Variety Show returns for April 27, 1994 daytime performance, with Rex Duncan serving as Master of Ceremonies.

One of highlights featured The Rend-itions, a South Oasis singing group starring Department Chair Larry Williams, Secretary Jean Huie and Instructors / Backup Singers Sue Tomlin, Martha McCreery, Lisa Reed and Mary Millicent Sidwell, a Larry Sidwell look-alike.

Another highlight: A tongue-in-cheek magic production featuring Dee Russell, with assistance from Skills Center cronies Barbara Bauernfeind, Tina Grounds, Dolly Nickel and Ro Hoar, rumored to be the writer behind the script.

▲ 1980-81 / BLACKOUTS VI

October 31 and November 1 • Sponsored by RLC Music Club

Directed by Robert Luckey

Fall Faculty / Staff Honorees

Spring Scholarship Recipients

Tim Clemens (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1979-80 / BLACKOUTS V

November 16-17 • Sponsored by Illinois Student Music Educators Association

Directed by Robert Luckey

Featured RLC President Harry Braun on dulcimer and his Bluegrass ensemble

Fall Faculty / Staff Honorees

Spring Scholarship Recipients

Becky Greer (Mt. Vernon)

Dale Weber (Pinckneyville)

▲ 1978-79 / BLACKOUTS IV

October 14 • Co-Directed by Cheryl Foley and Courtney Cox

Fall Faculty / Staff Honorees

Spring Scholarship Recipients

Doug Creel (Mt. Vernon)

Shawn McCauley (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1977-78 / BLACKOUTS III

Co-Directed by Cheryl Foley and Courtney Cox

Fall Faculty / Staff Honorees

Dr. Howard E. Rawlinson, Retired College Dean (1967-72)

Lois Mackey, Retiring Reading Instructor (1968-75)

Spring Scholarship Recipients

Mark Michalic (West Frankfort)

Brian Summers (Benton)

▲ 1976-77 / BLACKOUTS II

Fall Faculty / Staff Honorees

Kathleen Kelley, Retiring Executive Secretary to College Dean (1967-76)

Jim Yates, Retiring Director of Admissions and Registrar (1967-76)

Spring Scholarship Recipients

Chris Benetti (Clinton, IN)

Dave Boldt (Woodlawn)

▲ 1975-76 / BLACKOUTS

Directed by Cheryl Foley / 325 in attendance

Featured the singing debut on RLC Theatre stage by President Dr. W. Travis Martin

Fall Faculty / Staff Honorees

June Thompson, Retired Nursing Instructor (1963-73)

Holland Simmons, RLC Trustee who died in boating accident

Spring Scholarship Recipients

Perry Morris (Mt. Vernon)

Kelly Mumbower (Albuquerque, NM / Mt. Vernon)

TRAVEL ABROAD

International Studies Program

▲ 2016 / May 16-24

Costa Rica

SOSC 2101 – “Tropical Costa Rica” • Instructor, Sarah Draper

▲ 2003 / May 22-June 1

Jamaica

BIO 1105 – Field Biology Tropical / “Tropical Marine Biology in Jamaica”

Instructors, Steve Holman / Dr. Sue Tomlin

▲ 2000 / May 15-23

France

“History and Culture of France” • Instructors, Dr. Sue Tomlin / Carolyn Stewart

▲ 1999 / May 21-29)

Mexico

“History and Culture of Mexico,” starting with a visit to the capital area (four nights in Mexico City), traveling through the Sierra Madre mountains (Taxco) and ending at the beautiful beaches of the Pacific Ocean (three nights in Acapulco)

Instructors, Dr. Sue Tomlin / Carolyn Stewart

▲ 1998 / (41 participants)

England

“History and Culture of England.” Westminster Abbey, Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament. Harrods. Oxford University. Trafalgar Square. English Pubs and the original Hard Rock Cafe in London. Piccadilly Circle. Buckingham Palace and the Thames River. Canterbury Cathedral. Stonehenge. Stratford-Upon-Avon.

Instructors, Dr. Sue Tomlin / Carolyn Stewart

▲ 1997 / May 20-28

Costa Rica

“History and Culture of Costa Rica” • Instructors, Dr. Sue Tomlin / Carolyn Stewart

▲ 1996 / August 1-10

Italy

“History and Culture of Italy,” including Venice with its gondolas; Michelangelo’s Statue of David in Florence; Rome with Colosseum, Circus Maximus, Sistine Chapel and more

Instructors, Dr. Sue Tomlin / Carolyn Stewart

▲ 1995 / May 17-25 (30 participants)

Spain and Morocco

“History and Culture of Spain,” including stays in the capital of Madrid, Seville and Costa Del Sol; a swim in the Mediterranean, and a day in Tangier, Morocco

Instructors, Dr. Sue Tomlin / Carolyn Stewart

▲ 1994 / May 21-28 (25 participants)

Ireland

“History and Culture of Ireland.” Enjoy a feast at a Medieval castle, see historic Book of Kells and visit remote villages. Take advantage of an opportunity to kiss the famous Blarney Stone. Visit the Waterford Crystal Factory and Dublin.

Instructors, Dr. Sue Tomlin / Carolyn Stewart

▲ 1969

France / Europe

A French Study Group toured France and parts of Europe during the summer

MADRIGAL DINNER THEATRE

▲ 2010 – Alice in Blunderland, Directed by Sara Alstat

▲ 2009 – Teeny Bob – The Demon Pet Groomer of Sweet Street Directed by Sara Alstat

▲ 2008 – Beowulf, The Son of Beocoyote, Directed by Sara Alstat

▲ 2007 – The Ring of Truth, Directed by Sara Alstat

▲ 2006 – Jester “The Body” Ventures Forth, Directed by Sara Alstat

COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

Community Education / Community Service

▲ BENTON

Gordon Smith (2) 1975-76 – 1976-77
Mack Winn (2) 1975-76 – 1976-77
Richard Heaton 1977-78
Karen Hedges (5) 1981-82 – 1985-86
Marilyn Eaton (2) 1988-89 – 1989-90
Kay Bell 1990-91
Carol Phillips (3) 1991-92 – 1993-94
Fran Whipps 1994-95
Tom Upchurch Fall 1995
Dave Davenport Sp 1996
Sherry Parkhill (3) 1996-97 – 1998-99
Karen Tucker (11) 1999-2000 – 2003-10

▲ BLUFORD

Robert Crider (2) 1975-76 – 1976-77

▲ BONNIE

Carol Meister 1982-83

▲ CHRISTOPHER

Kathryn Greenwood (10) 1975-76 – 1984-85
Doris Wehmeyer Fall 1990
Dana Hils Sp 1990
Sandy Palmowski 1991-92
Mike Shapko (2) 1995-96 – 1996-97
Evelyn Owens 1999-2000
Nicki Gray Bowlin (3) 2002-03 – 2004-05
Lori Ragland (2) 2005-06 – 2006-07
Virginia McCann (3) 2007-08 – 2009-10

▲ ENFIELD

Charles Taft 1975-76

▲ INA

Carol Meister 1982-83

▲ McLEANSBORO

Gerald Robertson (7) 1975-76 – 1981-82
Steve Lapington (4) 1982-83 – 1985-86
Heidi Hart 1988-89
Steve Lapington 1989-90
Connie Welch 1990-2000
Cathy Cross (3) 2000-01 – 2002-03
Sheila Thompson (6) 2002-03 – 2003-08
Tena Karcher (4) 2008-10 – 2013-15

▲ MT. VERNON

Ed Gieselman (2) 1975-76 – 1976-77
Paul McCray (2) 1975-76 – 1976-77
Karla Mullens (2) 1975-76 – 1976-77
Cyndy Mitchell (6) 1976-77 – 1981-82
Sheila Beveridge (3) 1981-82 – 1983-84
Kay Shaw (15) 1989-90 – 2003-04
Tammy Tadlock 2004-05
Lori Ragland (2) 2005-06 – 2006-07
Virginia McCann (3) 2007-08 – 2009-10
Betty Beckham 2008-09
Kristina Shelton 2009-10

▲ PINCKNEYVILLE

Allen Burbank (2) 1975-76 – 1976-77
George McPheeters (16) 1977-78 – 1992-93
Ramona Hatch (4) 1993-94 – 1996-97
Dave Brunty (2) 1997-98 – 1998-99
Ruby Reinhardt (2) 1999-2000 – 2000-01

Sam Peradotta 2001-02
Cheryl Schneider (2) 2001-02 – 2002-03
Heather Stanton Bauersachs (13) '02-03 – '15-16

▲ SESSER-VALIER

Richard Garner (8) 1975-76 – 1982-83
Arnold Wingo (10) 1975-76 – 1984-85
Doris Wehmeyer 1990-91
Sandy Palmowski 1991-92
Janet Mygatt (2) 1992-93 – 1993-94
Dianna Marberry (5) 1994-95 – 1998-99
Dana Wylie (3) 1998-99 – Fall 2000
Linda Grace Sp 2001
Pam Dorris 2001-02
Linda Grace (2) 2001-02 – 2002-03
Nicki Bowlin 2003-04
Lori Ragland (3) 2004-05 – 2006-07
Virginia McCann (3) 2007-08 – 2009-10

▲ THOMPSONVILLE

David Hock (2) 1975-76 – 1976-77
Steve Karraker 1981-82
Marilyn Eaton (8) 1989-90 – 1996-97

▲ WALTONVILLE

Gene Morgan (2) 1975-76 – 1976-77
Donna Eastham 1981-82
Carol Meister 1982-83

▲ WAYNE CITY

James Mantoan (6) 1975-76 – 1980-81
Stan Blank 1982-83
Sharon Talbert 1988-89
Randa Shively 1989-90
Rick Moore 1994-95
Staci Choate 1998-99
Randa Shively (4) 1999-2000 – 2002-03
Dawn Gibson Sp 2003
Debbie Timmons (5) 2003-04 – 2007-08
Betty Beckham 2008-09
Kristina Shelton 2009-10

▲ WOODLAWN

Jay Lewis (2) 1975-76 – 1976-77
Becky Willoughby (2) Sp 1981 – 1981-82
Donna Bumpus 1982-83
Debi and Mike Richardson 1996-97

▲ ZEIGLER-ROYALTON

Bessie Gayer 1975-76 – 1977-78
Darla Minton Fall 1982
Bessie Gayer 1984-85
Dana Hils 1990-91
Pat Horn (6) 1990-91 – 1995-96
Randall Risley (3) 1996-97 – 1998-99
Nicki Gray Bowlin (3) 2002-03 – 2004-05
Lori Ragland (2) 2005-06 – 2006-07

▲ ON-CAMPUS

Dana Hils (5) 1989-90 – 1993-94
Dawn Gibson (6) 2001-02 – 2006-07
Lori Ragland (3) 2007-08 – 2009-10

▲ REND LAKE COLLEGE DISTRICT

Kristina Shelton (4) 2010-11 – 2013-14
Erin Morris (2) 2014-15 – 2015-16

LIFELONG LEARNING

Illinois L.L. Coalition Instructor of Year Award

▲ 2008 / Spring
Henry "Buster" Leeck

▲ 2006 / Spring
Dr. Sue Santoro Tomlin

▲ 2005 / Spring
Dr. Evelyn Claxton

ICCTA Lifelong Learner of Year Award

Award discontinued in 2010

▲ 2006 / Fall
Margot McAfoos, 82
 (Benton)

RLC Lifelong Learner of the Year Nominees

▲ 2009 / Fall
Vida Headrick, 83
 (Conant)

▲ 2008 / Fall
William "Buck" Morris, 87
 (Benton)

▲ 2007 / Fall
Ann Santoro, 86
 (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 2006 / Fall
Margot McAfoos, 82
 (Benton)

ANNUAL STUDENT AND FACULTY ART EXHIBITION

On-campus art exhibit / competition for current students

▲ 2016 / 34th Annual

April-May 2016 • Judge Najjar Abdul-Musawwir, SIUC Lead Fine Arts Instructor
More than 100 pieces of art on display; over \$1,750 awarded in prizes and financial assistance to local students

"BEST OF SHOW" AWARD – "Dragon Book," Mykennah Allen (Shelbyville)
R.L.C. FOUNDATION ART AWARD – "Where the Heart Is," Autumn Breeze (Waltonville)
R.L.C. PURCHASE AWARD – "Pinwheel," Jessica Baird (Bluford)
EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD – "Cross-Contoured Tree," Danny Adams (Mt. Vernon)
ADAM AWARD (Best Pen or Pencil) – "Slick Variations," Justin Bolen (Mt. Vernon)
ALYSSA AWARD (Most Dramatic) – "Fashion Industry," Brooke Robertson (Christopher)
ADAM LEE LORANCE MEMORIAL ART SCHOLARSHIP (Chosen by Art Faculty) –
Brooke Riddle (Thompsonville)
3D MIXED MEDIA – "The Mother's Wrath," Allyssa Fox (Thompsonville); "Pinwheel,"
Jessica Baird (Bluford); "White Rose," Brooke Robertson (Christopher)
2D MIXED MEDIA – "Ouch," Justin Bolen (Mt. Vernon); "Monarch Caterpillar," Deborah
Loucks (Mt. Vernon); "Lethal in Stripes," Laura Spiller (West Frankfort)
BEST OF PORTFOLIO – Brooke Robertson (Christopher)
INSTRUCTORS CHOICE AWARD – Patrick Burke (Dix)
"STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS" ART LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP – Deborah Loucks (Mt. Vernon)
RLC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS – Raven Dean (Benton), Kyrie Dial (Benton) and Lauren
Jackson (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 2015 / 33rd Annual

April-May 2015 • Judge Najjar Abdul-Musawwir, SIUC Lead Fine Arts Instructor
Approximately \$1,500 awarded in prizes and financial assistance to local students
"BEST OF SHOW" AWARD – "Path of Destruction," Sue Good (McLeansboro)
R.L.C. FOUNDATION ART AWARD – "Whirlpool Galaxy," Sue Good (McLeansboro)
R.L.C. PURCHASE AWARD – "Dark Waters," Casey Brandt (Mt. Vernon)
EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD – "Jekyll N. Hyde," Allen H. Evans (Pinckneyville)
BEST OF CERAMICS – "Reaching Elephant," Casey Brandt (Mt. Vernon)
ADAM AWARD (Best Pen or Pencil) – "Nude No. 1," Hannah Brannan (Thompsonville)
and Keri Hartleb (Mulkeytown)
ADAM LEE LORANCE MEMORIAL ART SCHOLARSHIP (Chosen by Art Faculty) –
Kaitlin Cardona-Lemire (Zeigler)
ALYSSA DAWN LORANCE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (Most Dramatic) –
"Aura," Keri Hartleb (Mulkeytown)
FIRST IN 3D MIXED MEDIA – Logan Tharp (Norris City); 2. Brooke Robertson (Chris-
topher); 3. Leigha Yeager (Tamaroa)
FIRST IN 2D MIXED MEDIA – Tracey Webb (Ewing); 2. Allen H. Evans (Pinckneyville);
3. Leigha Yeager (Tamaroa)
BEST OF PORTFOLIO – Taylor Blankenship (Mulkeytown)
INSTRUCTORS CHOICE AWARDS – Danny Adams (Ina) and Bobby Harris (Zeigler)
RLC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS – Autumn Breeze (Waltonville), Alyssa Fox (Thomp-
sonville) and Tonya Gulliksen (Benton)

▲ 2014 / 32nd Annual

March-April 2014 • Judge Tienne Rei Kollars of Herrin
Total of 80 pieces submitted; more than \$1,500 awarded in prizes, scholarships
and tuition waivers to local high school students and RLC students
"BEST OF SHOW" AWARD – "Exposure for the Road," Jane Colvin (Wayne City)
R.L.C. FOUNDATION ART AWARD – "Out on a Limb," Dawn Tanner (Pinckneyville)
R.L.C. PURCHASE AWARD – "Exposure for the Road," Jane Colvin (Wayne City)
EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD – "Do You See What I See," Makeda Jones (Mt. Vernon)
BEST OF CERAMICS – "Face Pitcher," Kayann Bush (Mt. Vernon)
ADAM AWARD (Best Pen or Pencil) – "Happy Kiss," Casey Brandt (Mt. Vernon)
ADAM LEE LORANCE MEMORIAL ART SCHOLARSHIP (Chosen by Art Faculty) –
Alexandra Miller (Pinckneyville)
ALYSSA AWARD (Most Dramatic) – "Echoes of Chihuly," Sue Good (McLeansboro)
FIRST IN 3D MIXED MEDIA – "Bonsai Treasure," William Kimble (Thompsonville); 2.
"Light Relief Bench Carving," Kimble; 3. "Waterfall Brown," Achaia Shipp (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN 2D MIXED MEDIA – "Worth the Work," Jane Colvin (Wayne City); 2. "This
Generation," Makeda Jones (Mt. Vernon); 3. "The One That Didn't Get Away,"
Michael E. Williams (Ina)
BEST OF PORTFOLIO – Casey Brandt (Mt. Vernon)
RLC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS – Barretta Chullen (Thompsonville) and Logan Tharp
(Norris City)

▲ 2013 / 31st Annual

March-April 2013 • Judge David Brewer
"BEST OF SHOW" AWARD – "Vibrant Spring," Hannah Smith (Waltonville)
R.L.C. FOUNDATION ART AWARD – "Breaking Out," Jane Colvin (Wayne City)

R.L.C. PURCHASE AWARD – "Check Up," Nik Jennings (Pinckneyville)
EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD – "Dryas Erastes," Hannah Smith (Waltonville)
BEST OF CERAMICS – "Chimera - Rat, Polar Bear, Dragon," William Boyd (Sesser)
ADAM AWARD (Best Pen or Pencil) – Untitled, Lacey DePasquale (Ewing)
ADAM LEE LORANCE MEMORIAL ART SCHOLARSHIP (Chosen by Art Faculty) –
Kaerma Mare (Zeigler-Royalton High School)
ALYSSA AWARD (Most Dramatic) – "Ready to Go," Jane Colvin (Wayne City)
FIRST IN 3D MIXED MEDIA – "Dragon Serving Dish," William Boyd (Sesser);
2. "Surfacing for Air," Jon Booker (Pinckneyville); 3. The Great BeHolder,"
Makeda Jones (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN 2D MIXED MEDIA – "Self-Portrait: Disappearance," Lacey DePasquale (Ewing);
2. "Check Up," Nik Jennings (Pinckneyville); 3. "A Rose is a Rose," Crystal Smith
(Mt. Vernon)
BEST OF PORTFOLIO – Jane Colvin (Wayne City)
RLC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS – Nik Jennings (Pinckneyville) and Sherrie Weinhover
(Pinckneyville)

▲ 2012 / 30th Annual

May 2012 • Judge Kris Killman (Marion), founding member of Little Egypt Art Assn.
More than \$1,700 in winnings presented
"BEST OF SHOW" AWARD – "Alien Nature," Lacy DePasquale (Ewing / Benton H.S.)
R.L.C. FOUNDATION ART AWARD – "The Huntress," Aubree Willis (Benton)
R.L.C. PURCHASE AWARD – "ICU," Kellie N. Bryant (West Frankfort)
EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD – "Chicago Trolley," Jane Colvin (Wayne City)
BEST OF CERAMICS – "Native American Turtles," Jean Bravard (Mt. Vernon)
ADAM AWARD (Best Pen or Pencil) – "Hanna," William Boyd (Sesser)
ADAM LEE LORANCE MEMORIAL ART SCHOLARSHIP (Chosen by Art Faculty) –
Casey Southers (Texico / Mt. Vernon Township High School)
ALYSSA AWARD (Most Dramatic) – "Self Portrait," Lacy DePasquale (Ewing)
FIRST IN 3D MIXED MEDIA – "Effeminate Warrior," Kellie N. Bryant (West Frankfort)
FIRST IN 2D MIXED MEDIA – "Year of the Dragon," Lacy DePasquale (Ewing)
FIRST IN DRAWING – "Eyes of a Prophet," Nik Jennings (Pinckneyville)
FIRST IN PAINTING – "My Cats Eyes," Kellie N. Bryant (West Frankfort)
FIRST IN PHOTOGRAPHY – "After the Kiss," Jacob Dial (Mt. Vernon)
BEST OF PORTFOLIO – Kellie N. Bryant (West Frankfort)

▲ 2011 / 29th Annual

April, 2011 • Judge Carrie Gibbs, Director of Shrode Art Center
at Cedarhurst Center for the Arts in Mt. Vernon
R.L.C. FOUNDATION ART AWARD – "My Silly Clown," Kellie Bryant (Christopher)
R.L.C. PURCHASE AWARD – "The First Snow," Heather Still (McLeansboro)
"BEST OF SHOW" AWARD – "Delicate Elegance," Danni Mathis (Pinckneyville)
EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD – "Hunter," Erica Burton (Mt. Vernon)
BEST OF CERAMICS AWARD – "Tin Man," Butch McIntyre (Mt. Vernon)
ADAM AWARD (Best Pen or Pencil) – "Amazon Goddess," Willie Boyd (Sesser)
ALYSSA AWARD (Most Dramatic) – "Convolutated," David Tennyson (Dahlgren)
FIRST IN PHOTOGRAPHY – "Addison," Tiffany Garofolo (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN 3D MIXED MEDIA – "Safe," Kim Lunsford (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN 2D MIXED MEDIA – "4 in 1 Calla Lily," Kellie Bryant (Christopher)
FIRST IN DRAWING – "Dashing," Ethan Poe (West Frankfort)
FIRST IN PAINTING – "Self Portrait II," Danni Mathis (Pinckneyville)
FIRST IN CERAMICS / GLASS – "Prince," Jean Bravard (Mt. Vernon)
BEST OF PORTFOLIO – Erica Burton (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 2010 / 28th Annual

April, 2010
R.L.C. FOUNDATION ART AWARD / \$250 – Tim Ladd (Mt. Vernon)
R.L.C. PURCHASE AWARD / \$250 – Jerome Wisehart (Whittington)
"BEST OF SHOW" AWARD / \$225 – Tim Ladd (Mt. Vernon)
EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD / \$150 – Jerome Wisehart (Whittington)
BEST OF CERAMICS AWARD / \$75 – Whitney Fitzgerald (Ina)
ALYSSA AWARD (Most Dramatic) / \$50 – Michaela Burwell (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN PHOTOGRAPHY – Michaela Burwell (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN 3D MIXED MEDIA – Jean Bravard (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN 2D MIXED MEDIA – Erica Burton (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN DRAWING – Erica Burton (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN CERAMICS / GLASS – Alyssa Soler (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN PORTFOLIO – Michael Vincent (Belle Rive)

▲ 2009 / 27th Annual

R.L.C. FOUNDATION ART AWARD / \$250 – Sue Peradotta (Pinckneyville)

ANNUAL STUDENT AND FACULTY ART EXHIBITION (CONT.)

R.L.C. PURCHASE AWARD / \$250 – Stained glass piece by Deana Baird (Bluford)
“BEST OF SHOW” AWARD / \$225 –
EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD / \$150 –
BEST OF CERAMICS AWARD / \$75 – Matt Antonik (Mt. Vernon)
ADAM AWARD (Best Pen or Pencil) / \$50 –
ALYSSA AWARD (Most Dramatic) / \$50 –

▲ 2008 / 26th Annual

R.L.C. FOUNDATION ART AWARD / \$250 – “Ensemble,” by Carman Gray (Christopher)
R.L.C. PURCHASE AWARD / \$250 – “Under the Sea,” by Alyssa Soler (Mt. Vernon)
“BEST OF SHOW” AWARD / \$225 – Untitled piece by Andrea Snow (Benton)
EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD / \$150 – “Rapture,” by Emily Ryterski (Pinckneyville)
BEST OF CERAMICS AWARD / \$75 – “Demonic Penguin,” by Blaine Murphy (Mt. Vernon)
ADAM AWARD (Best Pen or Pencil) / \$50 – “Preacher Man,” by Jean Bravard (Mt. Vernon)
ALYSSA AWARD (Most Dramatic) / \$50 – “Self-Portrait #2,” by Carman Gray (Christopher)

▲ 2007 / 25th Annual

R.L.C. FOUNDATION AWARD / \$250 – “High Country Haven,” by Toni Smith (Mt. Vernon)
R.L.C. PURCHASE AWARD / \$250 – “Violin Lith,” photo by Matthew Fox (Thompsonville)
EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD / \$150 – “Help me guys, I am transforming,”
drawing by Vanessa Coonce (Mt. Vernon)
“BEST OF SHOW” AWARD / \$150 – “Strut,” ceramic by Michael Bell (Mt. Vernon)
BEST OF CERAMICS / \$75 – “Mech Lace,” by Jennifer Brown (Christopher)
BEST OF PORTFOLIO / \$75 – Emily Drone (Scheller)

▲ 2006 / 24th Annual

“BEST OF SHOW” AWARD – Nicki Asberry (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN PHOTOGRAPHY – Jennifer Brown (Christopher)
FIRST IN GRAPHICS DESIGN – Darren Joseph (Christopher)
FIRST IN DRAWING – Blaine Murphy (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN ILLUSTRATION – Darren Joseph (Christopher)
FIRST IN PAINTING – Raquel Maxey (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN 2-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN – Toni Smith (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN 3-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN – Alex Ryterski (Pinckneyville)
FIRST IN CERAMICS – Michael Bell (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN PRINTMAKING – Jennifer Brown (Christopher)

▲ 2005 / 23rd Annual

R.L.C. FOUNDATION ART AWARD – “Moonlight Splash,” Alan Sawyer (Pinckneyville)
“BEST OF SHOW” AWARD – “Chasing Rabbits,” Jessica Nollman (Mt. Vernon)
EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD – “Design and You,” Alex Ryterski (Pinckneyville)
ADAM AWARD – “Tracey Webb,” Amanda Strickland (Mt. Vernon)
ALYSSA AWARD – “Revelations,” Paul Clouse (Mt. Vernon)
BEST OF CERAMICS – “Medusa,” Amanda Strickland (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN PHOTOGRAPHY – “Life Among the Dead,” Jessica Nollman (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN GRAPHICS / ARCHITECTURE – “Ancient Fossils,” Aaron Lewis (Benton)
FIRST IN DRAWING – “Liv,” Amanda Strickland (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN ILLUSTRATION – “Remember,” Juanita Brookman (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN PAINTING – “Wood Rose,” Loran Karcher (Dahlgren)
FIRST IN DESIGN – “Bonzo,” Emily Drone (Scheller)
FIRST IN CERAMICS – “Athena,” Amanda Strickland (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN PRINTMAKING – “Winter Tree,” Aaron Lewis (Benton)
FIRST IN SCULPTURE – “Olivia,” Jessica Nollman (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 2004 / 22nd Annual

▲ 2003 / 21st Annual

“BEST OF SHOW” AWARD – Jennifer Degler (Tamaroa)
EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD –
FIRST IN PHOTOGRAPHY – Jesi Bevis (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN GRAPHICS / ARCHITECTURE – Pat Kelly (Coulterville)
FIRST IN DRAWING – Jennifer Degler (Tamaroa)
FIRST IN ILLUSTRATION – Juanita Brookman (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN PAINTING – Jessica McDermott (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN DESIGN – Mallory Blankenship (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN CERAMICS – Juanita Brookman (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 2002 / 20th Annual

The 20 and 3/4 Student Art Show (November 22, 2002)
There were 271 pieces of art and 26 individual exhibits
First year Graphic Design students allowed to participate
“BEST OF SHOW” AWARD –
1. “Arrivederci Romas,” by Bob Pina (Zeigler)
2. “Dan Quail,” by Joe Curlee (Goreville)

EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARDS –

“Road Warrior,” by Joyce Kirkpatrick (McLeansboro)
“A Stroll on the Farm,” by Jennifer Coffey (Dix)
FIRST IN PHOTOGRAPHY – “Forgotten,” by Sara Cairns (Valier)
FIRST IN ARCHITECTURE / GRAPHICS – “Dan Quail,” by Joe Curlee (Goreville)
FIRST IN DRAWING – “Girl with Bow,” by Miles James (Marion)
FIRST IN ILLUSTRATION – “Bubbles and Tiedye,” by Billie Brannan (Thompsonville)
FIRST IN PAINTING – “Old State Capital,” by Hyunwook Han (Benton)
FIRST IN DESIGN – “Horizontal Life,” by Jessica McDermott (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN CERAMICS – “Stars and Stripes,” by Billie Brannan (Thompsonville)
FIRST IN JEWELRY – “Celestia,” by Jennifer Degler (Tamaroa)
FIRST IN SCULPTURE – “Venom in Denim,” by Billie Brannan (Thompsonville)
FIRST IN LIFELONG LEARNING – “Abandoned / Abused,” by J. Kirkpatrick (McLeansboro)

▲ 2001 / 19th Annual

Total of 387 works selected
Juror Rick Boschulte (Goodfield), noted regional landscape artist
“BEST OF SHOW” AWARD / \$200 – “Jaguar,” colored pencil drawing
by Chris McGuire (Mt. Vernon)
CLAXTON ART AWARD / \$150 – “Reflections II,” by Glenda Thompson (Benton)
FIRST IN PHOTOGRAPHY / \$25 – “Zachary,” by Jennifer Betuski (Woodlawn)
FIRST IN DESIGN / \$25 – Untitled, by Sara Cairns (Valier)
FIRST IN DRAWING / \$25 – “Classic Statue,” by Chris McGuire (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN ILLUSTRATION / \$25 – “Jaguar,” by Chris McGuire (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN PAINTING / \$25 – “Reflections II,” by Glenda Thompson (Benton)
FIRST IN CERAMICS / \$25 – “Gourd Containers,” by Jim Simmons (McLeansboro)
FIRST IN JEWELRY / \$25 – “Spiral Spin Necklace,” by Jessica Rogers (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN PRINTMAKING / \$25 – “La Trissessa,” by Holly Tickner (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN SCULPTURE / \$25 – “Self-Portrait Table,” by Lee Knaus (Texico)
Rogers’ necklace also was presented a Juror’s Award in the statewide
Community College Juried Art Exhibition in Joliet in February

▲ 2000 / 18th Annual

Total of 338 works selected
Juror Debra Tayes of the Southern Illinois Artisan Shop
REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION ART AWARD
“Makanda,” oil painting by Bob Pina (Zeigler)
Another of his oil paintings, “Interior: San Simeon,” also took 1st in Painting Category
of the Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition at Kankakee C.C.
EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD
“Spring on the Guadalupe,” acrylic painting by Jo Ann Mondino (West Frankfort)
Painting also took 2nd in Painting Category of the Illinois Community College
Juried Art Exhibition at Kankakee C.C.
FIRST IN CERAMICS – “Set of Pots,” by Cortez Hodges (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN COMMERCIAL ART – “Fast Action Tinactin,” by Jennifer Betuski (Woodlawn)
FIRST IN DESIGN – “Shattered,” by Jodi Karcher (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN DRAWING – “Reflections of . . .” by Tammy Launay (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN ILLUSTRATION – Untitled, by William Lamont (Mt. Vernon)
FIRST IN PAINTING – “Wayne City Scenery,” by Brandi Barnard (Wayne City)
FIRST IN PRINTMAKING – “Lippy the Clown Meets Cracker the Alien,”
by Derrick Martin (Johnsonville)
FIRST IN SCULPTURE – “Spencer,” by Carilyn Spencer (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1999 / 17th Annual

Total of 403 works selected
Juror Ed Shay, Professor of Art at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION ART AWARD
“Mountain Lake,” oil painting by Janice Threatt (Belle Rive)
EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD
“Winter by the Lake,” oil painting by James L. Simmons (McLeansboro)

▲ 1998 / 16th Annual

Total of 375 works selected
Judge Dawn Garvin, Professor of Art at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION ART AWARD
“Torso,” by Sophomore Megan Mitchell (Opdyke / MVTHS)
EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD
“Old Patriarch,” oil painting by Janice Threatt (Belle Rive)

▲ 1997 / 15th Annual

Total of 358 works selected
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ARTISAN SHOP AWARD
“Cat Nap,” watercolor by Jennifer Kashycke-Melton (Mt. Vernon)

ANNUAL STUDENT AND FACULTY ART EXHIBITION (CONT.)

Painting also took 1st in Watercolor Category at Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition in Kankakee; Artist also took 1st in Drawing at IL C.C. Juried Art Exhibition with "Amie Seated in Chaos."

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION ART AWARD

"Jade in Pink," watercolor by Leslie McGuire (Mt. Vernon)

EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD

"Carol Again," watercolor by Sharon Voyles (Bluford)

▲ 1996 / 14th Annual

Total of 350 works selected.

Juror Craig Gedeist, Art Instructor at Frontier College in Fairfield

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ARTS AND CRAFTS MARKETPLACE PURCHASE AWARD

"Retired," acrylic painting by Brenda Webster McCollum (Benton)

Painting also "Best of Show" in Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition hosted downstate for first-time by Rend Lake College; took Top Honors in Great Rivers Community College Art Exhibition at John A. Logan College.

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION ART AWARD

"Forest Park," watercolor by Kathy Weinberg (Mt. Vernon)

EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD

"Seashore," acrylic by Glenda Thompson (West Frankfort)

▲ 1995 / 13th Annual

Almost 400 works produced by students and staff on display

Juror Michael Onken, SIUC Director of Graduate Studies, School of Art and Design

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ARTS AND CRAFTS MARKETPLACE PURCHASE AWARD

"San Xavier Mission," mixed media painting by Ken Plumlee (Tamaroa)

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION ART AWARD

"Autumn Stream," acrylic painting by Brenda Webster McCollum (Benton)

REND LAKE COLLEGE ART AWARD

"It's A Nice Froggy Day, Mommy," watercolor painting by Nina Peacock (Mt. Vernon)

EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD

"Calm Waters," watercolor painting by Annaleis Wessels (Mt. Vernon)

BEST OF CERAMICS

"Aqua Bowl," by Amanda Williford (Mt. Vernon)

BEST OF DESIGN

"Parallelogram," by Tri Ta (Akin)

BEST OF DRAWING

"Victory," pen-and-ink drawing by Deborah Ford (Zeigler)

BEST OF JEWELRY

"Wire Necklace," by Betty Neaville (Pinckneyville)

BEST OF PAINTING

"Window," watercolor by Sue Stewart (Mt. Vernon)

BEST OF SCULPTURE

"In the Presence," mixed media piece by Linda Lane (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1994 / 12th Annual

Over 400 works selected, inc. 70 in Art Alumnus Exhibition covering 12-year period.

Juror Bob Paulson, Director of the School of Art and Design at SIUC

REND LAKE COLLEGE PURCHASE AWARD

"Errr Meow," oil painting by Shawna Moyers (Valier)

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION ART AWARD

"The Elvis is Alive Museum," by Dayna Hartley (Centralia)

EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD

"City Smog," oil painting by Renee Majewski (Tamaroa)

▲ 1993 / 11th Annual

"Sarah Capps: A Retrospective" Exhibit. A total of 325 works accepted.

Juror Brent Kington, Director of the School of Art and Design at SIUC

REND LAKE COLLEGE PURCHASE AWARD

"Truly Solitude," mixed media painting by Betty Neaville (Pinckneyville)

Neaville also was presented the "Juror's Award" from the Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition, designating her as one of the top 10 art students in the state

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION ART AWARD

"Expressions of Fall," oil painting by Tom McCombs (Mt. Vernon)

EVELYN CLAXTON ART AWARD

"Winter's Day," watercolor by Dayna Hartley (Centralia)

BEST OF CERAMICS

"Large Diamond Box," by Lyn Rentfro (Royalton)

BEST OF DESIGN

"Drip," cut paper design by Wendy Heck (Bonnie)

BEST OF DRAWING / GRAPHICS

"Lady in Red," print by Vicki Williams (McLeansboro)

BEST OF PAINTING

"Here's Looking at You, Kid," oil painting by Tom McCombs (Mt. Vernon)

BEST OF SCULPTURE

"Unfolding," large wood sculpture by Kellie Stritzel (Christopher)

▲ 1992 / 10th Annual

Total of 287 works selected.

Juror Michael Onken, Head of Graduate Studies at Southern Illinois U.-Carbondale

CLAXTON / BEST OF SHOW AWARD

"New Orleans," watercolor by Jason Fox (Mt. Vernon)

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION ART AWARD

"Never Ending Winter," oil triptych by Gene Krone (Murphysboro)

DEAN'S AWARD

"Carnival," watercolor by Marilyn Teague (McLeansboro)

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

"Yard Sale," watercolor by Ellen Heise (Benton)

FIRST / SECOND / THIRD PRIZES

1st - "Pinocchio," watercolor by Cheryl Thormohlen (Mt. Vernon)

2nd - "After Dumnervitter," watercolor by Lyn Rentfro (Royalton)

3rd - "Spectacles of Myself," metalwork by Tim Aydt (McLeansboro)

"PEOPLE'S CHOICE" AWARD

"Spectacles of Myself," metalwork by Tim Aydt (McLeansboro)

▲ 1991 / 9th Annual

Total of 283 works selected.

Juror Michael Onken, Art Professor at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

CLAXTON / BEST OF SHOW AWARD

"Davy," watercolor by Sophomore Sean Higgins (Valier)

FIRST / SECOND / THIRD PRIZES

1st - "Downtown," watercolor by Scott Lee (Mt. Vernon)

2nd - "Autumn Colors," oil painting by Gene Krone (Tamaroa)

3rd - "Neckpiece," jewelry created by Vonnie Hofer (Mt. Vernon)

DEAN'S AWARD

"Poppies," oil painting by Janice Threatt (Belle Rive)

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD and "PEOPLE'S CHOICE" AWARD

"Blessed Assurance," watercolor by Debbie Hitt (Tamaroa)

▲ 1990 / 8th Annual

Over 275 works selected.

CLAXTON AWARD

"Thelma's Cat," watercolor by Michelle Melson (Coello)

"PEOPLE'S CHOICE" AWARD

"Birds of Paradise," watercolor by Michelle Melson (Coello)

FIRST / SECOND / THIRD PRIZES

1st - "Waterlilies," watercolor by Janice Threatt (Belle Rive)

2nd - "Winter Blues," oil painting by Gene Krone (Tamaroa)

3rd - "Therese," charcoal drawing by Scott Lee (Mt. Vernon)

DEAN'S AWARD

"Make A Wish," oil painting by Donna Todd (Bluford)

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

"Copper and Bead Pin," created by Joyce Fisher (Herrin)

▲ 1989 / 7th Annual

Works selected - Record 287

Judge Michael Onken, Art Professor at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

CLAXTON AWARD / \$100

"The Lobby," oil painting by Tom McCombs (Mt. Vernon)

DEAN'S AWARD

"The Creek," oil painting by Kathy Reu (Nashville)

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

"The Garden," oil painting by Tom McCombs (Mt. Vernon)

"BEST OF SHOW"

"Pals," watercolor by Christine Van Ryn (Mt. Vernon)

FIRST / SECOND / THIRD PRIZES

1st - "The Unavailable Smile of Twitch," watercolor by Ralph W. Roether III (Sesser)

2nd - "Self Portrait," bust in plaster by Vonnie Hofer (Mt. Vernon)

3rd - "Momma Streak," watercolor by Nina Duckworth (Benton)

▲ 1988 / 6th Annual

Works selected - 188

Judge Sylvia Greenfield of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

CLAXTON AWARD / \$100

"Lessons Mama Taught," collage by Cynthia Whitfield (Mt. Vernon)

ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION (CONT.)

"BEST OF SHOW"

"Trees on a Shady Lane II," watercolor by Alma Lohrum (Mt. Vernon)

FIRST / SECOND / THIRD PRIZES

1st - "Tomatoes for Breakfast," acrylic painting by Therese Howard (Orient)

2nd - "Roses," pencil drawing by Julie Robertson (Belle Rive)

3rd - "Princess," paper mache mask by Jamia Holman (Whittington)

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

"When Does the Parade Start," acrylic painting by Sue Stotlar (Benton)

▲ 1987 / 5th Annual

Works selected - 148

Judge Renee Mavigliano, Art Instructor at John A. Logan College

CLAXTON AWARD and "BEST OF SHOW" / \$100

"Workshop," watercolor by Alma Lohrum (Mt. Vernon)

FIRST / SECOND / THIRD PRIZES

1st - "Stormy Night I," watercolor by Elsie Nadolski (Mt. Vernon)

2nd - "Fusion of Time," wood sculpture by Stephen Gariepy (Benton)

3rd - "Pete's Pumpkin," watercolor by Peter Omiotek (Mt. Vernon)

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

"Owl," pen and ink drawing by Misti Collins (Wayne City)

▲ 1986 / 4th Annual

Works selected - 121

Juror Ellen Spault of Shawnee Community College

FIRST / SECOND / THIRD PRIZES / \$50 / \$30 / \$20

1st - "My Neighbor Got a New Hat," watercolor by Marlene Webb (Ewing)

2nd - "Monday Afternoon," pencil drawing by Fran Rumsey (Mt. Vernon)

3rd - "Reading Daddy His Bedtime Story," pencil drawing, Therese Howard (Orient)

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD / \$25

"The Spider and the Fly," brass bracelet and ring by Michelle Smith (Mt. Vernon)

▲ 1982 /

Juror Dennis Ringering of Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

"BEST OF SHOW"

1st - "View from the Window," painting by Ruth Wilson (Benton)

SECOND / THIRD PRIZES

2nd - "Winter Horizon," pastel by Jean Elimon (Thompsonville)

3rd - Drawing by Scott Steinsultz (Benton)

▲ 1976 /

FIRST / SECOND / THIRD PRIZES

1st - Lesa Rhodes (Zeigler) / \$100

2nd - David Gallo (Sesser) / \$50
Brenda Willis (Mt. Vernon) / \$50

3rd - Cynthia Gentry / \$25
John Roberts / 25
Doug Gum (Mt. Vernon) / \$25

Honorable Mention -

Perry Morris / \$10

Tom Mick (Benton) / \$10

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY / ARRT BOARD EXAM PASS RATES

Year	Students	Mean Score	Passed	Pct.
▲ 2015				
REND LAKE COLLEGE	15	-	* 15	100.0%
▲ 2014				
REND LAKE COLLEGE	17	-	* 13	76.5%
▲ 2013				
REND LAKE COLLEGE	24	-	* 15	62.5%
▲ 2012				
REND LAKE COLLEGE	23	-	* 16	69.6%
▲ 2011				
REND LAKE COLLEGE	20	-	* 17	85.0%
▲ 2010				
REND LAKE COLLEGE	19	-	* 14	73.7%
▲ 2009				
REND LAKE COLLEGE	17	-	* 17	100.0%

THE AMERICAN REGISTRY OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS
(AART) NATIONAL CERTIFICATION

* First attempt within six months of graduation

[Totals for 2015 may not be complete; figures available at time of publication]

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM DOUG LEECK SERVICE AWARD

▲ 2015-16

Lisa Price

Rend Lake College Vice President of Student Services

▲ 2014-15

Barb Hampton

Rend Lake College English Associate Professor

▲ 2013-14

John Kabat

Rend Lake College Trustee (2011-17)

Mt. Vernon Township High School Agriculture Teacher, 29 years

Rend Lake College 1981-82 Outstanding Agriculture Student of the Year

▲ 2010-11

David Edmison

Former Rend Lake College Trustee

▲ 2009-10

Syngenta Representatives

Barry Beaupre and Scott Cully

▲ 2007-08

Maurice Kirsch

Retired Rend Lake College Agriculture Professor

▲ 2006-07

Dr. James Teal

Local Veterinarian / Part-time RLC Instructor

▲ 2005-06

Dennis Epplin

University of Illinois Extension Agriculture Advisor

▲ 2004-05

Rubenacker Family

Richard and Margarette - Sons Randy, Rodney and Terry

Hamilton County Ag Business Owners / Operators

Rend Lake College graduates

JETS / TEAMS / WYSE ~ ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTEST

Hosted by RLC. Sponsored by the Junior Engineering and Technological Society.

▲ 2015-16

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Academic Challenge
Division 1500 / Enrollments above 701 (1 team entry) – 1. Mt. Vernon, 500.
Division 700 / Enrollments between 301-700 (3 team entries) –

1. Benton, 500.0; 2. Hamilton County Sr., 457.3; 3. Pinckneyville, 445.6.

Division 300 / Enrollments 300 and below (6 team entries) –

1. Sesser-Valier, 478.1; 2. Christopher, 423.9; 3. Wayne City, 422.7.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Zach Mabry (SVHS), 24; **Chemistry** - Connor Pigg (MVTHS), 28; **English** - Riley Cornett (MVTHS), 70; **Physics** - Kurtis Sanders (BCHS) and Blake McPherson (MVTHS), 15; **Engineering Graphics** - Andrew Lingle (BCHS), 24; **Biology** - Shubhika Jain (MVTHS), 39; **Computer Science** - Wyatt Marks (MVTHS), 21.

▲ 2014-15

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Academic Challenge
Division 1500 / Enrollments above 701 (1 team entry) – 1. Mt. Vernon, 500.
Division 700 / Enrollments between 301-700 (3 team entries) –

1. Benton, 492.0; 2. Hamilton County Sr., 483.3; 3. Pinckneyville, 444.4.

Division 300 / Enrollments 300 and below (6 team entries) –

1. Christopher, 483.9; 2. Sesser-Valier, 454.4; 3. Waltonville, 423.9.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Blake Dorris (SVHS), 18; **Chemistry** - Michael Wright (MVTHS), 26; **English** - Jackson Stubblefield (SVHS), 58; **Physics** - Taylor Yucus (BCHS), 14; **Engineering Graphics** - Connor Pigg (MVTHS), 24; **Biology** - Shubhika Jain (MVTHS), 41; **Computer Science** - Wyatt Marks (MVTHS), 19.

▲ 2013-14

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Academic Challenge
Division 1500 / Enrollments above 701 (1 team entry) – 1. Mt. Vernon, 500.
Division 700 / Enrollments between 301-700 (3 team entries) –

1. Hamilton County Sr., 477.5; 2. Benton, 475.8; 3. Pinckneyville, 301.3.

Division 300 / Enrollments 300 and below (7 team entries) –

1. Christopher, 484.1; 2. Sesser-Valier, 401.1; 3. Wayne City, 399.6.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Ethan Conner (CHS), 29; **Chemistry** - Sara Dixon (BCHS), 29; **English** - Wyatt Beaty (MVTHS), 64; **Physics** - Brendan Haile (WCHS), 12; **Engineering Graphics** - Logan Page (BCHS), 24; **Biology** - Andrew Wellen (HCSHS), 38; **Computer Science** - Ethan Conner (CHS), 20.

▲ 2012-13

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Academic Challenge
Division 1500 / Enrollments above 701 (1 team entry) – 1. Mt. Vernon, 500.
Division 700 / Enrollments between 301-700 (3 team entries) –

1.

Division 300 / Enrollments 300 and below (6 team entries) –

1.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Tim Barnett (BCHS) and Zach Boehl (CHS); **Chemistry** - Tim Barnett (BCHS); **English** - Cyndi Garrett (BCHS); **Physics** - Michaela Dollins (BCHS); **Engineering Graphics** - Gavin Suver (BCHS); **Biology** - Andrew Wellen (HCSHS); **Computer Science** - Ethan Conner (CHS).

▲ 2011-12

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Academic Challenge
Division 1500 / Enrollments above 701 (1 team entry) – 1. Mt. Vernon, 500.
Division 700 / Enrollments between 301-700 (3 team entries) –

1. Benton, 500; 2. Hamilton County Sr., 417.9.

Division 300 / Enrollments 300 and below (6 team entries) –

1. Christopher, 471.4; 2. Wayne City, 452.8.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Tim Barnett (BCHS) and Ethan Conner (CHS), 25; **Chemistry** - Derek Butler (BCHS), 23; **English** - Joey Clinton (BCHS) and Cyndi Garrett (BCHS), 75; **Physics** - Steven Wikel (BCHS) and Ashley Peterson (SVHS), 16; **Engineering Graphics** - Philip Rexing (HCSHS), 25; **Biology** - Derek Butler (BCHS), 45; **Computer Science** - Dylan Kenshalo (WCHS), 27.

▲ 2010-11

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Academic Challenge
Division 1500 / Enrollments above 701 (1 team entry) – 1. Mt. Vernon, 500.
Division 700 / Enrollments between 301-700 (3 team entries) –

1. Benton, 500; 2. Pinckneyville, 348; 3. Hamilton County Sr., 325.

Division 300 / Enrollments 300 and below (7 team entries) –

1.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Billy Hatfield (WCHS); **Chemistry** - Derek Butler (BCHS); **English** - Jessica Colbert (BCHS); **Physics** - Dylan Kenshalo (WCHS) and Christina McLaughlin (WTHS); **Engineering Graphics** - Jeffrey Riker (WHS) and Gavin Suver (BCHS); **Biology** - Derek Butler (BCHS); **Computer Fundamentals** - Ethan Conner (CHS).

▲ 2009-10

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Academic Challenge

▲ 2008-09

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Academic Challenge
Division 1500 / Enrollments above 701 (1 team entry) – 1. Mt. Vernon, 500.
Division 700 / Enrollments between 301-700 (3 team entries) –

1. Benton, 500; 2. Pinckneyville, 348; 3. Hamilton County Sr., 325.

Division 300 / Enrollments 300 and below (7 team entries) –

1. Christopher, 497; 2. Wayne City, 480; 3. Zeigler-Royalton, 435;
4. Sesser-Valier, 391; 5. Webber Township, 388; 6. Waltonville, 375.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - (tie) Steven J. Beckham (MVTHS), Seth Brandon (BCHS) and Katie Higgins (CHS), 18; **Chemistry** - Alexander S. Taaka (MVTHS) and Zach Reeder (BCHS), 27; **English** - Ashley Campbell (BCHS), 72; **Physics** - Zach Reeder (BCHS), 15; **Engineering Graphics** - Nick Culbreth (BCHS), 32; **Biology** - Ethan Roberts (BCHS), 40; **Computer Science** - Kaley Smith (CHS), 11.

▲ 2007-08

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Academic Challenge
Division 1500 / Enrollments above 701 (1 team entry) – 1. Mt. Vernon, 500.
Division 700 / Enrollments between 301-700 (3 team entries) –

1. Benton, 500; 2. Pinckneyville, 406; 3. Hamilton County Sr., 335.

Division 300 / Enrollments 300 and below (7 team entries) –

1. Christopher, 490; 2. Wayne City, 468; 3. Woodlawn, 407; 4. Webber, 397;
5. Zeigler-Royalton, 372; 6. Sesser-Valier, 350; 7. Waltonville, 341.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Preston Nelson (BCHS), 18; **Chemistry** - Andrea Sterling (CHS), 30; **English** - Ashley Campbell (BCHS), 81; **Physics** - Preston Nelson (BCHS), 18; **Engineering Graphics** - Nick Culbreth (BCHS), 32; **Biology** - Bryan Carter (BCHS), 45; **Computer Science** - Eric Biggs (CHS), 13.

▲ 2006-07

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Academic Challenge
D 1500 (1) – 1. Mt. Vernon, 500.

D 700 (3) – 1. Benton, 500; 2. Pinckneyville, 414; 3. Hamilton County Sr., 404.

D 300 (6) – 1. Christopher, 488; 2. Wayne City, 439; 3. Zeigler-Royalton, 421.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - (tie) Kory Blank (WCHS) and Robbie Hudson (SVHS), 18; **Chemistry** - Chris Stewart (BCHS), 23; **English** - Rob Bartoni (BCHS), 73; **Physics** - (tie) Bryan Carter (BCHS) and Cullen Bond (HCSHS), 14; **Engineering Graphics** - Chad Jones (BCHS), 45; **Biology** - Ethan Roberts (BCHS), 36; **Computer Science** - Ethan Roberts (BCHS), 14.

▲ 2005-06

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Academic Challenge
D 1500 (1) – 1. Mt. Vernon.

D 700 (3) – 1. Benton, 490; 2. Pinckneyville, 452; 3. Hamilton County Sr., 366.

D 300 (6) – 1. Christopher, 489; 2. Zeigler-Royalton, 387; Waltonville, 341;

4. Sesser-Valier, 335; 5. Woodlawn, 329; 6. Webber Township, 297.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Adam Sims (CHS), 33; **Chemistry** - Felicia Hargis (CHS), 25; **English** - Brad Restivo (ZRHS), 78; **Physics** - Chad Jones (BCHS), 15; **Engineering Graphics** - Casey Campbell (BCHS), 30; **Biology** - Josh Bullock (ZRHS), 41; **Computer Science** - Katie Furlow (CHS), 13.

▲ 2004-05

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Academic Challenge
D 1500 (1) – 1. Mt. Vernon, 500.

D 700 (3) – 1. Benton, 432.4; 2. Hamilton County Sr., 422.7; 3. Pinckneyville.

D 300 (5) – 1. Christopher, 463.5; 2. Zeigler-Royalton, 377.4; 3. Webber, 371.0

Also: Sesser-Valier and Waltonville.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Adam Sims (CHS), 25; **Chemistry** - Kevin Chang (MVTHS), 24; **English** - (tie) Emily Fisher (ZRHS) and Kim Rentfro (ZRHS), 87; **Physics** - Jonathan Kellerman (PCHS), 17; **Engineering Graphics** - Tim Seddon (BCHS), 42; **Biology** - Felicia Hargis (CHS), 48; **Computer Fundamentals** - Jeong-Wook Lee (PCHS), 21.

JETS / TEAMS / WYSE ~ ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTEST (CONT.)

▲ 2003-04

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Academic Challenge
 D 1500 (1) – 1. Mt. Vernon, 500.
 D 700 (3) – 1. Benton, 471.79; 2. Hamilton Co. Sr., 453.28; 3. Pinckneyville, 392.61.
 D 300 (6) – 1. Christopher, 472.76; 2. Sesser-Valier, 434.28; 3. Woodlawn, 430.26;
 4. Webber Township, 414.33; 5. Zeigler-Royalton, 414.07; 6. Waltonville, 384.11.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Ty Doering (MVTHS), 27; **Chemistry** - David Auxier (BCHS), 24; **English** - (tie) Chris Kolb (MVTHS) and Ashley Tindle (SVHS), 89; **Physics** - James Darrohn (BCHS), 17; **Engineering Graphics** - Nick Freed (BCHS), 38; **Biology** - Preston Prior (BCHS), 37; **Computer Fundamentals** - Tony Bushong (CHS), 17.

▲ 2002-03

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Regional
 D 1500 (1) – 1. Mt. Vernon, 500.
 D 700 (3) – 1. Benton, 497; 2. Hamilton County Sr., 426; 3. Pinckneyville, 373.
 D 300 (6) – 1. Christopher, 485; 2. Webber Twnp., 452; 3. Zeigler-Royalton, 428.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Ryan Marchetti (CHS), 21; **Chemistry** - Ty Doering (MVTHS), 28; **English** - (tie) Allison Campbell (BCHS) and Matt Linwong (MVTHS), 87; **Physics** - Adam Bean (WTHS), 16; **Engineering Graphics** - Anthony Eubanks (BCHS), 41; **Biology** - (tie) Ian Pearson (MVTHS) and Trevor Saunders (BCHS), 36; **Computer Fundamentals** - Sarah Manis (MVTHS) and Ian Pearson (MVTHS), 14; **Society and Technology** - Jennifer Krelow (ZRHS) and Alex Monroe (HCSHS), 20.

▲ 2001-02

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE)

▲ 2000-01

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE)

▲ 1999-2000

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE)
 D I (1) – 1. Mt. Vernon.
 D II (3) – 1. Benton; 2. Pinckneyville; 3. McLeansboro.
 D III (7) – 1. Christopher; 2. Zeigler-Royalton; 3. Sesser-Valier.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - (tie) Brian Vanagas (MVTHS), Jennifer Lampley (BCHS) and Shannon Price (CHS), 16; **Chemistry** - Josh Miksanek (BCHS), 37; **English** - Cliff Meyers (MHS), 92; **Physics** - Moritz Riesner (BCHS), 17; **Engineering Graphics** - Chuck McGhee (MVTHS), 39; **Biology** - Cliff Meyers (MHS), 45; **Computer Fundamentals** - Megan Martin (WTHS), 13; **Society and Technology** - John Barron (WTHS), 22.

▲ 1998-99

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE)
 D I (1) – 1. Mt. Vernon.
 D II (3) – 1. Benton, 500.0; 2. Pinckneyville, 470.60; 3. McLeansboro, 364.90.
 D III (7) – 1. Zeigler-Royalton, 477.45; 2. Christopher, 442.70; 3. Sesser-Valier, 411.46.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Josh Miksanek (BCHS), 17; **Chemistry** - (tie) Josh Miksanek (BCHS) and Craig Epplin (PCHS), 33; **English** - (tie) Beth Thomas (BCHS) and Cliff Meyers (MHS), 90; **Physics** - (tie) Dale Perkins (MVTHS), Allison Charnness (ZRHS) and Casey Stone (ZRHS), 15; **Engineering Graphics** - Chuck McGhee (MVTHS), 38; **Biology** - Tom Williams (MVTHS), 43; **Computer Fundamentals** - Bryan Barnard (WCHS), 15; **Society and Technology** - Jason Krelow (ZRHS), 24.

▲ 1997-98

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE)
 D I (1) – 1. Mt. Vernon.
 D II (3) – 1. Benton, 490.24; 2. Pinckneyville, 452.32; 3. McLeansboro, 435.76.
 D III (7) – 1. Christopher, 471.60; 2. Zeigler-Royalton, 467.0; 3. Waltonville, 454.6.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - (tie) Matt Davidson (MVTHS) and Jason Stowers (MVTHS), 20; **Chemistry** - (tie) Jason Stowers (MVTHS) and Craig Epplin (PCHS), 34; **English** - Milissa Flannigan (MHS), 83; **Physics** - Paul Murphy (WTHS), 13; **Engineering Graphics** - Matt Davidson (MVTHS), 45; **Biology** - Tom Williams (MVTHS), 37; **Computer Fundamentals** - Amanda White (WCHS), 20; **Society and Technology** - Kristin Kopshever (PCHS), 27.

▲ 1996-97

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE)
 D I (1) – 1. Mt. Vernon.
 D II (3) – 1. Benton, 500.0; 2. McLeansboro, 446.01; 3. Pinckneyville, 420.46.
 D III (6) – 1. Christopher, 469.30; 2. Zeigler-Royalton, 466.93; 3. Webber, 441.48.

Top Scorers Overall (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Jeremy Davis (MVTHS), 24; **Chemistry** - Jared Burlison (BCHS), 38; **English** - Jeff Olsen (MVTHS), 77; **Physics** - David Newsom (CHS), 16; **Engineering Graphics** - Darin Reed (WCHS), 40; **Biology** - Sophomore Tom Williams (MVTHS), 35; **Computer Fundamentals** - Jeremy Burk (MVTHS), 22; **Society and Technology** - (tie) Josh Anderton (CHS) and Jesse Mitchell (ZRHS), 24.

▲ 1995-96

National Invitational Teams (NIT)
 D I (1) – 1. Mt. Vernon.
 D II (3) – 1. Benton; 2. Pinckneyville; 3. McLeansboro.
 D III (7) – 1. Wayne City; 2. Sesser-Valier; 3. Woodlawn.

▲ 1994-95

Academic Challenge
 D I (1) – 1. Mt. Vernon.
 D II (3) – 1. Benton, 480.7; 2. McLeansboro, 440.9; 3. Pinckneyville, 432.3.
 D III (7) – 1. Sesser-Valier, 471; 2. Wayne City, 465; 3. Woodlawn, 431.9.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Steven Ward (MVTHS), 20; **Chemistry** - Jeremy Krug (BCHS), 29; **English** - Jeremy Degenhart (MHS), 88; **Physics** - Adam Wise (MHS), 15; **Engineering Graphics** - Ely Lambert (MVTHS), 40; **Biology** - Dan Davidson (MVTHS), 37; **Computer Fundamentals** - Conrad Caquelin (WCHS), 17; **Society and Technology** - Jeremy Degenhart (MHS), 20.

▲ 1993-94

Academic Challenge
 D I (1) – 1. Mt. Vernon.
 D II (3) – 1. Benton, 493; 2. Pinckneyville, 431; 3. McLeansboro, 393.
 D III (7) – 1. Wayne City, 500; 2. Sesser-Valier, 459; 3. Waltonville, 433.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Rachel Quillman (PCHS); **Chemistry** - Derek Fung (BCHS); **English** - Marcus Elliott (SVHS); **Physics** - Eric Buchanan (WCHS); **Engineering Graphics** - Brandon Barnard (WCHS); **Biology** - Marcus Elliott (SVHS); **Computer Fundamentals** - Ryan Tadlock (MVTHS); **Society and Technology** - Ted Garner (PCHS).

▲ 1992-93

Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS)
 D I (1) – 1. Mt. Vernon.
 D II (3) – 1. Benton, 494.8; 2. Pinckneyville, 463.8; 3. McLeansboro, 411.3.
 D III (7) – 1. Wayne City, 476.2; 2. Sesser-Valier, 475.1; 3. Woodlawn, 455.9.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Derek Fung (BCHS), 27; **Chemistry** - Jason Landreth (MVTHS), 26; **English** - Jason House (CHS), 92; **Physics** - (tie) Derek Fung (BCHS) and Josh Brand (PCHS), 19; **Engineering Graphics** - (tie) Aaron Dailey (MVTHS) and Mike Joplin (BCHS), 35; **Biology** - John Clements (BCHS), 43; **Computer Fundamentals** - Jarrod Wells (MVTHS), 24; **Society and Technology** - Nathan Rowland (MHS), 23.

▲ 1991-92

Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS)
 D I (1) – 1. Mt. Vernon.
 D II (2) – 1. Benton, 498; 2. Pinckneyville, 405.
 D III (6) – 1. Wayne City, 495; 2. Sesser-Valier, 446; 3. Webber Township, 431.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Tim Gowler (MVTHS); **Chemistry** - Roger House (Benton); **English** - Alaina Williams (Wayne City); **Physics** - Eric Brodges (Pinckneyville); **Engineering Graphics** - (tie), Matt Saxe (BCHS) and Sara Supancic (BCHS); **Biology** - John Clements (BCHS); **Computer Fundamentals** - Ryan Tadlock (MVTHS); **Society and Technology (Current Events)** - Melea Peek (MVTHS).

▲ 1990-91

Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS)

▲ 1989-90

Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS)
 Class AA (2) – 1. Mt. Vernon, 500; 2. Benton, 419.58.
 Class A (9) – 1. Pinckneyville, 482.75; 2. Waltonville, 450.77; 3. Zeigler-Royalton, 447.13.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Ken Rustin (MVTHS); **Chemistry** - Hans Taparia (MVTHS); **English** - Tanya Seckman (ZRHS); **Physics** - Erik Steinmaier (MVTHS); **Graphics** - Shannon Kash (Waltonville); **Biology** - Freshman Jay Lewis (MVTHS); **Computer Fundamentals** - (tie) Chris Cockrum (SVHS) and Amber Spillers (MVTHS).

[Ed. Note: Class A Biology – 1. Chad Copple (Woodlawn)]

▲ 1988-89

Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS)
Class AA (2) – 1. Mt. Vernon; 2. Benton.
Class A (9) – 1. Wayne City; 2. Sesser-Valier; 3. McLeansboro

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Scott Jackson (Wayne City); **Chemistry** - Cindy Hardiek (MVTHS); **English** - Jennifer Stubblefield (SVHS); **Physics** - (tie) Larry Gowler (MVTHS) and David Harp (BCHS); **Graphics** - (tie) Robb Hicks (MVTHS) and Doug Wayer (MVTHS); **Biology** - (tie) Marcy Harmon (MVTHS), John Klockenga (Woodlawn) and Brad Zinn (MVTHS); **Computers** - Cliff Cockrum (SVHS).

▲ 1987-88

Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS)
Class AA (2) – 1. Mt. Vernon, 500; 2. Benton, 440.21.
Class A (10) – 1. Wayne City, 452.25; 2. Waltonville, 450.86; 3. McLeansboro, 443.38.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Terry Vandre (MVTHS); **Chemistry** - Terry Vandre (MVTHS); **English** - Jennifer Stubblefield (SVHS); **Physics** - Jeff Zawila (MVTHS); **Graphics** - Rebecca Niles (MVTHS); **Biology** - Teresa Montaigne (MVTHS); **Computers** - Kevin Legg (Wayne City).

▲ 1986-87

Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS)
Class AA (2) – 1. Mt. Vernon, 500; 2. Benton, 485.13.
Class A (9) – 1. McLeansboro, 451.75; 2. Woodlawn, 440.47; 3. Pinckneyville, 431.57

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Mike Baylor (MHS); **Chemistry** - Jon Bingham (BCHS); **English** - (tie) Jay Carnahan (ZRHS) and Christie Launius (BCHS); **Physics** - John Dale (Woodlawn); **Graphics** - (tie) Tad Smith (BCHS) and Rob Tottleben (ZRHS); **Biology** - (tie) Soheel Kahn (BCHS) and Joe Munaretto (ZRHS); **Computers** - Jeff Parsell (PCHS).

▲ 1985-86

Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS)
Class AA (2) – 1. Mt. Vernon; 2. Benton.
Class A (12) – 1. Sesser-Valier; 2. McLeansboro; 3. Waltonville.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Tony Valente (S-V); **Chemistry** - Billy Collins (MVTHS); **English** - Anjie Dietrich (BCHS); **Physics** - Mark Jaroski (Tamaroa); **Graphics** - Doug Miller (Benton); **Biology** - Ed Beaty (Benton).

▲ 1984-85

Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS)
Class AA (2) – 1. Mt. Vernon, 496.3; 2. Benton, 456.9.
Class A (12) – 1. Sesser-Valier, 465.3; 2. Wayne City, 448.2; 3. McLeansboro, 441.7.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - (tie) Steve Dowds (MVTHS) and Jim Prior (MVTHS); **Chemistry** - (tie) Edward Beaty (Benton) and Jim Passmore (Mt. Vernon); **English** - Andrea Lee (Mt. Vernon); **Physics** - Edward Beaty (Benton); **Graphics** - (tie) Keyma Brieseacher (Mt. Vernon) and Kelly Robertson (Benton); **Biology** - (tie) Richard Barton (Benton), John Drew (McLeansboro) and Ed Nowak (Mt. Vernon).

▲ 1983-84

Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS) / 330 students
Class AA (2) – 1. Mt. Vernon; 2 Benton.
Class A (11) – 1. Sesser-Valier; 2. McLeansboro; 3. Wayne City.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Jim Bates (MVTHS); **Chemistry** - David Moutray (MVTHS); **English** - Andrea Lee (MVTHS); **Physics** - David Moutray (MVTHS); **Graphics** - (tie) Scott Veatch (MVTHS) and Scott Langa (Woodlawn); **Biology** - Soheel Kahn (Benton).

▲ 1982-83

Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS)
Class AA (2) – 1. Mt. Vernon; 2. Benton.
Class A (12) – 1. Sesser-Valier; 2. McLeansboro; 3. Woodlawn.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Don Johnson (MVTHS); **Chemistry** - Bill Fahrenholtz (MVTHS); **English** - Candi Burns (MVTHS); **Physics** - Phil Draper (MVTHS); **Graphics** - Don Johnson (MVTHS); **Biology** - Ed Beaty (BCHS).

▲ 1981-82

Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS) / 200 students
Class AA (1) – 1. Mt. Vernon.
Class A (11) – 1. Benton.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Linc Smith (MVTHS); **Chemistry** - (tie) Walt Goddard (MVTHS) and Bill Fahrenholtz (MVTHS); **English** - Cathy Waugh (MVTHS); **Physics** - Charles Stein (Tamaroa); **Engineering Graphics** - Don Johnson (MVTHS); **Biology** - Linc Smith (MVTHS).

▲ 1980-81

Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS)
Class AA (1) – 1. Mt. Vernon.
Class A (8) – 1. Benton; 2. McLeansboro; 3. Pinckneyville.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - (tie) Robin Morris (MVTHS) and David Eubanks (Pinckneyville); **Chemistry** - Chris Berner (MVTHS); **English** - Karen Musick (MVTHS); **Graphics** - Alan Williams (MVTHS); **Physics** - Rick Dee Hart (Woodlawn); **Biology** - So. Imtiaz Khan (BCHS).

▲ 1979-80

Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS) / 160 students
Class AA (1 team) – 1. Mt. Vernon.
Class A (9 teams) – 1. Benton; 2. Waltonville.

TOP INDIVIDUALS OVERALL (RLC Tuition Waiver Offers) / **Math** - Tony Alexander (MVTHS); **Chemistry** - Ed Heierman III (MVTHS); **English** - Becky Heard (BCHS); **Physics** - Harold Jarvis (MVTHS); **Graphics** - Greg Wooden (MVTHS); **Biology** - Debbie Bravard (Woodlawn); **Pocket Calculators** - Tony Alexander (MVTHS).

Alexander went on to finish first in the state and runner-up nationally in Pocket Calculators competition. He was one of three overall winners to accept the tuition-free offer and enroll at Rend Lake College for his freshman year, along with Heard and Wooden. Team champions Mt. Vernon and Benton each placed fifth at state in their respective divisions.

▲ 1978-79

Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS)
Five schools, 80 students participated.
Class AA – 1. Mt. Vernon.
Class A – 1. Benton.

DUAL-CREDIT COURSE ENROLLMENT / TOTAL SAVINGS

Breakdown by In-District High Schools, 2001-2016

High School	▲ 2001-2002 (\$45)			▲ 2002-2003 (\$48)			▲ 2003-2004 (\$52)			▲ 2004-2005 (\$57)		
	Students	Cr. Hrs.	Savings	Students	Cr. Hrs.	Savings	Students	Cr. Hrs.	Savings	Students	Cr. Hrs.	Savings
Benton Consolidated H.S.	109	709	\$31,905	145	904	\$43,392	153	981	\$51,012	175	1,064	\$ 60,648
Christopher High School	1	8	\$ 360	32	230	\$11,040	70	449	\$23,348	133	714	\$ 40,698
Hamilton County Senior H.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	22	\$ 1,144	36	128.5	\$ 7,325
Mt. Vernon Township H.S.	41	104	\$ 4,680	137	552	\$26,496	171	678	\$35,256	673	1,796	\$102,372
Pinckneyville Community H.S.	38	311	\$13,995	47	385	\$18,480	58	508	\$26,416	83	561	\$ 31,977
Sesser-Valier High School	-	-	-	56	465	\$22,320	61	379	\$19,708	47	237	\$ 13,509
Thompsonville Community H.S.	15	141	\$ 6,345	11	76	\$ 3,648	18	163	\$ 8,476	23	150	\$ 8,550
Waltonville High School	-	38	\$ 1,710	14	168	\$ 8,064	9	172	\$ 8,944	42	262	\$ 14,934
Wayne City High School	7	0	-	19	132	\$ 6,336	27	293	\$15,236	54	364	\$ 20,748
Webber Township High School	22	111	\$ 4,995	36	202	\$ 9,696	34	194	\$10,088	34	180	\$ 10,260
Woodlawn Community H.S.	5	10	\$ 450	6	10	\$ 480	124	200	\$10,400	169	604	\$ 34,428
Others	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-
TOTAL IN-DISTRICT	238	1,432	\$64,440	504	3,124	\$149,952	733	4,039	\$210,028	1,485	6,060.5	\$345,449
High School	▲ 2005-2006 (\$62)			▲ 2006-2007 (\$65)			▲ 2007-2008 (\$69)			▲ 2008-2009 (\$74)		
	Students	Cr. Hrs.	Savings	Students	Cr. Hrs.	Savings	Students	Cr. Hrs.	Savings	Students	Cr. Hrs.	Savings
Benton Consolidated H.S.	417	1,190	\$73,780	336	972.5	\$ 63,213	351	1,102	\$ 76,038	371	1,278	\$ 94,572
Christopher High School	548	1,264	\$78,368	561	1,173	\$ 76,245	714	1,367	\$ 94,323	677	1,492	\$110,408
Hamilton County Senior H.S.	50	109	\$ 6,758	43	102	\$ 6,630	219	614	\$ 42,366	136	409	\$ 30,266
Mt. Vernon Township H.S.	1,055	1,387	\$85,994	1,189	1,595	\$103,675	1,790	3,518	\$242,742	1,913	3,508	\$259,592
Norris City-Omaha-Enfield H.S.	-	-	-	-	3	\$ 195	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pinckneyville Community H.S.	328	903	\$55,986	149	346	\$ 22,490	755	2,797	\$192,993	-	1,562	\$115,588
Sesser-Valier High School	315	804	\$49,848	316	905	\$ 58,825	361	946	\$ 65,274	286	830	\$ 61,420
Thompsonville Community H.S.	38	126	\$ 7,812	49	129	\$ 8,385	57	178	\$ 12,282	50	147	\$ 10,878
Victory Christian Academy - MtV	18	54	\$ 3,348	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Waltonville High School	108	349	\$21,638	113	323	\$ 20,995	121	349	\$ 24,081	98	262	\$ 19,388
Wayne City High School	110	263	\$16,306	124	306	\$ 19,890	117	297	\$ 20,493	-	421	\$ 31,154
Webber Township High School	93	337	\$20,894	167	575	\$ 37,375	192	625	\$ 43,125	-	629	\$ 46,546
Woodlawn Community H.S.	356	331	\$20,522	333	793	\$ 51,545	273	672	\$ 46,368	332	617	\$ 45,658
Zeigler-Royalton High School	-	-	-	35	117	\$ 7,605	90	292	\$ 20,148	116	368	\$ 27,232
TOTAL IN-DISTRICT	3,436	7,117	\$441,254	3,415	7,339.5	\$477,068	5,040	12,757	\$880,233	4,783	11,523	*\$852,702
High School	▲ 2009-2010 (\$79)			▲ 2010-2011 (\$85)			▲ 2011-2012 (\$93)			▲ 2012-2013 (\$93)		
	Students	Cr. Hrs.	Savings	Students	Cr. Hrs.	Savings	Students	Cr. Hrs.	Savings	Students	Cr. Hrs.	Savings
Benton Consolidated H.S.	-	1,322	\$104,438	-	1,550	\$131,750	-	1,298	\$120,714	-	1,453	\$135,129
Christopher High School	-	747	\$ 59,013	-	479	\$ 40,715	-	466	\$43,338	-	431	\$40,083
Hamilton County Senior H.S.	-	476	\$ 37,604	-	488	\$ 41,480	-	520	\$48,360	-	553	\$51,429
Mt. Vernon Township H.S.	-	4,005	\$316,395	-	3,248	\$276,080	-	2,550	\$237,150	-	3,221	\$299,553
Pinckneyville Community H.S.	-	1,996	\$157,684	-	1,127	\$ 95,795	-	927	\$86,211	-	697	\$64,821
Sesser-Valier High School	-	748	\$ 59,092	-	925	\$ 78,625	-	1,025	\$95,325	-	598	\$55,614
Thompsonville Community H.S.	-	201	\$ 15,879	-	155	\$ 13,175	-	170	\$15,810	-	206	\$19,158
Victory Christian Academy / MtV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	\$1,953	-	-	-
Waltonville High School	-	385	\$ 30,415	-	227	\$ 19,295	-	270	\$25,110	-	286	\$26,598
Wayne City High School	-	277	\$ 21,883	-	333	\$ 28,305	-	358	\$33,294	-	381	\$35,433
Webber Township High School	-	308	\$ 24,332	-	269	\$ 22,865	-	105	\$ 9,765	-	115	\$10,695
Woodlawn Community H.S.	-	317	\$ 25,043	-	300	\$ 25,500	-	361	\$33,573	-	375	\$34,875
Zeigler-Royalton High School	-	357	\$ 28,203	-	309	\$ 26,265	-	363	\$33,759	-	317	\$29,481
TOTAL IN-DISTRICT	-	11,139	*\$879,981	-	9,410	*\$799,850	-	8,434	*\$784,362	-	8,633	*\$802,869
High School	▲ 2013-2014 (\$95)			▲ 2014-15 (\$95)			▲ 2015-16 (\$95)			> Students = Duplicated > (\$45-\$95) = Tuition		
	Students	Cr. Hrs.	Savings	Students	Cr. Hrs.	Savings	Students	Cr. Hrs.	Savings			
Benton Consolidated H.S.	601	1,821	\$172,995	526	1,677	\$159,315	647	1,986	\$188,670			
Christopher High School	119	481	\$ 45,695	88	370	\$ 35,150	111	411	\$ 39,045			
Hamilton County Senior H.S.	164	512	\$ 48,640	155	482	\$ 45,790	270	777	\$ 73,815			
Mt. Vernon Township H.S.	981	3,077	\$292,315	888	2,415	\$229,425	659	1,951	\$185,345			
Pinckneyville Community H.S.	191	667	\$ 63,365	376	1,304	\$123,880	350	1,112	\$105,640			
Sesser-Valier High School	40	120	\$ 11,400	50	98	\$ 9,310	60	152	\$ 14,440			
Thompsonville Community H.S.	55	183	\$ 17,385	66	204	\$ 19,380	76	248	\$ 23,560			
Waltonville High School	78	196	\$ 18,620	135	380	\$ 36,100	243	748	\$ 71,060			
Wayne City High School	111	299	\$ 28,405	133	370	\$ 35,150	229	654	\$ 62,130			
Webber Township High School	56	184	\$ 17,480	235	639	\$ 60,705	114	368	\$ 34,960			
Woodlawn Community H.S.	122	390	\$ 37,050	113	336	\$ 34,770	139	370	\$ 35,150			
Zeigler-Royalton High School	135	408	\$ 38,760	80	251	\$ 23,845	116	383	\$ 36,385			
TOTAL IN-DISTRICT	2,653	8,338	\$792,110	2,845	8,556	\$812,820	3,014	9,160	\$870,200			
										* Textbook Savings -		
										2008-09 - \$187,416		
										* Total = \$1,040,118		
										2009-10 - \$207,010		
										* Total = \$1,034,535		
										2010-11 - \$220,143		
										* Total = \$ 922,848		
										2011-12 - \$226,645		
										* Total = \$1,006,450		
										2012-13 - \$205,763		
										* Total = \$1,008,632		

STUDENT LITERARY AND ART MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENTS

▲ LAKE - Fall-Spring 2013-14 /

The purpose of the RLC Arts publication, LAKE, is to celebrate art in all its forms

STUDENT EDITOR

Jacob Dial

FACULTY / STAFF EDITORS

Faculty Editor, Peggy Davis ~ Fiction / Poetry

Non-Fiction Editor, Rebecca Biggs

Film Editor, Rob Little

Food Editor, Joe Ervin

Graphic Arts Editor, Jennifer Tarantino-Linsin

Playwriting, Tracey Webb

Fine Arts Editor, Billie Brannan

Photography / Layout-Design Editor, Dayna Hartley

▲ LAKE - Spring 2013 /

STUDENT EDITOR

Reis Barnfield

▲ LAKE - Winter 2013 /

25 works featured

▲ LAKE - 2012 /

BEST OF SHOW ~ "Alien Nature"

Watercolor painting by Lacy Depasquale (Ewing)

▲ ESSENCE '83 /

Published by RLC to encourage student interest in the creative arts and provide a showcase for student work

ARTWORK / Judge Sue Stotlar, Benton

1. LaRhonda Sledge (Mt. Vernon), "Daisy Design"

2. Joanie Lampley, "Humming Birds"

3. Vera Drennan, "Three Designs"

NONFICTION / Judges Dr. Evelyn Claxton,

Dr. Barbara Luchsinger, Dr. Steve Tietz,

Mike Mullen and Georgine Hawley

1. Betty Renshaw (Mt. Vernon),

"Do the Dont's and Nots With Me"

2. Kitty Carroll, "Grandma and Grandpa's House"

Barbara Lance, "Mom, Twain and I"

4. Leah Kirkpatrick, "God Save the Punkers"

PHOTOGRAPHY / Judge Cesar Maragni,

Benton Evening News

1. John Beaty (Benton)

2. Gail Thomas

3. Alan Odom

POETRY / Judge Dick Matthews, Kaskaskia College

1. Betty Renshaw (Mt. Vernon), "Existentialism"

2. Dolores Lucas, "Dancing on the Green"

3. Robert L. Penrod II, "Your Brother Still"

Honorable Mention - Richard Roy, "The City"

STAFF

Lori Lowry, Editor

Judy Simpson, Assistant Editor

Paula Beaty, Aletha Benard, Morris Grooms,

Jamie Mace, Robert L. Penrod II

Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Advisor

▲ ESSENCE '82 /

Published by RLC to encourage student interest in the creative arts and provide a showcase for student work / Dedicated to Dr. Claxton for her "continuous support and encouragement"

ARTWORK / Judge Rick Proctor, SEMO

1. Pauline Stewart

2. Vera Drennan

3. Ruth Wilson

Honorable Mention - Joanie Lampley

FICTION / Judge Dr. John Howell, SIUC

1. Myra Ann Easley, "Manchester Manor"

2. Judy Cole

3. Kathryn McCarty, "Look in Back of Deep Freeze"

H.M. - Susan Jacobsen, "What Sally Montgomery Did"

MUSIC COMPOSITION / Judge Brett Gibbs, MVTHS

1. Beverly Mooney (music) / Tammy Stewart (words)

2. Morris Grooms, "Chorale"

H.M. - Steve Shelton

NONFICTION / Judges Dr. Evelyn Claxton,

Dr. Barbara Luchsinger, Dr. Steve Tietz,

Mike Mullen and Georgine Hawley

1. Roxanne Alldredge, "They Called Her 'Mimi'"

2. Becky Savko, "I Wonder What It Would Be Like"

3. Myra Ann Easley, "Musings"

PHOTOGRAPHY / Judge Dr. William Horrell, SIUC

1. Kay Weisbecker

2. Connie Bremer

3. Diane Todd

POETRY / Judge Dick Matthews, Kaskaskia College

1. Mona Coats, "Lo-debar"

2. Kevin Edwards

3. Kathryn McCarty

H.M. - Kevin Edwards, "Insight"

STAFF

Myra Ann Easley and Laurie Ellis, Co-Editors

Kathryn McCarty, Morris Grooms

Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Advisor

▲ ESSENCE '81 /

Creations of students at Rend Lake College

ART / Judge Mary Schobert, SIUC

1. Debra Mitchell, "Crocus in the Snow"

2. Vera Drennan, "Landscape in Ink"

3. Marjorie Rudd, "Charcoal Still Life"

H.M. - Elizabeth Britton, "Flag"

H.M. - Pauline Stewart, "Backstage Interior"

FICTION / Judge Richard Lawson, SIUC

1. Larry House, "The Routine"

2. Myra Ann Easley, "The Return"

3. Nancy Ann Schaefer, "Capitulation of A. Putz"

H.M. - Debra Mitchell, "Under the Boardwalk"

H.M. - Doug Prince, "Shiela"

NONFICTION / Judges Dr. Claxton, Dr. Luchsinger,

Dr. Tietz, Mullen, Hawley, Floyd Dressel

1. Lisa Georgieff, "Phone Call"

2. Larry House, "Sunday Game"

3. Suzanne Bishop, "Grandma's Farm"

H.M. - Roxanne Alldredge, "Shopping Mall Mania"

H.M. - Diana Durham, "Thanks to Grandma I'll Make It"

H.M. - Betty Greathouse, "Autopsy"

PHOTOGRAPHY / Judge Louis Pavledes, Mt. Vernon

1. Larry House, "Deer"

H.M. - Chris Granger, "The Wave Upon the Shore"

POETRY / Judge Laura Nelson, SIUC

1. Nancy Ann Schaefer, "The Rite"

2. Joel Burns, "Dream Sequence"

3. Easker Sanders, "Black Rage"

STAFF

Andrea Beaty and Maria Francscavitch, Co-Editors

Michele Davis, Laurie Ellis, Sara Farris, Debra Mitchell

Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Advisor

▲ IMAGES '80 /

Creative work of students at Rend Lake College

ART / Judge Sue Stotlar, Benton

1. Nancy Flanigan, Pencil Drawing

2. Bob Burton, Pencil Drawing

3. Elizabeth Blankenship, "Into the Waves"

H.M. - Jamie Peacock, Drawing

H.M. - Shelia Booker, "Booker's Samatha"

PHOTOGRAPHY / Judges Fred Benke, Salem

Louis Pavledes, Mt. Vernon

1. Robert Albright, "Jalopy"

2. Stan York, "The Winter House"

3. Jim Bennet, "Pigs"

H.M. - Ted Cunningham, "Polar Bears"

POETRY / Judge Dick Matthews, Kaskaskia College

1. Jamie Peacock, "Outreaches"

2. Linda Summers, "Slippery Slide"

3. Nancy Ann Schaefer, "Roll Away"

FICTION / Judge Jim Grove, SIUC

1. Tom Hyatt, "Margaret's Plight"

2. Estelle Towers, "Love-Forty-Game Point"

3. Barbara Hamilton, "Funny How Time Slips Away"

NONFICTION / Judges Dr. Claxton, Dr. Luchsinger,

Dr. Steve Tietz, Hawley, Dressel

1. Tanya Riley, "America's Smelting Pot"

2. Alice Tepovich, "Time Marches On"

3. Tom Doherty, "Now I Call It Home"

H.M. - Andrey Beaty, "A Topic for Writing"

H.M. - Robert Walker, "The Welder"

STAFF

Maria Francscavitch, Editor / Andrea Beaty,

Michele Davis, Barbara Doherty, Jamie Peacock

Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Advisor

▲ ESSENCE '79 /

Creative work of individuals at Rend Lake College

ART / Judge Sue Stotlar, Benton

1. Mark McCormick (Wayne City), "Face in Charcoal"

2. Jamie Peacock (Mt. Vernon), Drawing

3. Jodi Chady (Benton), Print

FICTION / Judge Jane Benoist, Mt. Vernon

1. Susan Burgess (Sesser), "First Thanksgiving"

2. Marium Sturm (McLeansboro), "Taurus / Capricorn"

3. Mary Mitchell (Enfield), "Liddy"

(tie) Linda Haile (Belle Rive), "Buttons"

MUSIC COMPOSITION / Judge Courtney Cox

1. Sandra Burke (Mt. Vernon), "Christmas-Time ..."

2. Owen Jarand (Mt. Vernon), "Play on Chords"

NONFICTION / Judges Dr. Luchsinger,

Hawley, Dressel, Jack Traver

Places not awarded in this category

PHOTOGRAPHY / Judge Louis Pavledes, Mt. Vernon

1. Mike Bryant (Mt. Vernon), "Existentialism?"

2. Mark Dillely (Mt. Vernon), "Winter Scene"

3. Marshall Ray Porter (Nashville), "Tree by Lake"

H.M. - Susie Wolf (McLeansboro)

H.M. - Tom Doherty (Mt. Vernon)

POETRY / Judge Dick Matthews, Kaskaskia College

1. Doris Morgenthaler (Pinckneyville), "Angles"

2. Mark McCormick (Wayne City), "Rabbit Season"

3. Brian Hodge (Mt. Vernon), "Waiting"

STAFF

Susan Burgess, Editor

Marshall Ray Porter, Assistant Editor

Bevan Bowles, Mike Bryant, Mark McCormick

Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Advisor

▲ ESSENCE '78 /

Staff changed the name to Essence, feeling the creative work provides a look at the essence of RLC

ART / Judge Sue Stotlar, Benton

1. Jayma Lynn Dial, Pen/Ink Portrait

2. Debbie Mitchell, Flower in Pencil

3. Julie Johnson, Print of Hand/Eye

H.M. - Tracy Braddy, Pen/Ink Line Drawing

H.M. - Donna Austin, Print of Fern

FICTION / Judges Dr. Claxton, Dr. Luchsinger,

Georgine Monken, Dressel, Traver, Glenn Wright

1. Sharon Heil, "Journey to Illinois"

2. Linda Hester, "I'm Calling Salvation Army Monday"

3. Rita Mills, "The Kiss"

H.M. - Margot McAfoos, "Air Raid"

H.M. - Cindy Hart, "The Spring of the Winter of 1978"

NONFICTION / Judges Dr. Claxton, Dr. Luchsinger,

Georgine Monken, Dressel, Traver, Glenn Wright

1. Bobby Johnson, "Hitting the Smitty"

2. Floyd Cash, "A Wild Man"

3. Andrea Martin, "Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"

STUDENT LITERARY AND ART MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENTS (CONT.)

H.M. – Chris Austin, "Looking for Double-Speak"
H.M. – John Atkinson, "Nothing is Valuable"

PHOTOGRAPHY / Judge David Patton, RLC

1. Jan Wills, Trees Reflected in Pool
2. Donna Austin, Reversed Negative
3. Mike Bryant, Dead Tree and Water

POETRY / Judge Dick Matthews. Kaskaskia College

1. Mona Coats, "On the Six O' Clock News"
 2. Terrie Samuels, "Cycle"
 3. Wanda Newbury, "Farm Talk"
- H.M. – Linda Hester, "September"
H.M. – Theresa Piper, "Anger"

STAFF

Elizabeth Beaty and Don Morgan, Co-Editors
Julie Johnson, Rita Mills
Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Advisor

▲ OZONE '77 /

Student creative efforts in their own literary magazine

ART / Judge Sue Stotlar, Benton

1. Perry Morris, "Marc"
2. Julie Johnson, "Plant" (Dry Point)
3. Carol Whipple, "Contour"

FICTION / Judges Dr. Claxton, Dr. Luchsinger, Dressel, Traver, Wright

1. Kyle Ingram, "Cicada Shells"
2. Brent Lappin, "Catch A Falling Star"
3. Pat Schlutow, "He Came a Long Way from St. Louie"

NONFICTION PROSE / Judges Dr. Claxton, Dr. Luchsinger, Dressel, Traver, Wright

1. Joe Luthy, "Saturday"
2. Ronnie Peddicord, "Cemeteries Can Be Interesting"
3. Karen South, "Las Vegas Casinos"

PHOTOGRAPHY / Judge David Patton, RLC

1. Ed Carlson, "Sun"
2. Kyle Ingram, "Solid and Liquid"
3. Perry Morris, "Spider"

POETRY / Judge Dick Matthews. Kaskaskia College

1. Brent Lappin, "Winter Road"
2. Janis Collins, "A Visit to My Past"
3. Dot Drennan, "Mother Scrubbed the Kitchen Floor"

STAFF

Perry Morris, Editor
Carol Kabat, Don Morgan
Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Advisor

▲ OZONE '76 /

Pride in the lively interest in the arts represented

ARTWORK / Judges Don Ross, West Frankfort and Gary Messersmith, Benton

1. Lesa Rhodes, "Landscape in Red Mat"
2. Kay Kearney, "Plant in Pot"
3. Kay Kearney, "Dom Ranchetto"

FICTION / Judges Dr. Claxton, Dr. Luchsinger, Monken, Dressel, Traver, Wright

1. Kyle Ingram, "Intercom"
2. Sheri Hobbs, "Obituary"
3. Cathy Coats, "Summer"
4. Joyce Poorman, "Meteorite"
5. Beverly Lawson, "Fire"

NONFICTION PROSE / Judges Dr. Claxton, Dr. Luchsinger, Dressel, Traver, Wright

1. Brent Lappin, "Horsepulling"
2. Jeff Heck, "Grease Joint"
3. Becky Morris, "My Grandmother ..."
4. Edward Carlson, "Truck Stops"
5. Jimmy Redmon, "The Person Inside Me"

PHOTOGRAPHY / Judge David Patton, RLC

1. John Roberts, "Waterfall"
2. Mary Bourque, "Kitchen Table"
3. John Roberts, "Tree Stump"
4. Kevin Poole, "Motorcycle"
5. John Roberts, "Tombstone"

POETRY / Judge Dick Matthews. Kaskaskia College

1. Lyne Mabry, "Old Photo Albums"
2. Mary Bourque, "Dream Lover"
3. Shirley Wielt, "Imagine"
4. Flo Dudley, "Tomato Worm"
5. Becky Randall, "Visit the East Side"

STAFF

Beverly Lawson, Editor
Tom Mick, Assistant Editor
Margaret Skinner, Editorial Assistant
Robert Brock, Typist
Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Advisor

▲ OZONE '75 /

Creative works of students preserved for posterity

ART / Judges ~ Ozone Staff Members

1. Rae Crawford, "Fish"
2. Julia Griess, "Self-Portrait"
3. Brenda Willis, "Store Front"

FICTION / Judges Dr. Claxton, Dr. Luchsinger, Monken, Dressel

1. D. Whittington, "Ralph"
2. Bill Scott, "Cross Hairs of Death"
3. Joyce Plumlee, "The Birthday Party"

NONFICTION PROSE / Judges Dr. Claxton, Dr. Luchsinger, Monken, Dressel

1. Sheri Hobbs, "An Only Child's Utopia"
2. Mario Crowder, "Circus"
3. Mary Barnett, "The Moment"

PHOTOGRAPHY / Judge David Patton, RLC

1. D. Whittington, "Old Woman"
2. Charles Richison, "Seven Mile Creek"
3. Connie Lee, "Tomb Stone"

POETRY / Judges Dr. Claxton, Dr. Luchsinger, Monken, Dressel

1. Joyce Richards, "Home"
2. D. Whittington, "sit crying ..."
3. Peggy Disroe, "Small Town ..."

STAFF

Blanche Obrecht and Bo Phillips, Co-editors
Lyne Mabry, June Moss, Joyce Richards,
Charles Richison
Dr. Evelyn Claxton and Susan Kolojeski, Advisors

▲ OZONE '74 /

Designed as a showcase for student creative work

ART / Judge Dr. Evelyn Claxton

1. Jim Orrison
2. Phyllis Neal
3. Royce Shoemaker

FICTION / Judges Dr. Claxton, Dr. Luchsinger, Monken, Traver

1. Rick Dulaney
2. Bill Scott, "Cold Snap"
3. Tom Taylor

NONFICTION PROSE / Judges Dr. Claxton, Dr. Luchsinger, Monken, Traver

1. Rose Savko, "The First Good-bye"
2. Catherine Waggoner, "The Braided Rug"
3. Norma Minor

PHOTOGRAPHY / Judges Phyllis Neal and Royce Shoemaker

1. Curtis Richardson

POETRY / Judges Dr. Claxton, Dr. Luchsinger, Monken, Traver

1. Phyllis Neal
2. June Moss, "Sixteen"
3. Royce Shoemaker, "To J.M. with Fond Memories"
4. Kristie Martin, "The Doll"
5. Pat Haley Harris, "The Old Dawt Mill"
6. Jerry Whitehead, "March"
7. Richard Cole, "Quiet Anger"

STAFF

Royce Shoemaker, Chief Editor
Phyllis Neal, Co-Editor
Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Spiritual Navigator

▲ OZONE '73 /

Designed as a showcase for student creative work
ART / Judges Vera Grosowsky, J.A. Logan College and Gary Messersmith, Benton

1. Nikki Myers, Abstract
2. Paula Budzak, "Sabrina"
3. Blanche Obrecht, "Water Tower"

FICTION / Judge Bowie Hannah, Past President of American Pen Women, Egypt Chapter

1. Connie Dudley, "Beautiful Lady"
2. Jean Bondi, "A Time to Treasure"

NONFICTION PROSE / Judge Bowie Hannah

1. Kathy Marshall, "Dear Mrs. Smithpeters"
2. Dorothy Calloni, "Fleeting Joy and Pain"
3. Tom Taylor, "Genesis"

PHOTOGRAPHY / Judge Louis Pavledes, Mt. Vernon

1. Linda Wiggins
2. Mary Gerber Simpson
3. Henry Fiene

POETRY / Judge Dr. Howard Rawlinson, RLC

1. Royce Shoemaker, "When Love is Lost"
2. Mary Alice Reid, "Rain on My Roof"
3. Marilyn Tedeschi, "When You Cry"

STAFF

Gary Padavic and Peggy Anderson, Chief Editors
Marilyn Tedeschi, Mary Jo Gregory, Joyce Richards,
Royce Shoemaker, Paula Budzak
Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Spiritual Navigator

▲ PHASE ONE '72 /

Rend Lake College Literary Supplement
CONTRIBUTORS

Don "Jay" DeWitt (In Memoriam), Terrie Bagwell, Mona Berardi, Jean Bondi, Karen Book, Charlotte Brewster, D. Calloni, Mary Lynn Farmer, Donna Fontana, Bob Fowler, Ralph Gentles, Mary Gerber, Mike Gresham, Bruce Heck, Rod Holman, Fred Kerley, Pat Kimble, Steve Korris, Dorothy Lambert, Gary Mabry, Laurel Mannen, Kathy Marshall, Marti McClure, Nikki Myers, Dr. Howard Rawlinson, Royce Shoemaker, Jim Steed, Debbie Swisher, Marilyn Tedeschi, Starlyn Thompson, Janet Williams, Jeannie Wilson

STAFF

Terrie Bagwell and Pat Kimble, Editors
David Dunn, Cover Art
John Sgutt, Art Selection
Evelyn Claxton, Faculty Sponsor

▲ PHASE ONE '71 /

Rend Lake College Literary Supplement
CONTRIBUTORS

Sue Augustine, Tim Auton, Terrie Bagwell, Sam Barwick, Janet Boldt, Karen Book, Marlene Brown-ing, John A. Davis, Jean Derges, Sara Dykes, Diane Ferreria, Dale Filberth, Eric Frassato, Terry Gockel, Philip Hale, Ron Henson, Don Hopkins, Marti Huff, Pat Kimball, Warren Kraft, Michael LeVault, Robert McKiness, Kenneth Pigg, John Vaught, Janet Waggoner, John Williams, Larry Wright

STAFF

Sue Augustine and Janet Waggoner, Editors
Terrie Bagwell, Terry Green, Warren Kraft,
Jeannie Miller
Dale Filberth, Photography
Keith Parker, Cover Art
Jim Kangles, Art Selection
Evelyn Claxton, Faculty Sponsor

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
COMPUTERS													
Student Computers		451	472	462	454	496	558	526	572	594	677	590	605
Faculty Computers		70	70	70	83								
Staff Computers		84	84	88	141								
Faculty / Staff Computers						259	385	270	279	294	304	328	326
Special Use Computers		18	18	21	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	16	16
TOTAL	430	623	644	641	695	772	960	813	868	905	1,051	934	947
COMPUTER LABS / CLASSROOMS													
Student Labs	25	27	27	30	30	35	35	35	35	35	38	35	36
Smart Classrooms		22	22	22	22	22	23	28	28	48			
Presentation Classrooms		-	14	15	15	20	15	28	35	24			
Smart / Presentation Classrooms											71	102	102
Distance Learning Classrooms		8	11	11	13	13	13	11	11	11	11	8	8
TOTAL	57	74	78	80	90	86	102	109	118	120	145	146	
OTHER													
Student FTE to Student Computer Ratio	6:1	4.4:1	4.7:1	4.7:1	4.5:1	4.1:1	5:1	4.5:1	4.7:1	4.4:1	4.2:1	3.9:1	
Faculty / Staff Printers	54	54	59	64	68	70	77	77	86	91	96	116	
No. of Wireless Accounts Created								539	778	743	576	596	698
- SOURCE: Information Technology staff													

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
BOOKS													
Total Collection Books, Serial Backfiles and Other Materials	35,426	36,212	31,588	31,417	29,821	31,033	23,176	21,252	20,378	18,471	21,252	16,948	15,991
MAGAZINES													
Magazine Subscriptions (paper)	265	249	231	227	223	163	123	116	118	105	105	123	104
NEWSPAPERS													
Newspaper Subscriptions (paper)	22	22	22	22	22	21	21	21	18	18	18	14	14
ELECTRONIC DATABASES													
Current Magazines and Newspapers	31	46	57	60	52								
ELECTRONIC DATABASES													
Other Current Electronic Databases	14	14	16	18	19								
ELECTRONIC RESOURCES													
Catalogs, Databases, Magazine Subscriptions, Individual Resources and Virtual Reference						61	65	66	83	66	71	68	69
AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS													
Videotapes, Records, CDs, DVDs, etc.	377	3,955	4,078	3,242	3,511	3,819	3,848	4,025	4,132	2,562	4,025	2,289	2,334
E-BOOKS													
										2,062	2,074	2,074	2,839
SATELLITE / CABLE NETWORK													
Current Programming * Direct TV	22	23	23	21	20	19	9	* 133	* 133				
Downlinks Inc. Videotaping for later viewing	87	22	13	10	13	20	14	6	0				
On-Site Attendance At Satellite Conferences	162	44	57	113	30	47	29	12	0				
TELECOURSE PROGRAM													
Classes Offered	25	34	33	31	31	27	18	12	11				
Students Enrolled	751	865	886	838	755	623	231	183	194				
INTERACTIVE VIDEO PROGRAM													
Classes Offered	18	17	33	41	51	45	32	28	31				
Students Enrolled	196	226	810	1,151	1,103	980	637	591	704				
Administrative / Business													
Videoconferences	15	39	26	17	16	52	31	N/A	47				
Attendance	184	697	468	246	82	159	219	N/A	N/A				
- SOURCE: Learning Resource Center staff													

WELDING CONTEST WINNERS / SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

▲ 2014-15 / 33rd Annual

1. Zach Morgan (Mt. Vernon Township H.S.) / Welding helmet donated by ILMO Products; 2. Derick Hammonds (Christopher H.S.) / Welding hood donated by Express Care of Mt. Vernon; 3. Zach Ballard (Wayne City H.S.); 4. Eric Schumm (WCHS); 5. Cody Hargis (CHS).

▲ 2013-14 / 32nd Annual

▲ 2012-13 / 31st Annual

▲ 2011-12 / 30th Annual

1. Austin Loucks * (Christopher H.S.) / Miller welding helmet; 2. Devin Rubenacker (Hamilton County Sr. H.S.) / Miller welding helmet; 3. Chase Jarvis (CHS) / Jacket; 4. Zachary Isaac * (Woodlawn); 5. Ryder Chambliss * (Wayne City H.S.). * Tuition waiver to attend RLC [declined by Rubenacker and Jarvis].

▲ 2010-11 / 29th Annual

1. Brody Bauman * (Sesser-Valier H.S.) / Welding helmet; 2. Bryce Jones * (Waltonville High School); 3. Kyle Humerickhouse * (Christopher High School); 4. Ryan Dawson (CHS); 5. Michael Phelps (SVHS). * Tuition waiver offer to attend RLC.

▲ 2009-10 / 28th Annual

▲ 2008-09 / 27th Annual

1. Matt Thomas * (Christopher High School) / Welding helmet; 2. Bryson Owens * (Mt. Vernon Township H.S.); 3. Jake Sterner * (MVTHS); 4. Brent Daniels (MVTHS); 5. Jordan Brown (Hamilton County Sr. H.S.). Participants – 29 (Seven high schools). * Tuition waiver offer to attend RLC.

▲ 2007-08 / 26th Annual

▲ 2006-07 / 25th Annual

Dan Gili, William Thouvenin, Aaron Wilkerson, Jared York.

▲ 2005-06 / 24th Annual

1. Chris Clark * (Benton Consolidated H.S.); 2. Jarrett Weaver * (Wayne City H.S.); 3. Casey Catalfamo * (Mt. Vernon Township H.S.); 4. Eddie Tyler Popplewell * (WCHS); 5. Audra West * (BCHS). Participants – 35 (Seven high schools). * Tuition waiver offer to attend RLC.

▲ 2004-05 / 23rd Annual

1. Jeremy Bullock * (Mt. Vernon Township H.S.) / Electronic welding helmet; 2. Jason Kramm * (MVTHS); 3. Billy Hanes * (MVTHS); 4. Seth Bumpus * (MVTHS); 5. Josh Morris * (MVTHS). Participants – 40 (Five high schools). * Tuition waiver to attend RLC.

▲ 2003-04 / 22nd Annual

1. Clayton Fowler * (Mt. Vernon Township H.S.); 2. David Black * (MVTHS); 3. Eric Harris (MVTHS); 4. Kyle Kiefer (MVTHS); 5. Zach Zimmerman * (Hamilton County Sr. H.S.); 7. Adam Magsig * (HCSHS). Participants – 41. * Tuition waiver to attend RLC [declined by Harris and Kiefer].

▲ 2002-03 / 21st Annual

2. Ben Daily; 3. Jerry Miller Jr.; 5. Butch Farmer; 6. Jonathan Anderson; 9. Frank Kujawa. Also: Daniel Webb.

▲ 2001-02 / 20th Annual

Randy Camden, Noah Carter, Kenneth Long, Kelly Patterson, Aaron Pepple.

▲ 2000-01 / 19th Annual

Danny Odom, Adam Sullivan, Robert Wood.

▲ 1999-2000 / 18th Annual

Mark Elliston, Chris Greathouse.

▲ 1998-99 / 17th Annual

Kenneth Mantenfel, Justin Mulch, Shawn Statler, Josh Stilley.

▲ 1997-98 / 16th Annual

Jacob Oglesby, Robert Patterson, Brandon Robinson, Dirk Silbe, Justin Woodrow.

▲ 1996-97 / 15th Annual

1. George Pilson, 2. Andrew Dodson, 3. David W. Ellis, 4. Heath Hastings, 5. Kenneth Sutherland, 6. Matt Hutchcraft, 7. Bret Kling, 8. Rob Sledge, 9. Ben Kujawa, 10. David Bowers.

▲ 1995-96 / 14th Annual

Brad Baum (Texico), Jay Holloway (Mt. Vernon), Travis Kern (Thompsonville), Nathan Rose (Mt. Vernon), Quinton Vance (Bluford), Todd Withrow (Sims).

▲ 1994-95 / 13th Annual

▲ 1993-94 / 12th Annual

▲ 1992-93 / 11th Annual

▲ 1991-92 / 10th Annual

▲ 1990-91 / 9th Annual

1. Mike Clemens (Mt. Vernon Township H.S.); 2. Chris Fowler (MVTHS); 3. Alan Laird (Waltonville H.S.); 4. 5. Stephen Bizailion (WHS); 6. John Mayer (Pinckneyville Community H.S.); 7. 8. Mark Fox (PCHS); 9. Jeff Harris (PCHS)..

▲ 1989-90 / 8th Annual

1. Danny Coy (McLeansboro H.S.) / Oxyacetylene welding and cutting torch outfit donated by Acetylene Gas Co.; 2. William Kocian (Pinckneyville Community H.S.); 3. Jason Bean (Mt. Vernon Township H.S.); 4. Jason Newell (MVTHS); 5. Bobby Borowiak (MVTHS); 6. Darren Vuichard (MVTHS); 7. Brett Cutler (MVTHS); 8. Jim Balsover (MHS); 9. Jason Taber (MVTHS); 10. Donovan Wilson (MVTHS). Participants – 50.

▲ 1988-89 / 7th Annual

1. Kevin Trader (Waltonville H.S.); 2. Tim Witt (Mt. Vernon Township H.S.); 3. Dwayne Porter (MVTHS); 4. Lonnie Hinds (Pinckneyville Community H.S.); 5. Lance Lehman (MVTHS); 6. Jason Chesney (MVTHS); 7. Steve Zedalis (MVTHS); 8. Jeff Sledge (Wayne City H.S.); 9. Bill Lawless (PCHS); 10. Todd Dent (WCHS). Participants – 42. One semester tuition waiver for top five contestants

▲ 1987-88 / 6th Annual

▲ 1986-87 / 5th Annual

▲ 1985-86 / 4th Annual

1. Scott Martin * (Pinckneyville Community H.S.) / Arc Welder. Team honors – Mt. Vernon Township H.S. – Darrin Blades, Paul Bruce, David Keen, Bill McCoy, Scotty Smith, Robert Tinsley. * One semester tuition waiver for winner

▲ 1984-85 / 3rd Annual

▲ 1983-84 / 2nd Annual

SENIORS ~ 1. Tim Ramsey (Christopher H.S.) / Lincoln 225 AMP Welder donated by Illinois Air Products, Inc.; 2. Chad Morgenthaler (Tamaroa / Mt. Vernon Area Vocational Center); 3. Rick Blades (Mt. Vernon Township H.S.); 4. Jeff Williams (MVTHS); 5. Bill Glander (Tamaroa); 6. Scoty Dial (McLeansboro). One semester tuition waiver for top five contestants, partial scholarships for four others.

JUNIORS ~ 1. Myron McGowen (MVTHS) / Lincoln 225 AMP Welder donated by Illinois Air Products, Inc.; 2. Dave Scott (MVTHS); 3. Scott King (Tamaroa); 4. Eric Brannon (Thompsonville); 5. Dan Keller (Tamaroa).

▲ 1982-83 / Innaugural

1. Mark Williams * (Pinckneyville Community H.S.) / New welder donated by Mine Weld; 2. Brad Kelley * (Mt. Vernon Township H.S.); 3. Scott Kreger * (PCHS); 4. Chris Sherman * (MVTHS); 5. David Keller * (Tamaroa). Participants – 33. * One semester tuition waiver for winner; partial tuition waivers for others.

AGRI-ACHIEVERS

Select Agriculture students are designated each year as “Agri-Achievers” by the Ag staff in recognition of academic performance and demonstration of leadership skills. They represent Rend Lake College whenever possible at agriculture-related functions throughout the district and on high school visits.

▲ 2010-11

Kayla Ard (Bluford / Webber Township H.S.), Zack Bayler (Broughton), Nichole Bressner (Fairbury), Cailah Brock (Benton), Brent Hanke (Carlyle), Tyler Laux (Carlyle), Michael McCreery (Benton), Alex Parks (Chaffee, MO), Alexis Royce (Bonnie) and Kody Schwarze (Chafflin Bridge).

▲ 2009-10

▲ 2008-09

▲ 2007-08

▲ 2006-07

▲ 2005-06

▲ 2004-05

▲ 2003-04

▲ 2002-03

▲ 2001-02

▲ 2000-01

▲ 1999-2000

▲ 1998-99

Amy Brandt (Fults), Kevin Clark (Broughton), Ben Gardner (McLeansboro), Kevin Guebert (Red Bud), Elizabeth Hiestand (Ina), Lincoln Hobbs (Norris City), Karen Kimble (Mt. Vernon), Kyle Kluemke (Carlyle), Shane McNeil (Waltonville), James Shelby (Mt. Vernon), Jamie Waller (McLeansboro) and Ben Zelasko (Tamaroa).

▲ 1997-98

▲ 1996-97

▲ 1995-96

▲ 1994-95

▲ 1993-94

Michael Bailey (DuQuoin), Doug Dierks (Ava), Keith Eschmann (Columbia), Scot Heller (Red Bud), Mike Links (Germantown), Hassi Evrard (Pittsburg), Brian Greer (Pinckneyville), Susan Harrawood (Galatia), Dennis Links (Germantown), Allen Platt (Anna), Clint Pyatt (Pinckneyville), Chad Ratermann (Germantown) and Wade Swinford (Golconda).

▲ 1992-93

▲ 1991-92

Daron Fox (Coulterville), John Helmers (Steeleville), Chad Kern (Ewing), Mike Neal (Ina), Jason Newell (Belle Rive), Mike Reichmann (Okawville), Kevin Trader (Scheller), Ron Wellen (McLeansboro), Terry Wilkerson (Dahlgren) and Christopher York (Enfield)

Chapter I: The Plant

THE FIRST FIFTEEN YEARS BY DR. HOWARD RAWLINSON, DEAN

Published by The Board of Trustees Illinois Junior College District #521 in August, 1972, this book by the eloquent College Dean extolled the virtues of Mt. Vernon Community College (1956-67) and the first five years of Rend Lake College (1967-72). Herein is the opening section of that publication, plus introductions and other excerpts from remaining chapters; numerous other references to materials from The First Fifteen Years may be found throughout its modern-day successor.]

Once an idea is expressed in words, its fruition becomes but a matter of time. When Jules Verne wrote a short story describing a rocket trip to the moon, the first moon landing became inevitable.

So it was with (Principal) Silas Echols' oft-expressed hope to see a junior college housed on the Mt. Vernon Township High School campus. For years, the idea lay like a seed on barren soil, awaiting the proper conditions for germination.

Then, in 1955, the General Assembly, recognizing the potential of the community college, passed an appropriation bill allocating \$100 per full-time junior college student.

Shortly before the passage of the bill, Arthur Milward, who had been Assistant Principal under Silas Echols, returned to Mt. Vernon Township High School as Superintendent. He took the idea of forming a junior college to the Board of Education, received their approval and carried it to the community. On October 29, 1955, the citizens of the district voted a 17 1/2-cent tax rate to support the establishment and operation of a community college.

Of the 2,288 acceptable ballots, only 88 were against the proposition. A year later Jesse Bogue, Executive Secretary of the American Association of Junior Colleges, said, "I have never heard of such a great majority as there was in Mt. Vernon in voting for a junior college." To the best of the writer's knowledge, no junior college since that time has exceeded the percentage of the establishment vote.

Shortly after the successful referendum, Howard Rawlinson, Guidance Director for the high school, was named Dean and given the responsibility of planning for the opening of the college in the Fall of 1956.

Members for the faculty were selected and they, together with the Dean, developed a Statement of Philosophy and a Catalog, organized a list of courses to be offered, prepared syllabi and outlines and planned in general for the opening of the college.

On September 5, 1956, the college opened its doors to 199 students, including 96 full-time and 103 part-time students.

Of the 96 full-time students, 82 were from the 1956 graduating class of Mt. Vernon Township High School while, with two exceptions, the others came from Jefferson County high schools or from earlier graduates of Mt. Vernon Township High School.

Soon, however, the number of out-of-district students began to increase and, although no one knew it at the time, the future outline of the Rend Lake College district was being shaped. Students came in increasing numbers from Benton, Dahlgren, McLeansboro, Waltonville, Wayne City, Webber and West Frankfort, and a few began to enroll from Christopher, Enfield, Pinckneyville, Tamaroa, Thompsonville and Zeigler. Enrollments increased at a rate of about 10 percent per year until the war babies reached college age in 1964, and by 1966-67, the last year the school operated as Mt. Vernon Community College, enrollment had risen to 540 full-time students, 62 part-time day students and 93 evening students – a full-time equivalent of 632. (The percentage of increase in enrollment from 1965 to 1966 was the greatest of any junior college in the state.) In the 10 years of existence as Mt. Vernon Community College, full-time enrollment had more than quadrupled and total enrollment had increased at a rate only slightly less.

Early in the history of the college it became obvious that the local junior college was providing education to students who might not otherwise have had the opportunity. Although the percentage of Mt. Vernon Township High School graduates attending college almost doubled from 1955 to 1956, the percentage attending other institutions decreased only slightly, so most of those enrolled in the home college were obviously either those who could not afford to attend other schools or those who were reluctant to travel considerable distance to obtain an education.

* - * - *

Rest of story ... How our 'hometown' became Ina

Excerpts from BICENTENNIAL 1975
Ever heard of Ina Brown?

Sure you have, sort of. The village of Ina was named for her. In The Ina and Rend Lake College Bicentennial 1975, a special publication produced by the college for a celebrating community, C.W. Hodge was one of a handful of contributors with his article, "The Way I Remember." According to Hodge, who lived in Ina three different times during his lifetime . . .

Ina Brown was the oldest daughter of S.E. "Jerry" Brown and a granddaughter of Calvin Monroe "Uncle Cal" Brown, whose father, Stephen Brown, was among the first settlers in Illinois.

Calvin Brown was born in Washington County in 1827, moved with his parents to Horse Prairie in Jefferson County and lived there until age 14, when the Browns moved to Franklin County until 1846. A veteran of the Mexican War, Brown returned home after being in the service about 14 months and four years later, on April 9, 1951, married Ann Eliza Foster; they located in Jefferson County, in the southwest corner of Spring Garden Township. "There he proceeded to 'hew' a home and raise a family in a wild and sparsely settled country. He succeeded in both, and became the father of nine children."

The owner of a lumber yard, the "public-spirited and prominent" Democrat Brown took an active interest in the political

(Continued on next page)



Ina 'hometown' (cont.)

affairs of the county – he represented Spring Garden Township on the County Board – and was a personal friend of three-time Presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan of Salem.

“Uncle Cal” and his wife were well-known for having “the preachers home for dinner on Sunday.” “Uncle Cal” shipped the first load of stock on L & N Railroad to St. Louis. ‘Uncle Cal’ got 50¢ a day for shocking fodder at the East St. Louis Stockyards. He also got \$1.50 a hundred for hogs. He crossed the Mississippi River on ice, driving oxen and sometimes driving hogs across the river.”

In 1894, when brothers by the name of “Johnson and Mr. Faught” of St. Elmo decided to build the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad through Southern Illinois, they ran their survey through land owned by C.M. Brown and his son, S.E. “Jerry” Brown. “Uncle Cal” had received an 80-acre federal grant of land for his service during the Mexican War. From that beginning, he had purchased more land in the area which is now Ina.

According to the section in the booklet entitled “History of Ina,” “The land the railroad chose for the depot belonged to Jerry Brown. He donated one-and-a-half acres for the depot plus 11 acres of land for a switch. To get the town started, his father donated land for streets, alleys and a main public road. This was in the late 1890s and amounted to 10 acres. The railroad especially attracted people from Spring Garden, five miles to the east. (Some people moved their homes to Ina from Spring Garden on large rollers.) Some of the lots

(Continued at far right on next page)

An unexpected by-product of the organization of the new college was that some who had graduated from high school several years earlier became full-time students, and eventually earned an Associate Degree. Several of these early graduates are now teaching in the Rend Lake College District.

These first enrollees and the faculty were aided significantly by the advice of some of the early visitors to the college. At the time of its inception, two philosophies were vying for supremacy: the concept of the community college as an extension of the high school and the concept of the community college as an autonomous institution with its own faculty, equipment, buildings and purposes.

In the early stages the former philosophy was dominant, but visits by Jesse Bogue, Leonard Koos, Ray Young, Elden Lichty, Clarence Samford and Francis Horn soon convinced those most closely associated with the college that the institution had a destiny of its own. Not only were these men generous with their time in discussing the future with the faculty, but both Koos and Horn offered courses in Junior College Philosophy and History in which many of the faculty enrolled.

With such men to point the way, Mt. Vernon Community College was quick to seek the necessary recognition and acceptance by senior institutions. Once the school was well into operation, Ward Black of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction accepted an invitation to visit the campus, had words of praise for the initial effort and awarded the college a Certificate of Recognition by the State of Illinois.

Southern Illinois University, the University of Illinois, Eastern Illinois University and Illinois State University sent letters indicating that they would accept credits from the new institution on a provisional basis. Moreover, the University of Illinois was asked to send a team to visit the college, make recommendations and suggest improvements. When the team made a second visit the following year, it recommended the University of Illinois accept credits from Mt. Vernon Community College at full value.

With recognition from the State of Illinois and acceptance of credits from most of the state colleges and universities, the college now turned its attention to obtaining accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. In the Spring of 1960, Candidate’s status with

the North Central Association was granted, and William Atkinson was named as Consultant. After more than a year of committee work, involving faculty, students and board members, the Self-Study was submitted in the Spring of 1961. On October 23 of that year, the North Central Committee on Accreditation approved the Self-Study indicating satisfaction with the institution’s ability to evaluate itself and approved the school’s plans for improvement, but delayed the visitation of an examining committee.

This same letter expressed concern with (a) too close identification with the high school, (b) weaknesses that hampered good administrative practices, such as little or no direct contact between the Dean and the Board of Education and lack of involvement of the Dean in preparation of the budget. It also commented on teaching overload and the small number of volumes in the library. After efforts were made to correct the weaknesses, the Consultant recommended readiness for visitation and an examining team arrived in December 1964.

By this time the Master Plan for formation of a System of Illinois Junior Colleges had been approved and minimum requirements for population and assessed valuation had been raised. The North Central Committee commended the college for outstanding progress, but denied accreditation, listing as reasons for the denial lack of autonomy, identification with the high school, lack of consistency between objectives and offerings – especially vocational, size of library staff and holdings, conditions of faculty service, provisions for adequate financial support and need for additional secretarial staff.

Since the committee was aware that the college soon expected to become part of the Illinois System of Junior Colleges, instead of prohibiting the college from being re-examined for another three years, they recommended that the college could be revisited as soon as the conditions were corrected.

Although failure to gain accreditation was a bitter disappointment, it may have been, in the long run, a blessing in disguise. There had been talk as early as 1959 of the joining of Mt. Vernon and Centralia colleges into a single institution and when, in that same year, the General Assembly passed a law enabling such action and the Board of Higher Education recommended that the two colleges be merged and that the Salem

High School district be added to the territory, several meetings took place in Salem, Centralia and Mt. Vernon to explore the possibility of such merger. Supporters from Salem and Mt. Vernon were agreeable if a site could be selected before the establishment of a college. However, the Centralia contingent insisted that this be postponed until after the election of a Board of Trustees.

After this impasse, the movement more or less died until the appearance of the Master Plan recommendations by the Board of Higher Education. On April 21, 1964, the Dean sent a memorandum to the Board of Education calling attention to the fact that Mt. Vernon was in danger of being surrounded by developments in other areas and might find itself forced to join a junior college district in the planning of which it had not participated. He recommended that "the Board authorize the collection of such data as will assure readiness for informed action by January 1, 1965, or as soon thereafter as the General Assembly approved the Master Plan . . ." The memorandum contained 18 suggested types of information which would prove useful in preparing a feasibility survey and suggested 10 resource groups which could help in the planning.

Shortly thereafter, members of the Board of Education met first with members of the legislature from the Mt. Vernon area and later with Dr. Richard Browne and Dr. Lyman Glenn to discuss the suggestions in the Dean's memorandum. These members of the Board of Higher Education confirmed the suggestions made. Soon a meeting was called and a Steering Committee was formed of representatives from Dahlgren, McLeansboro, Mt. Vernon, Sesser, Waltonville, Wayne City, Webber and Woodlawn.

In subsequent meetings lay and professional persons from other districts were invited to listen to proposals for an area junior college. Meanwhile, the Jaycees, under the leadership of Dr. Curtis Parker, became interested in the subject; and as groups continued to meet, the organization grew until it contained representatives from most of the districts which eventually became a part of Rend Lake College District. Charles Covington and Frank Feltmeier of the Rend Lake Conservancy District Board spoke at Mt. Vernon, West Frankfort and Benton, offering their services in helping to form the Steering Committee and in working toward acquiring a site location near the shores of Rend Lake.

In a meeting on July 26, 1965, at Whittington, Paul Guyer, supported by Holland Simmons, moved that the group attempt to establish a junior college district consisting of six or more counties. The motion carried. At the same meeting a new Steering Committee was formed, and Curtis Parker and Lee Browning were named co-Chairmen. Each county involved was asked to name two members to serve on a Steering Committee and to furnish educators to serve on a professional Advisory Committee.

Later, September 13, 1965, in a meeting at Sesser, nine high school districts – Benton, Dahlgren, McLeansboro, Mt. Vernon, Sesser, Thompsonville, Waltonville, Wayne City and Webber Township – indicated a desire to join in the effort. Subsequently, Christopher, Enfield, Pinckneyville, Tamaroa and Zeigler-Royalton agreed to be part of the district.

The seed had not only germinated but had survived several repottings and was now ready for its final potting before transplantation to its permanent location. The faculty were nearly 100 percent full-time; the college shared only a few classrooms with the high school; the library had acquired a respectable number of volumes, and the citizens of the community were actively engaged in promoting expansion of the college to include those territories which now sent students to Mt. Vernon Community College.

The Steering Committee continued to meet frequently; volunteer speakers and panels went to neighboring cities and villages to explain the plans; the Executive Committee authorized the employment of the Paralex Company to make a feasibility survey. This survey was conducted by Charles Pardee, with assistance from Dr. Merle Sumption of the University of Illinois, Dr. Howard Rawlinson of Mt. Vernon Community College and John L. Cox, graduate student at the University of Illinois (later President of the Mt. Carmel campus – Wabash Valley College – of Illinois Eastern Colleges).

The Feasibility Survey was approved at the May 1966 meeting of the Mt. Vernon Community College Board, and in August 1966, the Illinois Junior College Board authorized the County Superintendent of Jefferson County to order a referendum on the proposed new college. The date for the referendum was set for October 22, 1966.

Following this, [**Editor's Note:** Dates



Ina 'hometown' (cont.)

sold for as little as \$3-\$5. The choicest lots went for \$25-\$30. "Mr. Johnson of the railroad was staying at the home of S.E. 'Jerry' Brown and asked Brown to name the town. Jerry had two daughters, Anna and Ina. Because there already was an Anna, Illinois, he decided to name it in honor of his oldest daughter, Ina. 'Uncle Cal' would have named the town 'Melissa,' but 'Ina' became the name."

Ina Brown, in the words of Hodge, "was a quiet and talented girl who was very good in music. She taught private lessons at her home. Ina Brown attended Ina School and later went to Ewing College where she did graduate work in music.

"She was born in 1899 and married Ralph Wyatt, who also had attended Ewing College. They had one child, Don Wyatt, whose wife's name was Helen. Don had two children named Rodney and Janet. Ina, Ralph and Don are all deceased. Ina had to go to Denver due to ill health many years ago and is buried out there."

Elsewhere in the 1975 publication, it stated, "Ina died after a long life, but her brother Frank runs Brown's Lumber in Ina today. 'Uncle Cal' Brown died at the age of 94 when smallpox broke out in the village. His home still stands."

[FYI, The town of Bonnie was named for the daughter of Mr. Johnson (of the C.&E.I. Railroad).]



Cold, damp, muddy . . . Break ground March '69

MARCH 1969

Groundbreaking Ceremonies for the Ina campus of Rend Lake College were conducted on a cold, damp day in a muddy field Thursday, March 27, 1969.

The program was highlighted by remarks from Sophomore Sheila Dodson (Mt. Vernon), Faculty Representative Glenn Dare, President Dr. James M. Snyder and Dr. Curtis Parker, Board of Trustees President.

Dr. Howard E. Rawlinson, College Dean, served as Master of Ceremonies. An Invocation and Benediction were offered by Instructors Max Brandon and Eugene Estes, respectively. Music selections, including the Star Spangled Banner, were provided by the Rend Lake College Band.

The faculty was comprised of 43 individuals at the time of the Groundbreaking Ceremonies.

According to the program: "Rend Lake College is being built on foundations laid by Mt. Vernon Community College.

"Long before Legislature established a system of junior colleges in the State, faculty, staff and lay citizens were planning for the expansion of the district to include neighboring areas being served.

"On October 22, 1966, the citizens of the proposed Rend Lake District made it an actuality by an enthusiastic vote of 8,513 to 1,221. Rend Lake College was born.

"In December 1966, a Board of Education was formed, and planning began for the acquisition of a centrally located campus. On November 18, 1967, the citizens of District No. 521 showed their continued support by approving a \$3,100,000 bond issue for the construction

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indicated do not sync with the wording, "Following this"] Steering Committee and sub-committees became quite active in carrying petitions to the citizens within the district, and a petition for approval as a college district was submitted to the Illinois Junior College Board March 7, 1966. The Illinois Junior College Board approved the petition May 13, 1966; the Board of Higher Education, June 7, 1966, at which time they set a public hearing for July 11, 1966, to be held at Sesser. At the public hearing several people testified for the petition but no one spoke against it.

Following this meeting, October 22, 1966, was set as the date for the referendum – a referendum approved by the citizens nearly eight to one. The Public Relations Committee, under the direction of J.L. Buford and Kay Wall, had worked hard in getting the information to the people. Shortly thereafter, the Steering Committee chose a slate of candidates consisting of one each from Franklin, Hamilton, Perry, Wayne and White counties and two from Jefferson County. They set the election date for December 16, 1966. Of the Class I Junior Colleges approved to that date, Rend Lake was the first to elect a board with no opposition to the Steering Committee candidates.

The organizational meeting of the new board was held in the Mt. Vernon Township High School December 21, 1966. Dr. Curtis Parker was named President of the Board; Forrest Stewart, Secretary. The next meeting was set for January 3, 1967.

The Board was now faced with several important decisions to make in a relatively short time. They asked the Board of Mt. Vernon Community College to continue operation of the college until June 30, 1967, and set about to select administrative staff to the new college. In May 1967, they employed Dr. James M. Snyder of Maricopa County Junior College District, Phoenix, Arizona, as President and later, the former Dean of Mt. Vernon Community College (Rawlinson) as Dean.

Shortly after Dr. Snyder's arrival on campus, he began to work with both Boards and with fellow administrators to select an architect, to prepare a master plan and to develop materials for a bond issue capable of supplying the college's share for building purposes.

By August 26, 1967, Caudill, Rowlett and Scott of Houston, Texas, had been selected as architects, and Fields, Goldman and Magee

of Mt. Vernon as associate architects. The bond issue for \$3,100,000 was approved November 18, 1967. The master plan for the campus was approved by the Board of Trustees of District #521 on November 21, 1967, and by the Board of Higher Education May 1968. On June 22, as a result of a friendly suit, Judge Alvin Lacy Williams ruled that District #521 was a legally established district.

Although the name Rend Lake College had been used in publicity prior to the elections, the name was not legally chosen by the Board of Trustees until July 18, 1967. Contracts were let and on March 27, 1969, the first ground was broken for the Ina site a site which had been purchased by the Board November 19, 1968.

The contractors started work early that summer and the college offices were moved to the new quarters August 1970. The Fall Term for the 1970-71 school year, although delayed a week in starting, began on the new campus.

Meantime, the college faculty had continued work on a new Self-Study and entertained visitors from both the Illinois Junior College Board and from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools during January 1969. At its spring meeting in Chicago, the North Central Association approved accreditation of the new institution. News of the approval was received by Dr. Snyder in time to make the announcement at the Ground Breaking ceremony.

Although the Master Plan for Phase II construction had been approved and the General Assembly had approved appropriations for that purpose, Governor Ogilvie froze funds until 1972. Early in the spring, he formed a committee to re-examine the plans and made some cuts in Phase II approvals. His committee finally notified the college that it could proceed with the letting of bids. Bids were let, and construction was begun in May 1972. Completion of Phase II construction will enable several technical programs which have been housed in other locations to be moved to the Ina campus.



Chapter II ♦ THE SOIL

The growth of any plant is dependent, to a degree, upon the quality of the soil which produces it. And people, like plants, are a product of the land on which they live. The land which gave birth to both Mt. Vernon

Community College and Rend Lake College is more impoverished than that in the northern part of the state, for the rich deposits of soil left by the melting glaziers thinned out as the glaciers reached the southern part of the state.

The first white settlers to enter the area, aside from the French who established trading posts along the Mississippi, were pioneers from North and South Carolina who moved up through Tennessee and Kentucky. These were not the plantation owners of the South but poor, landless people who arrived in wagons drawn by gaunt mules and horses, bringing with them little more than a devotion to the work ethic and a firm faith in God. They built log cabins out of the timbers hewed to clear the lands they would cultivate. These were the people who gave rise to the saying, more popular in the later westward trek, that the cowards never started and the weak ones died along the way.

They built schools which were attended when the children were not needed in the fields . . .

. . . The major natural resources of the district are the land and the underlying minerals, primarily coal and oil deposits. Employment in coal mining, formerly one of the major industries of the district, is on the decline with the advent of other power sources, and the peak of the oil boom has been passed unless new pools are discovered . . .

. . . Besides those businesses which normally flourish in the economy of any region, the specialized businesses related to agriculture, mining and oil production are operative in the district. A number of small industries are located in the area, and the development of Rend Lake promises additional growth. In 1972, General Tire decided to locate a major plant in the Mt. Vernon area.

In addition to industry, there has been some consideration of developing the area as a medical center. Already, seven hospitals are located within the district . . .

. . . One of the stimuli for such development, as well as for future development, has been the construction of Rend Lake (approximately 90,000 acres). Plans for development of the lake area, in addition to serving as a multi-city water supply, include development of recreational and conservational areas, and an industrial park.

Already the lake is beginning to draw

many tourists, and, with the additional developments, is expected to draw more. Plans are under way for construction of a convention center near the lake, and the State of Illinois will use part of the peninsula on which Rend Lake College is situated for a state park.

Approaches to the lake and to Rend Lake College lie near Interstate Highways 57 and 24 and not far from 64 – a far cry from the forest trails by which the early settlers made their way into the territory . . . These Interstate Highways place the Rend Lake College District at about the transportation crossroads of the United States, opening up the possibility of transportation-aligned curricula for the college. Addition of new curricula in the occupational areas would help Rend Lake College to serve better the needs of the district . . .

. . . Despite the interest of the early settlers in education, the southern end of the state has lagged behind central and northern portions of Illinois in formal education . . . (Statistics) show that the unemployment rate is high in the district and that the number of high school dropouts is above the state average – especially in Jefferson and Franklin counties which furnish over half of the population of the district. The area also ranks high in the number of persons drawing welfare assistance.

So, the soil which first gave life to Mt. Vernon Community College, later to be transplanted as Rend Lake College, is a mixture of strong and weak nutrients. Natural resources are not great, the economy is slow, educational persistence lags behind the rest of the state and the assessed valuation per student is one of the lowest in Illinois.

Yet there is a spirit in these people that persists in striving toward something better. Some quit the area and moved away with the decline of employment but those who remained continued to rise above their circumstances. From 1900 through 1970, the population figures eroded, but the people supported the two college propositions stronger than did their fellow Illinoisans in wealthier parts of the state. Moreover, they insisted that the junior college be kept free of tuition as long as possible.

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Chapter III ♦ **ROOTS AND BRANCHES**

Any plant, capable of bearing an adequate quantity and quality of fruit, must have a well-developed root system as well

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Graduate Greg Hollmann Pacesetter Award nominee

OCTOBER 1998

Rend Lake College graduate Greg Hollmann (Mt. Vernon) – eventual Science and Political Science Instructor – was one of 11 statewide nominees in 2002 for the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) Pacesetter Award.

The honor recognizes the accomplishments of more recent graduates. Nominees must have completed a program of instruction at an Illinois public community college. First bestowed in 1988, it was combined with the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2010.

Greg Hollmann

*Site coordinator, afterschool
primetime programs
Greater Atlanta YMCA
Rend Lake College (1999)*

Hollmann served as Student Trustee and Student Senate President during his years at Rend Lake. He also tutored sixth-graders as part of the college's AmeriCorps service program – an experience that has led him to pursue a career working with at-risk youth. "Just as in that year of AmeriCorps, I continue to see the challenges and rewards for working with children, just hoping my efforts are making even the smallest of differences," says Hollmann.

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Break ground (cont.)

of such buildings by a vote of 5,263 to 900.

"Enrollment has grown from 198 in 1956 to 992 in January 1969. Performance of graduates has attested to the quality of the program.

"Today's ceremony marks the beginning of construction which will turn these dreams into brick, mortar and stone."



Cross-Country Nationals a plus for local economy

RLC F.Y.I. SEPTEMBER 2007

The fact Rend Lake College will host the 2007 National Junior College Athletic Association Men and Women's Cross-Country Championships (Saturday, November 10) is a big deal . . . and not just for RLC and its defending championship team.

In past years, the finals have been held on flat courses in the Western U.S. This year, it will take place on rolling terrain at Rend Lake Golf Course in Whittington. Sure, that bit of knowledge is good for Warrior and Lady Warrior runners who train in the area every day. But, it is also good for event turnout, which is good for the local economy.

In 2006, El Paso Community College in Texas welcomed about 500 athletes to its version of the NJCAA Cross-Country Championships. That turnout grew to about 750 when coaches, trainers, friends and family members were factored in.

According to El Paso CC Athletics Counselor Lolo Mercado, a rough estimate showed each guest spent about \$150 a day as the event generated roughly \$337,500 in food and lodging over a three-day period.

With Illinois' centralized location, more programs are expected to pay for their athletes to travel to Whittington and participate this year. That could mean big revenue for local restaurants and hotels in a time of low occupancy and few transient customers.

"This will bring in some good business for that weekend," RLC Athletic Director and Women's Cross-Country Coach Denny Myers said. "I think local restaurants and hotels will be happy with us."

as a sufficient number of branches. In the early stages, such development is slow in order to produce adequate support for the potential crop.

Mt. Vernon Community College began with a modest program, geared primarily toward those students who aspired to a Baccalaureate Degree, the only offering in the Vocational field being in the area of Secretarial Science. Even here, the emphasis was on producing teachers of secretarial subjects . . .

. . . No vocationally oriented courses were added until the Fall of 1961 when the School of Practical Nursing was established due to the hard work and persistence of Howard Jones, Vocational Director of the Mt. Vernon Township High School. Actually, the Nursing School remained under the aegis of the high school until 1965. Graduates of the Nursing School, since its creation, have ranked high in performance on the licensure examinations, ranking first in the state in 1969 . . .

. . . When the college became Rend Lake College and a Dean of Vocational and Technical Education, Ronald Kruppa, was employed to begin work in July 1968, the new Dean was also assigned the responsibility of promoting an adequate Adult education program.

The following fall, the college offered in the evening school, in addition to the usual transfer courses, courses in private pilots in ground school training, hospital administration and income tax preparation. In 1969, James McGhee was named Dean of Adult Education and Community Services. He developed 16 curricula in the Adult Education area but not all of these were offered immediately. However, the program now began to take on the aspects of a true Adult education program with offerings in transfer courses during the evening, courses of a vocational nature, hobby and recreational courses and courses of general culture not tied to the traditional pattern . . .

. . . Anthropology was one of the few additions to the baccalaureate-oriented curriculum after the college became Rend Lake College. Other additions included Philosophy, Journalism, Creative Writing, Oral Interpretation, Physical Science, Contemporary History and an expansion and revitalization of the Music curriculum, but the major thrust of the new institution was toward the development of curricula in the Vocational-Technical area . . .

. . . The curriculum which has given the most difficulty has been the General Studies program . . . Dropout rates remained high, and very few of these students managed to achieve success in the Baccalaureate program – their expressed desire.

It was recognized quite early that part of the difficulty lay in the reading ability of the General Studies students. When Rend Lake College became a reality, plans were laid for the addition of a Reading Instructor to the faculty and for the offering of individual instruction in Reading . . .



Chapter IV ♦ THE GARDENERS

Even in a good soil, replete with nutrients, better fruit can be obtained if proper attention is given to cultivation. The gardener needs to stir the soil deeply around the roots to provide proper aeration, and care must be taken to protect the plant against insects and diseases which might have a deleterious effect upon the proper maturation.

There were plenty of gardeners the first year (of MVCC), but none – not even the Dean – gave full time to the affairs of the college. All of the faculty were teaching part-time in the high school – usually more than in the college. This was a situation that continued through several years even though the planing committees continued to call attention to the need for a more unified institution. It was not until the North Central Association denied accreditation that the move toward a full-time college faculty was made in earnest . . .

. . . By 1966, the 22-member part-time faculty of 10 years earlier had grown to a full-time faculty of 30, plus 10 persons still teaching a single class or an evening class.

With the formation of the new district, the separation became complete, and the staff now included 30 full-time instructors and three administrators. The next year, with the addition of new Vocational classes and the employment of Paul Fitch and Ronald Kruppa, the staff grew to 41 faculty members and five administrators. The faculty count includes one Counselor and two Librarians. By 1969, the administrative staff had increased to six and the faculty to 49 . . .

. . . As time went on, the faculty became more and more specialized in their fields. Imogene Book was awarded the Advanced Certificate in Library Science from the University of Illinois in 1966. In 1969, both Eugene Estes and Barbara Luchsinger re-

ceived Doctor of Philosophy degrees, Dr. Estes from Southern Illinois University and Dr. Luchsinger from the University of Iowa. The following year, Richard Doherty, who had earned the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in June of that year from Ball State University, and Evelyn Claxton, who had earned her Ph.D. from the University of Kansas the same year, were added to the college teaching staff . . .

. . . Although counseling was early recognized as one of the main functions of the community college, most of the counseling during the first few years was done by the Dean and by Betty Ann Ward, who doubled as an Instructor. It wasn't until 1969 that two additional full-time Counselors were added to the staff. In the meantime, Mrs. Ward's teaching load had been reduced and Mr. Yates, from the time he became Registrar, also had served as Counselor.

So, as the size of the garden plot grew, so did the number of gardeners – gardeners who accepted their obligation to keep the soil well-stirred, to identify diseases and destructive insects. The suggestions of the faculty have played a major role in the growth and development of the college.



Chapter V ♦ **THE FRUIT**

The fruit of an educational institution must be found in the students, their growth and their accomplishments. As with any plant, the quality of the fruit will vary from branch to branch and season to season.

The students of Rend Lake College and Mt. Vernon Community College represented a cross-section of the communities from which they came. As with most junior colleges, the high school records of those students enrolling in Mt. Vernon Community College and Rend Lake College are somewhat below the records of their fellow students who have elected to enroll in senior institutions, partially because these senior institutions are restrictive in their admission policies while the junior college attempts to find some way of being of service to all students. The same thing is true of the students' scores on standard test batteries. Yet, these colleges have received some of the top students from the high schools in the community. (In 1965, Mt. Vernon Community College enrolled seven of the top 10 students who had graduated from Mt. Vernon Township High School in June.)

From the inception of Mt. Vernon Com-

munity College to the present, an effort has been made to involve the students in the growth of the college, and to attempt to give them a voice in what happens in the institution . . .

. . . At present, students serve on the Faculty Council. At the end of the 1971-72 school year, the Council voted (subject to faculty approval) to give elected student representatives voting privileges; they had been serving as ex officio members but not as voting members.

This practice has enabled the college to become aware of the feelings of students and, often, to anticipate situations before they developed into problems. The worth of such practice is borne out by the fact that at no time has Rend Lake College been affected by the kind of student protests which have plagued other institutions. The pride these students take in their institution is illustrated by the fact that in the two years on the Ina campus, on only one occasion has there appeared the kind of graffiti which deface many institutions – educational or otherwise . . .

. . . Many graduates have expressed their appreciation of the kind of personal attention received at the college. Teachers keep regular office hours and willingly meet with students to discuss any problems that the student wishes to discuss. The Dean has met frequently with randomly selected groups of students to learn their ideas and their feelings and has been able to provide solutions to problems he might not otherwise have known existed. Students are welcomed into the President's Office and into the offices of the other administrators when they request an audience . . .

. . . Many of the graduates of Mt. Vernon Community College and Rend Lake College have gone on to success in various fields. Some of these achievements include earning of the Doctorate and university teaching or administration, the composing of operas or other musical forms and participation on senior college sports teams. Numbered among the teachers in high schools and elementary schools of the Rend Lake College District are more than 40 persons who obtained their first higher education work at one of the two colleges.

The growth rate has been fairly constant

. . .

. . . So the trees have borne fruit – fruit which will continue to mature as years go on and as new nutrients are added to the soil.



Area Mother pleased with RLC graduation ceremony

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN
VOICE OF THE READER JUNE 1, 2006

Congrats to RLC grads

To the Editor:

I have attended long, boring graduations in hot, packed gymnasiums. Last night was the best service ever. Several hundred students and faculty heard an inspiring speech, received diplomas and certificates and marched out – all done in less than an hour.

I watched my son receive his Associate in Arts Degree. Last night he and his wife were listed in the commencement program. Some may say big deal. Yes, it is a big deal. In the past 10 years they graduated high school, got married, he served three years in the U.S. Army and had two children now ages 8 and 6.

Behind us sat the family of a wife and mother who received certificates in criminal justice. They applauded with pride when her name was called.

As the procession passed, I saw that some were young, some were collecting security benefits, already having lived a lifetime. What stories they could tell, what experiences they brought to their classes. They were all so deserving of the praise and honor given to them.

What was so disappointing about the entire event was the fact that not one word, no mention whatsoever was in *The Southern Illinoisan*. SIUC and JALC were well covered on the front and local sections. How sad RLC was completely overlooked.

Congrats to all you RLC students from a proud mother.

Sandy Pepper
Mulkeytown

Work Opportunities Act explained by Sen. Simon

REGISTER-NEWS DECEMBER 15, 1993
BY MARK ALLEN

INA – U.S. Sen. Paul Simon introduced a program that would tie education and industry together to a crowd at Rend Lake College Monday.

The School to Work Opportunities Act has passed committee in the Senate and Simon said he is confident it will pass due to support by President Clinton, both parties, labor and industry. "The support is so unanimous, there must be something wrong with the bill," Simon joked.

The act would provide federal funds to the states which would implement the plan according to their needs. The goal is to place high school juniors in the workplace to learn job skills.

To encourage industry to participate, they could use the student as free labor for an unspecified time, but would be required to pay them after that. The paycheck would promote interest by both student and employer.

By learning the relevance of skills learned in school to the real-world workplace, the act would promote interest in education among otherwise disinterested young people, Simon said.

About 75 percent of high school graduates don't receive a Bachelor's Degree, and emphasis needs to be placed on helping those not bound for college, Simon said. "We focus disproportionately on those who are headed for college."

The act needs to be part of a reform of the education system, Simon said. American students attend 180 days of class a year, while students in Japan attend 243 days.

Chapter VI ♦ THE OVERSEERS

Although it is the gardener who cultivates the plant, there is need for an overseer to do the long-range planning to determine what shall be planted in each field and when and how much fertilizer must be applied. With each of the colleges, the administrative staff have been responsible for such planning and operation.

The Philosophy has not changed much from that hammered out by the original group of faculty members and the Dean of the college. The scope of the Mission has widened, has been extended to more people, but the general direction has remained much the same.

This Philosophy includes not only a desire to provide citizens of the community with an opportunity to acquire an education at a reasonable cost but also a desire to provide the first two years of general education for those aiming toward professional training, to provide an opportunity to develop saleable skills in Vocational and Technical fields, to offer Adult Education and Community Services, and to offer another chance for those students who have not previously been academically successful but who desire additional training. In addition, it was realized that all four groups need counseling and guidance.

Implementation of this Philosophy requires several levels of control . . . Ultimate control rests with the Board of Higher Education, a board created by the legislature and appointed by the Governor. Reporting to the Board of Higher Education is the Illinois Junior College Board, which is charged with planning for future junior college development, with making appropriate studies and with gathering pertinent information to show that the junior colleges are performing their functions satisfactorily. In general, this Board handles state funds appropriated to the junior colleges and exercises the power of the state over the local college.

Local authority rests with the governing board of the individual junior college . . .

. . . Without a willingness on the part of the Board of Education of Mt. Vernon Community College to give up its own college and to join in an effort with other communities to provide broader educational opportunities for more students, Rend Lake College, in its present form, could not have come into being. Members of the Board of Education who approved such a move and

mobilized the community to support the proposed new college were William McAtee, President; Guy Wood Jr., Vice-President; V.N. Chaney; Janice Dixon; Robert Lipps; Jack McDonald, and Ben S. Martin.

By the time application was made for the creation of Rend Lake College, the Illinois System of Junior Colleges had been established, so application was made to the Illinois Junior College Board, and the election for the governing board of the new college was under their direction. A slate of candidates was proposed by the Steering Committee, and those men ran unopposed for election to the Board. The first members were Curtis Parker, President; Forrest Stewart, Secretary; Melvin Farlow; Harry Irwin; Allen Baker; Carleton Apple, and Holland Simmons. When elected in December 1966, they drew lots for length of term . . .

. . . Dr. Baker, who had been Vice-President of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association since its founding, was elected President of that organization in the Spring of 1972 . . .

. . . In Rend Lake College, the President, under the Board of Trustees, was given responsibility for the total program. Under him, the Dean, who acted as President when the latter was off campus, had responsibility for the Instructional program with the Deans of Vocational and Technical Education, Student Personnel Services and Adult Education and Community Services reporting directly to him. The Business Manager reported directly to the President, as did the Director of Physical Facilities. Both of these – especially the Business Manager – worked closely with the Dean of the college.

All administrators sat on the President's Council which Dr. Snyder had organized shortly after his arrival on campus. In addition to the administrators, representatives of the faculty (the President of the Faculty Council) and of the students (usually a member of the Student Senate) also sat on the Council, thus establishing a liaison between all parts of the college with no one operating in a vacuum.

In addition, the Dean of the College sat with the Faculty Council, thus broadening the avenues of faculty and student communication since members of the student body also sat on this council. The Dean also met regularly with Department Chairmen.

Chapter VII ♦ THE NUTRIENTS

No plant can attain optimum growth

without a sufficient amount of moisture and nutrients. No matter how rich the soil, the growing plant will die without a supply of moisture; no plant, no matter how adequate the moisture or how careful the cultivation, can attain the potential within the seed unless the soil contains a balanced supply of nutrients.

So it is with an educational institution. Unless adequate finances are forthcoming, the institution cannot realize the promise of its structure regardless of the quality of faculty and staff, regardless of the care in planning or the calibre of the student in attendance . . .

. . . When the college (MVCC) began operation in 1956, the State of Illinois was supporting junior colleges at the rate of \$100 per full-time student. In 1957, this figure was raised to \$200 per full-time student. Later, with a full-time person in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, it was realized that the semester hour presented a better basis for state support than the full-time student basis, and state support was raised to \$7.60 per semester hour, provided that the student remained in school until after the midterm of the semester. With the passage of the Junior College Law in 1965, this level was changed to \$11.50 per semester hour for Class I colleges while the Class II colleges received \$9.50 per semester hour.

By 1971, the rate had been raised to \$15.50 and in 1972, it was raised again to \$16.50 per semester hour with an additional \$2.50 for students enrolled in Vocational curricula.

Meanwhile, both Mt. Vernon Community College and Rend Lake College had received some support from state vocational funds, both for instruction and for equipment, most of these funds authorized by the 1965 Higher Education Act. However, the fund for Illinois remained at a more-or-less constant level while the number of institutions making claims from this fund rose, so the result was a lowering of the total amount available for each institution.

Nevertheless, funds from this source enabled Rend Lake College to start some of its Vocational curricula. If the United States Congress approves full funding for the Higher Education Act which was recently passed, more funds of this nature may be available in the future.

When Rend Lake College supplanted Mt. Vernon Community College, the new governing board agreed to follow the practice of not charging tuition to in-district

students, even though it would be necessary to operate for the 1967-68 school year with tax funds from the former Mt. Vernon Community College District since taxes from the larger district would not become available until 1968. Nevertheless, in the feasibility survey, they had pointed out that charging a small tuition fee might become necessary in the early 1970s. By the spring of 1971, it was felt that it would be wise to charge a tuition fee, and this was placed at \$2.50 per semester hour, a figure which made it possible for the college to draw equalization funds from the State of Illinois.

At this writing, it appears that enrollment will be down somewhat for the 1972-73 school year. Since decline of enrollment is a national trend, it is difficult to determine how much of the drop in enrollment has been caused by the situation in Viet Nam and the change in draft status, how much by the economic condition or how much, if any, has been caused by the imposition of a tuition charge . . .

. . . In 1965, Mt. Vernon Community College made application for Work-Study funds and continued to use such funds until its demise in 1967. Since the Mt. Vernon Community College District had become a part of the Rend Lake College District, the new college was permitted to continue to participate in that fund under the former college's application.

The amount of money received from the government under this program has grown from year to year, but it still amounts to only slightly more than \$15,000 . . .

. . . Equalization funds had been provided for both elementary and secondary schools, but it was not until 1971 that the State adopted a policy of equalization for junior colleges. In that year, Rend Lake College received \$3.53 per semester hour, a figure which has been raised to \$3.77 for 1972. In developing a formula for calculation of equalization support, it was agreed to use the tuition charge as a part of the local contribution, thus creating the necessity to charge a tuition fee at Rend Lake College.

Another source of income, but one which does not add to the college's ability to support programs, lies with scholarship funds. However, this source does make the college more attractive to some students and, in this way, adds to student enrollment . . .

. . . The one variable which seems to lie more under the control of the local citizenry than any other source of finance relates



Legislation encourages industry partnerships

SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN DEC. 15, 1993
BY BRIAN MATTMILLER

Three of every four high school graduates will not obtain a Bachelor's Degree, yet the lion's share of federal education money goes to the college-bound.

U.S. Sen. Paul Simon is hoping to level the scales with the "School to Work Opportunities Act." The legislation would enable some schools to make partnerships with local industries, and connect classroom education with job experience. Simon, D-Makanda, is chief sponsor of the bill. He described it during a meeting Monday at Rend Lake College before about 75 people.

"College access is great, but we have to look at the big picture," said Simon. "Education needs more stress than we have given it in this country. It means we have to readjust our thinking if we are going to be competitive in this world."

The bill calls for an additional \$300 million appropriation, he said. Local school districts would apply for grants to fund their own self-styled apprenticeship programs.

The key, Simon said, will be to have students see the connection between the classroom and the workforce. Too often, students who are not college-bound lose interest or drop out.

Basic guidelines for funding: students start prior to 11th grade on some sort of career direction; local businesses will provide paid part-time jobs for the students while they study. In addition to the high school diploma and possibly an advanced degree, participating students would be awarded "occupational skill certificates" that would meet industry standards.



Impetus for founding: Higher Ed Master Plan

RLCF ANNUAL DINNER PROGRAM 1986

STEERING COMMITTEE

The primary impetus for the founding of Rend Lake College came with the publication in March 1964 of an Illinois Board of Higher Education study entitled, A Provisional Master Plan for Higher Education in Illinois. Authorized by the Illinois General Assembly three years earlier, this Master Plan presented an ambitious program envisioning the incorporation of a system of public community colleges into the state's plan for higher education.

In an effort to discuss the Master Plan and to explore its implications area representatives from Dahlgren, McLeansboro, Mt. Vernon, Sesser, Waltonville, Wayne City, Bluford and Woodlawn assembled for an organizational meeting. A new Steering Committee was then formed in 1965 and Dr. Curtis Parker and Lee Browning were named co-chairmen and plans were made to attempt to establish a junior college district consisting of six or more counties. Each county was asked to name two members to serve on this new Steering Committee. By 1965, nine high school districts had indicated a desire to join in the effort. Eventually, 14 high schools were included. Following completion of a feasibility survey in 1966, the Illinois Junior College Board authorized the Jefferson County Superintendent of Schools to order a referendum on the proposed new college. Voters in 14 high school districts covering all or part of Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Perry, Washington, Wayne, White and Williamson counties approved the referendum on

(Continued at far right on next page)

to funds derived from taxes. Federal and state funds will be forthcoming as a result of cooperative effort with administrators and officials of other junior colleges within the state. It is doubtful if the efforts of any one college without the support of the other colleges can be very effective. The growth of tax funds differ, for they will depend to a great degree upon the efforts of the citizens within the college district.

It appears at this writing the potential development brought about by the creation of Rend Lake has just begun to happen. If, as many citizens within the district believe, the Lake will attract more business and industry to this part of the state, if the income of the citizens rises as a result of reaching a higher education level, if new homes and businesses are built, then the assessed valuation of the district is sure to rise.

Unless the enrollment of the college outstrips the growth of the district, then the assessed valuation per student should also rise. In the long run, it is the number of dollars available for educational effort for each student that defines the kind of program which can be developed.

Now that the tender plant which was Mt. Vernon Community College has become Rend Lake College, has survived several transplantings and is situated in its permanent location, now that strenuous rain dances have been performed and sacrifices have been made to propitiate the proper gods, some rain has fallen – not so much as one would like – but there are new rain clouds on the horizon and, hopefully, the plant will receive sufficient moisture and the proper nutrients can be added to guarantee strong and healthy growth for the future.



Chapter VIII **PLANTING POTS AND SEED BEDS**

During the first few years of its existence, the Mt. Vernon Community College was transferred from one space to another like a seedling being transplanted from one pot to another, each pot larger than the one which preceded it. Only after the creation of Rend Lake College was it transplanted to permanent quarters . . .

. . . An agreement was made between the two Boards of Education for the Mt. Vernon Township High School to continue to furnish space while plans for a new campus were being consummated by the Board of District #521.

Meanwhile, the new college was adding

programs of a Vocational nature, and the college rented the old Bonnie Elementary School to house temporarily the Agriculture Department. At the same time, they leased space in the Hotel Emmerson to serve as temporary quarters for the Mechanical Technology program. With space in the high school buildings at a premium, they also leased the Armory for temporary usage for Physical Education and Music classes.

In 1969, buildings in Benton to house the new program in Beauty Culture and to provide temporary quarters for the Automotive program were leased.

Meanwhile, the architects were busy on plans for the new campus. On November 18, 1967, citizens of the district approved a \$3,100,000 bond issue for purchase of a campus and construction of a college plant.

Three days later the Master Plan for construction was approved by the Illinois Junior College Board, contracts were let and, on March 27, 1968, ground was broken for the new campus just south of Ina, approximately the geographical and population center of the district.

Phase I construction included four buildings: a classroom building, a science building, a gymnasium and a combination faculty office and student lounge building. The classroom building, in addition to 12 classrooms, a reading laboratory, a language laboratory and a large Secretarial Science area, housed temporarily the administrative quarters and a bookstore.

The Science Building held four science laboratories, a large lecture hall, a demonstration classroom and served as temporary housing for the library. One of the rooms used by the library was designed to be used eventually as an additional science laboratory. The space used by the library will, with some remodeling, become the quarters for the School of Practical Nursing during Phase II construction.

The Gymnasium has roll-away bleachers on two sides, thus providing not only spectator space but also furnishing the only space on campus in which convocations for the entire student body can be held. It also doubles for usage on such occasions as graduation and other events which attract larger crowds. In addition to the usual gymnasium facilities, the building houses temporarily the quarters for the Music and Art programs. Space used by these two departments will become additional classroom space after Phase II construction is

completed.

The fourth building was designed by the architects from ideas provided by the faculty and student body. It holds 34 faculty offices, two secretarial spaces, two conference rooms and two lounges for students, one furnished with tables for dining while the other is furnished with more-or-less casual furniture.

In addition to these four buildings, fan-shaped parking lots were provided east and west of the cluster of buildings with sufficient spaces to serve both faculty and students. A metal building 60 x 160 feet was constructed to provide space for storage and work of the custodial force.

In August 1970, the Administrative offices were moved to the new campus, and although the beginning of the school year had to be delayed, classes for all baccalaureate-oriented programs began on the Ina campus on September 21, 1970. Students and faculty alike evidence pride in their new buildings . . .

. . . Fire destroyed the Maintenance Building on February 4, 1972, and that building was replaced by another just like it, but the interior was changed in order to provide space for the Mechanical Technology program. Later, that same spring (April 13, 1972), a tornado destroyed part of the Bonnie facilities and temporary arrangements had to be made to complete the year's program. That Fall of 1972 all of the Agriculture programs except for the shops in Agricultural Mechanics were moved to the main campus.

Not all luck that spring was bad. The Governor finally ended his freeze on construction funds which had been appropriated two years earlier, and after a review of the plans with a committee of architects appointed by the Governor, Rend Lake College was given the green light for Phase II construction. Contracts were let to S.M. Wilson Company as General Contractor, Ideal Electric Company of Champaign, France Plumbing and Heating Company of Edwardsville and G.L. Sweazy of Mattoon, for plumbing and sewers.

Work began in May of 1972, and the contractor expressed the hope of having three of the buildings ready for occupancy by the beginning of the Spring Semester in 1973 and the other two buildings completed by September, well ahead of the February 1974 deadline.

Phase II buildings are five in number:

an additional Oasis, a Vocational-Technical Building, a Student Center, an Administrative Building and a combination building which contains the Learning Resource Center and a little Theatre, in addition to studios for Art and Music.

The Oasis will be essentially a replica of that constructed in the first phase. It will, however, contain a suite of offices for the Guidance Department and quarters where students who become ill may rest.

The Vocational Building will contain classroom and shop areas for the Agriculture and Mechanical Technology programs. It will also house the heating and air conditioning plant for the Phase II buildings.

The Student Center will contain on the first floor a cafeteria and ample seating space for students and faculty, a bookstore and an office for the Student Senate. On the upper floor will be a game room and offices for student publications.

The campus may be approached by leaving I-57 at the Ina interchange or by leaving at the Whittington exchange and using Illinois Route 37 and the Jefferson-Franklin County Line Road. The Corps of Engineers has agreed to cooperate with the college in building a road from the Ina interchange to the edge of campus. Efforts were made to get the Federal and State governments to agree to an interchange at the County Line Road. So far, these efforts have been unsuccessful, but they have not been abandoned . . .

. . . So, at length, the seed which had lain so long on barren soil, had not only sprouted, but had survived several transplantings, and has become a flourishing healthy plant. Once construction is completed, the administration and Board will be able to devote much more time to pruning the branches and encouraging more and better growth.



Master Plan (cont.)

October 22, 1966 by a margin of almost 8-1.

In its early stages, Rend Lake College was located on the campus of Mt. Vernon Township High School. The Board of Trustees of the new college later selected the 351-acre site at Ina. On November 18, 1967, voters approved a bond issue of \$3,100,000 [by a 6:1 margin, 5,263-900, with 69 spoiled ballots] which represented the local share of the total campus cost of \$9,500,000. The State Community College Board allocated \$2,230,000 for construction of the initial phase. Phase I construction was completed in September 1970; Phases II and III in 1975. The original bonded indebtedness was retired in 1981.

OPENING THE COLLEGE

The newly elected Board of Trustees met to organize in December 1966 although the Board of Mt. Vernon Community College [the Mt. Vernon Township High School Board of Education] continued operation of the college until June 30, 1967. In May 1967, the RLC Board of Trustees employed Dr. James M. Snyder of Phoenix, AZ, as President.

PROGRAMS / STUDENTS

The Board of Trustees in January 1967 authorized the administration to "make such expansions and extensions of the present curricula as time and facilities will permit." Baccalaureate Transfer courses comprised the major portion of programs offered initially with the exception of the Practical Nursing program which had been a vocational program offered by the Mt. Vernon Community College Board. The first vocational program added was Agriculture in Fall 1968.

(Continued on next page)



Master Plan (cont.)

Rend Lake College opened its doors September 1967 with a total enrollment of 729 full- and part-time students and a faculty of 32 (29 full-time). More than 2,819 full- and part-time students enrolled for Fall 1986. One-hundred and two degrees were granted at the first Commencement in 1968. In contrast, students enrolling Fall 1986 had a choice of 32 options in the Associate in Arts Degree and Associate in Science Degree areas; 19 Associate in Applied Science Degree programs, and 18 Occupational Certificates.

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

Ground was broken for the new campus March 27, 1968. Phase I construction was for Academic and Science buildings, Gymnasium and South Oasis. The Academic Building temporarily housed the administrative offices and the bookstore in addition to the classrooms. The Science Building, in addition to the labs and lecture halls, housed the library. The Gymnasium also provided temporary quarters for the music and art programs. Work began in May of 1972 on Phase II [and III] buildings which included the North Oasis, Vocational-Technical Building, Student Center, Learning Resource Center and Theatre and the Administration Building.

Two additional buildings have been built with local funds – the Maintenance Building and the Mining and Industrial Technology Building.

ACCREDITATION

In March 1969, the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools granted the college full accreditation. Becoming a fully accredited two-year Associate
(Continued at far right on next page)

'EDUCATING' THE PUBLIC ▶ Steering Committee success story: Solid support for the junior college

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISIAN BY DAVE HURST JANUARY 28, 1968

Junior college districts have been springing up all over Illinois since 1965, when the legislature made establishment of such schools financially feasible in areas where they had not existed before.

From 28 junior college campuses in 1966, the number increased to 35 last year and is expected to reach 43 this year. About 23 percent of all college students in Illinois now attend public junior colleges.

An example of one that has had widespread public support is Rend Lake College, housed temporarily in high school buildings at Mt. Vernon until its campus is built.

Voters in the district – which includes parts of Franklin, Perry, Jefferson, Hamilton, Wayne and White counties – approved its creation by a 7 to 1 margin in October 1966. Then last November, residents approved by almost a 6 to 1 count a \$3.1 million bond issue to finance the local share of a \$9.4 million campus on the shore of Rend Lake.

Gerald Smith, Executive Secretary of the state Junior College Board, said the 7 to 1 approval margin has been the second-highest in the state for creating such a district; only Olney Junior College was higher. The near 6 to 1 margin for the bond issue has been among the "very high ones," Smith said.

Why do the people of the Rend Lake district seem to be so solidly behind their junior college, while proposals for such schools in some other areas have faltered or received only lukewarm support?

Definite Location

Smith, who has watched the formation of numerous junior college districts from his Springfield office, cites the fact the Steering Committee that planned the district had in mind a definite location for the school, even when it was just in the "talking" stage.

"They started from the beginning and said it should be located near the geographical center of the district. It wasn't identified as belonging to one town as opposed to all others," Smith noted.

The campus will be built near the intersection of Interstate 57 and the Franklin-Jefferson County line road, and what will be the east shore of Rend Lake.

"We were able to agree in the very beginning on a site that had advantages and was fair to everyone concerned," said Dr. Curtis

Parker of Mt. Vernon. He was Chairman of the Steering Committee and is now President of the college governing board.

District residents had "no questions about what they were voting for; they knew exactly where it – the college – was going to be," Parker added.

Because of this, "We didn't get into a cross-fire as there has been in other areas" with regard to location, according to Holland Simmons of Benton, a member of the Steering Committee and now the college board, "we got off on the right foot."

Committee Efforts

Another apparent reason for the strong backing Rend Lake College has received was the efforts of the Steering Committee that planned and campaigned for creation of the district, and a similar committee that worked to get the bond issue passed. For the most part, the same persons served on both committees.

"The project was studied and supported by a strong representative group of citizens" is the way Smith puts it.

"As I've watched numerous districts around the state come into being," Smith explained, "I've seen that those initiated and proposed by a Steering Committee with a broad interest of laymen behind it have been inclined to get strong basic citizen support."

The Steering Committee "thoroughly explained" the proposal, Simmons said. Voters "knew what they were getting for their money. The people were well-educated on what a college was, what it could do and what to expect of it in the future."

Dr. Parker believes the committee's efforts in "educating" the public made the difference between voter approval and rejection of both college proposals.

Parker said he talked to persons who voted against park district bond issues in the area, yet voted for the Rend Lake College bond issue. Why did they turn down one but favor another?

Didn't Tell Enough

The answer in all cases was that the park district bond supporters "didn't tell us enough" Parker said. By contrast, "everything is spelled out in your college elections," Parker said these voters told him.

As an example of how the Steering Committee worked, Parker mentioned its activity during the two days preceding the recent bond issue election.

He said committee members called "everybody in the Mt. Vernon telephone direc-

tory" and urged them to vote. Car pools were formed in Mt. Vernon and Benton, the two largest cities, and in Hamilton and Perry counties to get people to the polls.

A third reason for voter backing of Rend Lake College was the success of its predecessor, Mt. Vernon Community College, whose faculty and curriculum have been used as a "foundation" for the new college.

"We weren't experimenting with something new; there was an established college" in Mt. Vernon, said Dr. Howard Rawlinson. He was Dean of Mt. Vernon Community College from its founding in 1956 and now holds the same job with Rend Lake College.

Rawlinson said the Mt. Vernon college was created in 1955 by a vote of 2,200 to 88 – still the highest margin of approval any district has received.

Before the community college was established, Rawlinson said, only 22 percent of Jefferson County high school seniors went on to college. When the junior college was established, 44 percent of Mt. Vernon Township High School seniors attended college and this figure is now up to 65 percent.

The junior college made higher education possible for those who previously could not afford it, Rawlinson noted.

Parker said Mt. Vernon Community College provided a good "nucleus" on which to establish Rend Lake College.

Charles J. Covington of Mt. Vernon says the college's connection with Rend Lake has been a big factor in its strong backing.

A member of the Rend Lake Conservancy District Board of Trustees, Covington was one of those who originated the idea of a junior college on the shore of Rend Lake.

"Wasn't Hard"

Area residents had been working on the Rend Lake reservoir and the intercity water system for about 10 years, and "it wasn't hard to start thinking in terms of a Rend Lake College," he said.

Dr. James M. Snyder, college President, lists several general steps that a school district or other tax body must take to insure that a bond issue, or other proposal to raise taxes, is approved:

~ There must be a "well-conceived plan" to present, and backers should be able to defend it as the "best possible plan."

~ The plan must be explained in a pamphlet or brochure, which needs wide circulation. The brochure should be concise, but answer all questions likely to be asked.

Snyder pointed out that the college

printed and distributed 40,000 copies of such a brochure prior to the recent bond issue.

~ Supplementing the pamphlet should be "a short visual or pictorial presentation" such as slides, which explains cost factors, enrollment projections and a "past-present-future" summary of what the district would accomplish if the proposal is approved.

~ Acceptance of the plan – and hopefully active support of it – must be gained from community or area leaders and the news media.

~ There should be "a well-organized team of people" – in this case, the Steering Committee – campaigning for the proposal. They should be well-informed so that all are telling the same "story" about the proposal; if different persons are telling different "stories," the plan will be defeated.

~ Backers of the plan should watch for organized opposition. If it materializes, they should be prepared to counter statements of opponents to show the plan is sound and should be approved.

~ "You get the people out to vote." Snyder cited the telephone campaign and car pools prior to the college bond issue vote. He said the Steering Committee concentrated on "selling" the plan to parents of young children; these children will be the future beneficiaries of the Rend Lake College program, he noted.

In seeking a favorable vote, backers should "forget about" persons who vote against all tax increases, since "you can't change" their minds anyway, Snyder said.

Highly favorable votes "don't just happen," Snyder concluded. They are "the result of wise planning, capable and strong leadership and a lot of cooperative effort."

Backers of Rend Lake College appear to be well-versed in the ways of gaining widespread public support.

Development of Rend Lake College and other junior colleges over the next 10 years will show whether this support is deserved.

Observers are betting that the public's faith will be justified.

COLLEGE CATALOG ▶ An abbreviated glimpse at the History of Rend Lake College

REND LAKE COLLEGE CATALOG HISTORY

Rend Lake College has been the place "where learning never ends" for many years, serving thousands of in-district residents annually.

The college was founded in 1955 as Mt.



Master Plan (cont.)

Degree granting institution helped enhance the image of Rend Lake College in the community. Strong ties between the college and community have developed continuously the past 20 years. Advisory Councils assist in the development of vocational programs.

GROWTH

While the college has experienced growth in many areas during its brief existence – growth in enrollment, increases in the size of the faculty and staff, expansion of programs and courses and construction of physical facilities – the physical boundaries of the college district have remained virtually the same with only a relatively small area of the Woodlawn High School District annexed to the original college district. The district comprises about 1,925 square miles.

TUITION

Rend Lake College has endeavored to keep tuition costs low. Originally, no tuition was charged. Tuition was charged for the first time in 1972-73, when the charge per credit hour was \$2.50. It has been increased seven times since. Tuition was last increased to \$21.00 effective Fall 1985.

OUR FUTURE

Rend Lake College remains one of the leading and most respected rural community colleges in Illinois. That is a distinction earned because of the college's dedicated Board of Trustees, faculty, administration and staff. Sustained by community support and the dedication of our college family to strive towards the common goals for which the college was established insures Rend Lake College will remain an integral part of this community for many years to come.



Wall of Fame: Building on tradition of excellence

NEWS RELEASE JUNE 23, 2008

Keynote speaker Rich Yunkus said it all when he made reference to "building on a tradition of excellence" Friday night (June 20) at the first-ever Rend Lake College Wall of Fame Recognition Ceremony.

College administrators and athletic staff got their chance to put some faces with the names on the RLC Wall of Fame, which has stood outside the campus Aquatics Center for the past year and a half and recognizes student-athletes for excellence in academics and athletics. The first brick was laid in September 2006 and the project, sponsored by the Rend Lake College Foundation, was complete by that December.

Attendees at the inaugural RLC Recognition Ceremony included 31 of those faces with their names on the Wall of Fame.

According to Yunkus, a member of the RLCF Board of Directors, he immediately became excited when retiring President Kern brought the idea to a RLCF Board meeting. "I said, in basketball terms, 'This is a slam dunk!'" he said. "It is something dear to my heart."

He told the former Warriors and Lady Warriors in the crowd Friday night everyone was there to "honor the best of the best, ever, at Rend Lake College.

"I know the commitment, sacrifice and effort it took . . . to be the best of the best. I am really, really proud of you all."

He added, in his opinion, a premier athletics program garnering nationwide recognition and attention is the best promotion possible for a col-

(Continued at far right on next page)

Vernon Community College and officially became Rend Lake College when it was organized December 20, 1966, under the Illinois Junior College Act (Illinois Revised Statutes, 1967; Chapter 122, Sections 101-1 to 108-2).

Mt. Vernon Community College initially was approved by an overwhelming 25-to-1 vote and was under the supervision of the local high school board, with boundaries the same as those (coterminous) for High School District No. 201. Its purpose was to provide postsecondary educational experiences, primarily university-parallel curricula, for graduates of Mt. Vernon Township High School. Faculty and facilities were provided by the high school.

The first classes of Mt. Vernon Community College began in September 1956, with an enrollment of 124 day and 79 evening students. Expanded curricula offerings in both the baccalaureate and vocational areas, plus the establishment of a School of Practical Nursing in 1961, eventually attracted students from surrounding communities, and by 1966 the college's enrollment stood at 721 students.

Rend Lake College became a reality soon after the announcement of the Master Plan for Higher Education in Illinois. Dramatic changes in educational purpose and curricula accompanied the name change.

Voters of the eight-county district approved the establishment of Rend Lake College by nearly an 8-to-1 margin on October 22, 1966, a new governing board was elected from the district in December of that same year and on July 1, 1967, Rend Lake College assumed the assets, liabilities and responsibilities of Mt. Vernon Community College. The purpose of the new college was to provide post-high school education – with an emphasis on university-parallel, occupational and general and adult education – for the citizens of this new district. District 521 includes the majority of Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson and Perry counties, parts of Wayne and White and even reaches into Washington and Williamson.

Further growth to 1,100 students by 1969 and the success of its transfer students at four-year institutions provided "adequate proof of its popularity and its success."

Included for many years at the time of publication are 13 high school districts – Benton Consolidated High School, Christopher High School, Hamilton County Senior High School (formerly McLeansboro H.S.),

Mt. Vernon Township High School, Norris City-Omaha-Enfield High School (Enfield High School only when the college was first founded, until 1988), Pinckneyville Community High School, Sesser-Valier High School, Thompsonville Community High School, Waltonville High School, Wayne City High School, Webber Township High School (Blufford), Woodlawn Community High School and Zeigler-Royalton High School.

[Dahlgren High School and Tamaroa High School made it 15 high schools when RLC was founded. Dahlgren H.S. closed in 1973; Tamaroa H.S. was consolidated into Pinckneyville Community H.S. in 1988.]

In its early stages, Rend Lake College was located on the campus of Mt. Vernon Township High School. When it began operation July 1, 1967, the college had a staff of 29 full- and eight part-time faculty members, two full-time administrators and a librarian.

The Board of Trustees of the new college later selected a 350-acre site near Ina and employed architects to begin planning a new campus. The site was located between Interstate 57 and Rend Lake. On November 18, 1967, voters approved a bond issue of \$3.1 million, which represented the local share of the \$9.5 million total. The Illinois Community College Board allocated \$2,230,000 for construction of the initial phase.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for Phase I construction were held March 27, 1969 . . . the same day the college received word of its first North Central accreditation. Phase I consisted of five building – Academic, Science, Gymnasium, South Oasis and Maintenance – and was ready for occupancy by August 1970, with classes on the new campus beginning that fall. Agriculture, Automotive, Cosmetology (Beauty Culture) and Practical Nursing programs were still housed in off-campus facilities in Benton, Bonnie and Mt. Vernon. Permission was then obtained from the Capital Development Board and the ICCB to incorporate Phase III construction with Phase II. Construction of five more buildings – Administration, Vocational, North Oasis, Student Center and Learning Resource Center – began in Spring 1971. Administration and Vocational buildings were finished in September 1973, and by 1975 Phase II and III construction was complete. Rend Lake College thus became the first community college in the state to complete its entire facilities master plan.

A Stran-Steel building also was erected in 1974, next to the Maintenance Building,

and was equipped for the Mining Technology program; three separate expansions of this facility later occurred (and renamed the Advanced Technology Center), along with construction of a new Maintenance Building. In 1989, a new automotive wing was added to the Vocational Building and the Technology Building was renovated.

An Aquatics Center adjoining James Waugh Gymnasium opened on campus in February 1998. [It initially was called the Jimmy J. Fulks Aquatics Center, in recognition of a major donor, but the Fulks name was eventually dropped when Mariah Boats abruptly left the district and its departed owner-CEO failed to live up to pledges promised.] The Aquatics Center is available for public use and is equipped to fill rehabilitative needs of area residents. It includes a six-lane, 75-foot by 45-foot pool which features a ramp for the physically challenged and ranges from 3 feet 6 inches in depth to 7 feet 6 inches. A 10-foot by 20-foot therapy pool and a whirlpool 10 feet in diameter add to the usefulness of the facility. In addition to classes, the pool is open during certain time periods daily for recreational use, and memberships are available to the public.

The Rend Lake College Foundation Children's Center to serve the child care needs of RLC students and staff, as well as the educational laboratory needs of the Early Childhood Education program, opened in Fall 1998. Funding for the Children's Center was provided entirely by the Foundation.

Major remodeling of the Dr. Allen Y. Baker Administration Building took place in 1999-2000 and nearly doubled its size. This "Intake Center" centralizes almost all Student Service functions in one building.

In 2002, major off-campus changes occurred with the addition of the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon and the RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus.

In 2003, The Hitting Zone, a baseball / softball training facility, began operations; it was expanded within a few years to include practice facilities for other sports as well and is now recognized as The Sports Center.

In Fall 2005, the Mark S. Kern Applied Science Center opened on the southwest corner of campus. This 22,300-square-foot facility houses the Agricultural Business, Agricultural Production, Agricultural Mechanics, Heavy Equipment and Diesel Technology programs.

Opened in Fall 2009 was the newest addition to campus, the 20,000-square-foot

Coal Mine Training Center. It includes operational coal mining equipment and a mock mine with movable walls. The following year, the adjacent Mine Rescue and Fire Training Facility was completed.

In Fall 2011, the Science and Computer Center was added to the Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus, allowing students to earn an Associate Degree in many disciplines there without the need to travel to the Ina campus for any classes.

Other RLC landmarks include the Staff Clock Tower, a showcase which serves as the centerpiece of campus; the restored, one-room Independence Schoolhouse; Truck Driver Training facility; two greenhouses; a modern, state-of-the-art running track, and additional sports complexes and land labs.

THE INA BICENTENNIAL ▶ **History of (Mt. Vernon Community College and) Rend Lake College**

THE INA AND REND LAKE COLLEGE BICENTENNIAL 1975
SPECIAL PUBLICATION EDITED BY DR. RICHARD DOHERTY

In 1955 the State General Assembly passed a law which would allocate \$100 per full-time student at a junior college. The Superintendent of Mount Vernon Township High School, Mr. Arthur Milward, pursued the idea of forming a junior college. A referendum for forming a college district was passed on October 29, 1955, with more than 96 percent of the vote.

Howard Rawlinson was named Dean and made responsible for beginning the classes of Mt. Vernon Community College for the fall of 1956. Less than 200 students, over one-half of them part-time, began classes on September 5 of that year. The new college had 16 part-time and four full-time faculty and two part-time administrators.

Most students were from Mt. Vernon at first, but increasingly persons from Benton, McLeansboro, Waltonville, Dahlgren, Wayne City, West Frankfort and Webber (Bluford) enrolled. Growth went on at a rate of about 10 percent per year until 1964 when the rate increased. The last year of Mt. Vernon Community College, 1966-67 school year, saw 540 full-time students enrolled as well as 150 part-time and evening students.

In December of 1964 a North Central Committee on Accreditation visited Mt. Vernon Community College. Accreditation was denied among other things because of identification with the high school, lack of provisions for adequate financial support, the smallness of the college library and



Wall of Fame (cont.)

lege. He said honoring those who attended the recognition ceremony is just one more way RLC is "building on a tradition of excellence."

Brent McLain, RLC's Assistant to the Vice President of Finance and Administration for Athletics, and Athletic Director, talked about the rigorous steps for inclusion on the RLC Wall of Fame.

Automatic qualification is granted to a team or individual who places in the nation's top three in a sport, first-team All-Americans, Academic All-Americans, and RLC Male and Female Scholar Athletes of the Year. Academic All-American teams are also automatically included on an Academic Wall of Fame panel mounted at the entrance to the Aquatics Center.

McLain went on to explain that region and conference champions, Second- and Third-Team All-Americans, school record holders and members of a team that competes in a national tournament are all nominated, but require a committee vote to be included on the Wall of Fame. The committee is made up of the RLC President, Foundation CEO, V.P. of Finance and Administration, A.D. and members of the coaching staff and RLCF Board.

Due to the strict guidelines for selection, very few names will be added to the Wall of Fame each year. Kern pointed out that, because of this, a recognition ceremony will probably be held once every five years.

"This is a very select group," McLain said of those on the Wall of Fame. "It is quite an honor to have your name on that wall."

"It is there for an eternity," Yunkus said.



Manufacturing Summit at RLC cites need, image

NEWS RELEASE JULY 12, 2012

A Manufacturing Summit held Wednesday on the Rend Lake College campus brought together leaders from industry, education and government in order to share ideas on how to build the high school students of today into the manufacturing innovators of tomorrow.

RLC President Terry Wilkerson welcomed the group, saying the college is pleased to be at the table and ready to do its part. Representatives were present from RLC, the Illinois Workforce Investment Board, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Man-Tra-Con, Jefferson County Development Corp., Franklin County Economic Development Corp., Magnum Steel, John A. Logan College, Mt. Vernon Township High School, Continental Tire the Americas and Illinois Manufacturers Association.

"I think it's important we get better at matching students in the pipeline with careers that click, and pointing them to training programs where they will succeed," said Wilkerson. "We feel like we have a pretty good sense of the skills local industry seeks in our graduates. Because of our relationships with area employers, we are continuously molding their feedback into curriculum that works. Those relationships are vital to what we do." The pipeline Wilkerson refers to is the path to higher education. It begins in the K-12 system. That pipeline is shrinking, according to James Nelson, Vice President of External Affairs for the IMA.

In his presentation on the IMA's Manufacturers Education Initiative, Nelson revealed to the group that out of every

(Continued at far right on next page)

an inadequate number of offerings in the vocational area. The need for a separate, autonomous school was evident.

In 1959 there had been discussion of the merging of the Mt. Vernon and Centralia colleges into one district with the Salem High School area to be added to it. Supporters from Salem and Mount Vernon were agreeable if a site could be selected before the new college was established. Persons from Centralia felt selection of a site should be postponed until after the election of a Board. The movement died because of this impasse.

The Board of Higher Education of the State of Illinois made Master Plan recommendations for a system of junior college districts. In the spring of 1964 Dean Rawlinson pointed out to the local Board of Education that Mt. Vernon might be forced to join a district for which it had not planned unless steps were taken.

Soon a steering committee with representatives from Waltonville, Sesser, Woodlawn, Webber, Wayne City, Dahlgren and Mt. Vernon, as well as Mt. Vernon, was formed. In July 1965 the group decided to attempt to establish a junior college district consisting of all or part of six or more counties. A new steering committee was formed to undertake this task. Dr. Curtis Parker and Lee Browning were the Co-Chairmen. Each county would have two members on the committee. Soon, 14 high school districts agreed to be part of the new college district.

The Steering Committee did its work well, and a referendum for the college was approved on October 22, 1966, by an eight-to-one margin. In December of 1966 the Steering Committee chose a slate of candidates for the Board of Trustees with one representative each from White, Wayne, Perry, Hamilton and Franklin counties and two from Jefferson County. There was no opposition to these candidates. Curtis Parker was chosen as President of the first Board. Dr. Allen Baker replaced Melvin Farlow as President of the Board of Trustees in 1971. Mr. Carleton Apple became President in 1975. Both Dr. Baker and Mr. Apple were members of the original Steering Committee and are current members of the Board.

Mt. Vernon Community College was requested to discontinue operation as of June 30, 1967. In May 1967, Dr. James Snyder was hired as President for the new college and Dr. Howard Rawlinson as Dean. In November of 1967 a bond issue for \$3,100,000 and a campus master plan were approved.

The name Rend Lake College was officially adopted by the Board on July 18, 1967. The college would remain in Mount Vernon only a short while longer. On March 27, 1969, the ground was broken for construction at the Ina site which had been purchased in November 1968. The Fall Term for the 1970-71 school year began in the new facilities southwest of Ina. And plans had developed sufficiently that the North Central Association awarded accreditation in January of 1969.

Phase II of the Master Plan for construction began in May 1972. The completion of Phase II in 1974 enabled programs such as in Agriculture and Nursing to be housed on the Ina campus. New faces have come to the Ina campus also. In 1972 Dr. Philip Ward succeeded Dr. Howard Rawlinson as Dean of the College. In 1975 Dr. James Snyder retired as President and was replaced by Dr. W. Travis Martin on September 1. President Martin was chosen after an extensive search for an educational leader. Mr. James Yates, the Registrar who began in 1956, is the only charter administrator remaining.

In recent years emphasis has been placed on adding programs to the curriculum while trying to hold down expenses. For example, the Social Science Department has begun 10 new courses. In many departments, instructors have greatly increased their enrollment and size of their classes by having more preparations each semester and teaching at night. This is typical of the cooperative efforts and sacrifices by the faculty to maximize student opportunities and hold down costs for the taxpayer.

Expansion in Vocational and Adult Education programs in particular has taken place. A Mining program inaugurated in 1974 has great potential. Year 1975 has been a record one for enrollment and for meeting the needs of the college district. The fine work done by graduates of RLC who go on to four-year schools (in comparison with graduates of other community colleges and "native" students to the university) indicate that Rend Lake College has been and is doing an outstanding job.

Because there is a cooperative community, a responsible Board of Trustees and a dedicated, hard-working faculty and administration, the full potential for service by Rend Lake College to the local area still has not been realized. The college will continue to grow and develop through serving the needs of its citizens.

FOUNDERS DAY DINNER HONORS CIVIC-MINDED INDIVIDUALS

'Your dreams, hard work' shaped RLC into what it is today

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 11, 1979

Rend Lake College honored its founders recently at a special recognition dinner in the Student Center on the Ina campus.

The April 6 Founders Day dinner honored over 30 attendees, who represented the many civic-minded citizens who served as members of the College Steering Committee and the Board of Trustees from 1967 to 1978, and their guests.

College President Dr. Harry J. Braun opened festivities by telling those assembled, "Your dreams and hard work made Rend Lake College a reality 12 years ago and shaped it into what it is today." He indicated the dinner was intended to honor all those who, through their hard work and perseverance, made the college a reality.

Dr. J. Lester Buford of Mt. Vernon was the first of four after-dinner speakers to address "The Birth of Rend Lake College" and talked about the early formation of the college and the struggles to convince school districts and communities to join the college district.

Buford recalled the foundations and impetus for a broad-based community college provided by Mt. Vernon Community College and its leaders. He mentioned the early efforts to place the new campus somewhere within the Salem-Centralia-Mt. Vernon triangle and how and why that idea failed to gain enough support. (Centralia Junior College also existed at that time, as well as MVCC.)

He reminisced about his visits with Dr. Allen Y. Baker in Pinckneyville and how Baker supported the concept and the new location of the college on the shore of the then non-existent Rend Lake.

Dr. Howard Rawlinson of Mt. Vernon outlined the various concepts of junior and community colleges and how they influenced the community college movement in Illinois. He talked of how the founders of Rend Lake College took the best of these concepts and developed a two-year college in a community with technical, vocational and baccalaureate classes.

Melvin Farlow (McLeansboro) and Dr. Curtis Parker (Mt. Vernon) followed by remembering the early years of getting the college started. Both recalled the overwhelming approval for the college when a majority of 89 percent of the voters marked "Yes" for the establishment of a community college. They recalled the groundbreaking ceremony on a cold, windy March 27, 1969, in a muddy field by a lake that was yet to be.

Someone reminded the founders of a remark those gathered at that groundbreaking ceremony were described as a "dedicated group starting something that will become a legacy." And it surely has, speaker and audience alike agreed.

After each of the guest speakers had shared thoughts regarding "The Birth of Rend Lake College," Braun talked about "Building for the Future." Braun stressed the goal of the college was to increase its service to the community . . . and one way this could be expanded would be with the formation of a Rend Lake College Foundation. Such a non-profit corporate body could assist with funding for special programs, scholarships and many other needed items. He asked those who might be interested in furthering this project to contact him.

After the speeches, the Rend Lake College Jazz Band provided musical entertainment, under the direction of Courtney Cox.

Honorees and guests included: Mr. and Mrs. Mel Farlow (McLeansboro), Board of Trustees, 1966-72; Dr. and Mrs. Curtis Parker (Mt. Vernon), Jefferson County Steering Committee, Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, 1966-70; Dr. and Mrs. J. Lester Buford (Mt. Vernon), Jefferson County Steering Committee; Dr. and Mrs. Howard Rawlinson (Mt. Vernon), Jefferson County Steering Committee and College Dean, 1967-72; Dr. and Mrs. Richard Simpson (Benton), Board of Trustees, 1976-79, and Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Apple (Enfield), White County Steering Committee, Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, 1966-78.

* - * - *

Manufacturing (cont.)

100 ninth-graders, only 18 will graduate on time, enroll directly in college and earn an Associate Degree within three years or a Bachelor's Degree within six years. Less than 70 will graduate from high school on time. Combine that with a workforce of baby boomers – most of whom hit the age of retirement last year – and companies reporting moderate to serious skills shortages in the hiring pool; and the Illinois manufacturing industry is witnessing a serious shortage of qualified workers that could get worse if something isn't done.

Programs are in place now, such as Illinois' P-20 Council aimed at improving statewide education from birth to adulthood. It's goal is "60% by 2025." "We have a problem now," said Nelson. "We cannot wait until 2025."

One challenge manufacturing faces, according to Nelson, is an image problem. More than 12 percent of the IMA Education Foundation's 2012 budget was for outreach and marketing.

"We still have the perception that we are dirty, dark and damp and not dynamic," he said. "If we can get these kids turned on [to manufacturing] we can do a lot."

"A high school diploma just doesn't work anymore," said Nelson. "Everybody needs to have at least some community college training."

SPECIAL EVENTS TIMELINE

● **CAMPUS GROUNDBREAKING**
Turning dreams into brick, mortar and stone begins in Ina in muddy field on cold, wet day March 27, 1969





Dedication/Open House on September 26, 1971

NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 1971

A proud campus community welcomed the public to Rend Lake College in Ina on Sunday afternoon, September 26, for a Dedication and Open House.

Two keynote speakers took center stage. The Honorable Kenneth J. Gray, U.S. Congressman from the 21st District who was instrumental in the development of the two-year community college, spoke first. He was followed by Dr. William B. Lenoir of the National Aeronautical Space Administration (NASA). After earning his Doctorate in 1965, Lenoir was appointed Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In addition to teaching and research, he participated as an investigator in Apollo Applications experiments. Lenoir was appointed in 1967 as a member of NASA's sixth group of Scientist-Astronauts. At the time of his appearance he was continuing scientific investigation and training for future space flights.

Musical entertainment was provided by the RLC Concert Band, directed by Edward Tandy; Student Janet Raney, who sang the National Anthem, and Director Larry Phifer and the RLC Choir performing the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

Dr. James M. Snyder, President, welcomed those in attendance. Introductions were made by Dr. Allen Y. Baker, Board Chair. A special presentation to retired Trustee Dr. Curtis Parker was made by Melvin Farlow, a fellow member of the original RLC Board.

The Invocation and Benediction were given by Rev. Joseph Trapp (St. Johns and St.

(Continued at far right on next page)

Also honored were: Dr. and Mrs. Allen Y. Baker (Pinckneyville), Perry County Steering Committee, Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, 1966-79; Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Covington (Mt. Vernon), an original member of the Rend Lake Conservancy District; Mrs. Katherine Wall (Mt. Vernon), Jefferson County Steering Committee; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Stafford (Fairfield); Mr. and Mrs. Ben Martin Jr. (Mt. Vernon), Mt. Vernon Community College Board, 1960-67; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McClure (Mt. Vernon), Board of Trustees, 1976-79; Mr. and Mrs. Ken Miller (Mt. Vernon), and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Munday (Thompsonville), Franklin County Steering Committee.

Others: Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Dauby (Springerton), White County Steering Committee and Executive Committee; Mr. and Mrs. Don Musick (Mt. Vernon), Board Attorney; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Herrin (Benton), Board of Trustees, 1978-79; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Raglin (Mt. Vernon), Jefferson County Steering Committee; Mr. and Mrs. David Skorch (Mt. Vernon), Board of Trustees, 1973-76; Mr. Paul Gayer (Zeigler), Franklin County Steering Committee; Mr. and Mrs. John Qualls (Tamaroa), Perry County Steering Committee and Executive Committee; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Scrivner (Mt. Vernon), Board of Trustees, 1978-79; Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Allen (Wayne City), Wayne County Steering Committee, and Mr. and Mrs. William Moore (Mt. Vernon), Jefferson County Steering Committee and Board of Trustees, 1972-75.

Also: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beehn (Wayne City), Wayne County Steering Committee and Executive Committee; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lipps (Mt. Vernon); Mr. Jasper Goin Jr. (Dahlgren), Hamilton County Steering Committee, and Mrs. Gela Riley Goin, Secretarial Science Instructor; Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Mitchell (Enfield), White County Steering Committee; Mr. and Mrs. Jim Tucker (Dahlgren), Hamilton County Steering Committee; Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Fyie (Springerton), White County Steering Committee, and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Fechtig (Enfield), White County Steering Committee and Executive Committee.

Mark Michalic (West Frankfort), the current Student Representative on the RLC Board of Trustees, represented the student body.

Rend Lake College personnel present included Dr. and Mrs. Harry J. Braun, President; Mr. Mark Kern, Dean of Instruction;

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Graham, Dean of Student Services; Mr. and Mrs. Ardell Kimmel, Dean of Vocational-Technical Education; Mrs. Cheryl Foley, Dean of Community Services, and Mr. Myron Foley, Business, Math and Social Science Department Chair, and Mr. and Mrs. B.J. "Skip" Witunski, Business Manager/Treasurer.

Also, Mrs. Marvla Minor, Secretary to the Dean of Instruction; Mr. Gerald Buchanan, Public Information Officer, and Student Senate Secretary and *Pressing Times* Reporter Teresa Knox (Woodlawn).

20TH ANNIVERSARY ▶ Parker: 'I can't think of any place else I would rather be. It's beautiful'

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 1, 1987

It was a day for bright sunshine and reflection Thursday (April 30) as special guests of Rend Lake College welcomed the opportunity to bask in the glory of past accomplishments.

"I can't think of any place else I would rather be," commented Dr. Curtis A. Parker. "It's beautiful."

The occasion was a 20th Anniversary celebration on the Ina campus culminating in the dedication of a stainless-steel kinetic sculpture in commemoration of "all those who have contributed to the growth and development of Rend Lake College."

Founding fathers and present staff alike attended the ceremonies and a reception which followed. Featured speakers included Parker, Chairman of the original RLC Board of Trustees; commissioned sculptor L. Brent Kington, Director of the School of Art for Southern Illinois University-Carbondale; current Instructor Wayne Arnold, a member of the founding faculty, and College Dean Mark S. Kern.

Dr. Harry J. Braun, President, opened the program with remarks and introduced members of the RLC Foundation, the 20th Anniversary Planning Committee; representatives of Mt. Vernon Community College and some of the 10 faculty members who likewise are celebrating their 20th year at the college.

Former Dean Dr. Howard Rawlinson was among the honored guests.

A surprise visitor was "Mark Twain," portrayed by SIUC Professor Emeritus Loren Taylor, who had entertained nearly 400 grade school students in the college's Theatre earlier in the day.

Kington was especially proud. Not only

was his “baby” officially accepted as the symbol for past achievements and future dreams, one of his former students was announced as recipient of the RLC Foundation’s “Outstanding Faculty” Award. Rend Lake College students are a reflection of award-winner Sarah Capps and her counterparts on the faculty, he indicated.

“I congratulate the community college on its 20th Anniversary, and I express my appreciation for the quality of students it represents,” said Kington.

Braun told those gathered “the roots of Rend Lake College are grounded in the same principles that made our system of government unique and our country great.”

“A productive, literate and strong people are the greatest resources a country has,” Braun added. “We are privileged at Rend Lake College to serve mankind in an area which involves people in decisions which affect their own destiny, decisions which can turn a hunger to learn into joy.”

Kern traced the roots of the college back to October 1955, when voters established Mt. Vernon Community College, 2,288-88, “one of the largest majorities anyone ever heard of” in any election. Kern noted that initial class which enrolled the following fall consisted of the equivalent of 125 full-time students and was taught by four full-time instructors, 16 part-time teachers and two part-time administrators.

Another overwhelming vote, by an 8-to-1 margin, established Rend Lake College as a district-wide successor to Mt. Vernon Community College 11 years later. By then, enrollment had quadrupled in size under the guidance of 31 faculty members and two full-time administrators.

Between 1967 and 1987, the Baccalaureate program has been expanded to include “the first two years of almost any major you can think of, and we have occupational programs in 14 different areas,” Kern noted. College offerings now include adult education, community service events, a program for high school dropouts, special programs for industry, retraining for individuals who have lost their jobs, a Business Resource and Assistance Center and strong remedial components.

The FTE (full-time equivalency) has grown from that figure of 125 to 631 by 1967 and to 1,712 more recently. Kern pointed out over 6,000 district residents have graduated from Rend Lake College or its predecessor, and students have earned over 900,000 semester hours of college credit, “more than 10 credit hours for every man, woman and child living within the district.”

Kern challenged the comprehensive community college in a rural setting “to continue to improve our quality and appropriateness of our programs for the people in our district.”

Arnold was selected to speak from an original cast which includes Betty Ann Ward, Dr. Barbara Luchsinger, Richard Perrachione, Gela Goin, Georgine Hawley, Dr. Eugene Estes, William Youngusband, Shirley McHaney and Jim Waugh.

Arnold recalled the decision he had to make when first approached about teaching at the junior college-level. “I said, ‘Let me think about it a minute . . . and that’s just about how long I thought about it.’”

“I’ve never regretted that decision,” he added.

Instructors had to be “flexible” in the early days while performing their duties in less-than-ideal surroundings, in some cases. The college employed 44 full-time faculty, Arnold recalled, “when the move to a new campus in Ina was first made in Fall 1970.

“We thought we were in heaven” Arnold admitted. “We had facilities of our own and didn’t have to share them.”

The 10 original faculty members represent 300 years of teaching experience, Arnold said. Ms. Ward is the only remaining staff member who was with Mt. Vernon Community College in its earliest days.

Fifty-two full-time faculty members today boast over 850 years of teaching experience, an average of 16 per instructor, with over 500 years of that at Rend Lake College. Included are four Ph.D. degrees and 35 instructors with Master’s degrees and beyond from 42 different colleges and universities in 10 states.

Recalling nine consecutive years of attending summer school to complete two



Dedication (cont.)

Clements Parish in Hamilton County) and Rev. E.G. Mayes (Corinthian Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon), respectively.

Baker and Farlow were joined by colleagues Carleton Apple, Vice Chair; Marie Simmons, Secretary; Huel Cross; Albert Gulley, and Harry N. Irwin. Recognized as former Trustees were Forrest Stewart and the late Holland Simmons.

Also represented were the State Board of Higher Ed and Illinois Junior College Board.

Dr. Howard Rawlinson, James Yates, Ardell Kimmel, James McGhee, Imogene Book, Paul Fitch and Robert Webb were recognized, along with Faculty President Eleanor Hall and Diane Clark, Senate President.

Open House Tours visited the four Phase I buildings – Gym, Academic, Science and Oasis.

Acknowledgements were accorded to Associated Architectural firms Caudill, Rowlett, Scott and Fields, Goldman, Magee; Interior Designer, D. Bernard Berg, NSID; Contractors Lipps Construction Co. (General), H & H Plumbing, Heating and Electric and Harrison F. Blades. (Electrical).

[Editor’s Note: Lenoir was recipient of the NASA Exceptional Service Medal (1974) and Space Flight Medal (1982) before leaving in 1992. He was a backup Science-Pilot for Skylabs 3 and 4, and flew as a Mission Specialist November 11-16, 1982, on STS-5, logging over 122 hours in space.]

CAMPUS DEDICATION
Ina Campus Dedication / Open House Sunday afternoon features Hon. Kenneth Gray, Astronaut Dr. William B. Lenoir. / Sept. 26, 1971

SPECIAL EVENTS TIMELINE





AmeriCorps volunteers renovate Ina playground

NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 2007

Thanks to the hard work of Illinois AmeriCorps members, the playground at Ina Community Consolidated School is a little more colorful this school year.

About 60 AmeriCorps members from all over Illinois pitched in for the playground renovation. They painted playground equipment, basketball goals and a mini-schoolhouse on the grounds at ICCS.

"It looks wonderful," Superintendent Sandra Gilliam said. "The teachers are happy, the students are happy, the parents are thrilled and the board is very impressed."

The ICCS playground project has been an ongoing one for the last three years. Last year, the project also included improvements to the school's baseball diamond.

According to Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps Director Dave Warner, "It is a good way to introduce the students to service projects, the school needs these improvements about as bad as any other school in the area and it is close."

The AmeriCorps students were fed dinner before the two-hour renovation on August 6. It was the beginning of a week-long training schedule. For the ICCS project, the school provided supplies and AmeriCorps members provided the sweat. "And there was a lot of that," Warner said. "It was hot!"

Gilliam commented, "We appreciate all the help the college gives us."

AmeriCorps workers got creative by putting hand prints in paint on the playground equipment. Gilliam said her students have enjoyed seeing how their hands match-up to those left behind.

Master's degrees, Arnold spoke for his colleagues when he said it took "determination, dedication and a real 'want to.'"

Added the faculty representative, "Let us maintain this high quality of instruction in the future, let us always keep the education of our students our top priority and let us never lower our standards in the classroom to mediocrity.

"Happy birthday to Rend Lake College," concluded Arnold.

"My pride in Rend Lake College increases as the years roll off the calendar," Parker admitted earlier in the festivities. "I can't believe it has been that long!"

Parker reminisced about the struggles involved in the establishment of a Class I community college under the Illinois Plan for Higher Education; "the almost daily work of a six-county Steering Committee."

"It didn't just happen," Parker said.

Parker added, "These are memories many of you share with me. May the next 20 years bring many more memories."

DEFEATED 8,980-7,191 ▶ Vote: \$4 million Bond Referendum for vocational facilities requested

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 1981

A \$4 million bond referendum, which would be derived at a rate lower than the indebtedness for the original campus and is expected to cost the average homeowner between \$15-\$18 annually, will be brought before voters March 16, 1982 following action Monday night by the Board of Trustees for Rend Lake College District 521.

The present as well as future needs for additional vocational facilities could be met through the construction of new laboratory and classroom space and some renovation of existing buildings if district taxpayers approve the proposition, according to college officials.

Thirteen-year-old bonds representing the \$3.1 million local share of the \$9.5 million total cost of building the original college facilities on a 350-acre site near Ina were paid off last February.

However, Rend Lake College was not designed originally to handle the tremendous growth experienced by vocational education in the '70s.

Occupational classes were limited to the fields of Practical Nursing and Secretarial Science in the early years of the college, with programs in Agriculture, Automotive Mechanics and Beauty Culture added just

before moving into the permanent facilities at Ina in 1970.

Expansion since that time into Mining Technology, in particular, and such new programs as Architecture, Construction Management, Interior Design and Welding has changed the picture to the point where today, one-third of the total number of credit hours generated are in Technical Occupational programs and slightly over half are a result of all vocational programs.

Approximately one-half of the full-time faculty is involved in the Mining and AAA Department (Agriculture, Automotive and Architecture) programs – those referred to as Technical Occupational – alone.

The number of students attending classes today is more than 25 percent higher than college officials predicted over a decade ago; in fact, in the last five years occupational programs have increased in enrollment 41 percent, leading to an overall growth rate for the college of 20 percent.

"Our future growth could be stymied due to a lack of facilities," Dr. Harry J. Braun, RLC President, informed Board members in August.

Expansion within the past year has resulted in classes in Child Care, Diesel Technology and Pipe Welding. No new programs are expected in the Baccalaureate (transfer) area over the next five years, yet projections submitted to the state show possible curricula additions in Air Conditioning, Industrial Management, Electronic Technology, Fluid Power Technology, Horticulture and Data Processing during that same period.

A visitation team from North Central Association of Colleges and Schools recently recommended a seven-year accreditation for Rend Lake College, while noting in its report "space is at a premium" in the Agricultural program, the Auto program "is jammed into one shop space which is entirely inadequate" and in reviewing Mining facilities "it was evident to the team that the lack of space requires attention as soon as possible."

The proposed bond referendum to raise \$4 million would require a tax rate below the maximum of the original rate, which ranged from 9-17 cents. As property values increase, the rate for the bond issue should decrease each year.

Community College District 521 is sound financially, emphasized Braun, and has operated in the black for the last five years.

MAJOR DISAPPOINTMENT ▶ 'Yes' from Franklin County voters; supporters elsewhere in minority

ANNUAL REPORT 1981-82

Badly needed facilities expansion and renovation will have to wait, meaning program reductions in some vocational areas, following a district-wide vote in March (March 16, 1982) which rejected a \$4 million bond referendum proposed by Rend Lake College District 521. Voters in Franklin County only approved the measure, which lost by an overall count of 8,980 to 7,191.

The question presented to district residents: "Shall the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 521, Counties of Jefferson, Franklin, Hamilton, Perry, White, Wayne, Williamson and Washington and State of Illinois, alter or repair buildings existing buildings and build and equip new Community College buildings on the site of Rend Lake Community College located at Ina, Illinois and issue the bonds of said Community College District to the amount of \$4,000,000 for the purpose of paying the cost thereof?"

The breakdown of election results by counties (or parts of counties):

County	"Yes"	"No"	Total
Franklin County	3,240	2,445	5,685
Jefferson County	2,334	3,342	5,676
Hamilton County	932	1,940	2,872
Perry County	390	715	1,105
Wayne County	157	330	487
White County	138	208	346
Washington County	0	0	0
Williamson County	0	0	0
Totals	7,191	8,980	16,171

"Obvious disappointment," Braun said of his reaction when the vote tally became clear. College administrators stayed at the college until the final vote total was recorded.

"Everything was done toward the approval of the referendum as well as could

be expected," he said, "but because of the economic self-preservation of the voting people, it did not pass."

As a result of the referendum's defeat, "We definitely are going to have to look at curtailing several programs and limiting others. We can't continue to provide the community with everything we've been asked to provide due to our space limitations."

Programs involving Auto Body Repair and Air Conditioning were reduced drastically as a result.

The college President cited two probable factors for the voters' rejection: fear due to the overall economic picture, particularly high unemployment conditions affecting district residents, and voter apathy on the part of many people who, he noted, "indicated they were in favor of the bond referendum but did not go to the polls in support of it."

In the months following the bond referendum's defeat, with the need for facilities expansion still a reality, college officials pondered their alternatives, which could mean another appeal to district-wide voters at a later date under better economic conditions. He said he was speaking in terms of "a year or more."

"When the economy stabilizes, perhaps people won't object as strongly to additional taxes," Braun indicated.

The RLC President did express his appreciation for the support of those who voted in favor of the proposition.

In his Annual Report to district residents, Braun reiterated, ". . . Obviously, a major disappointment was the failure of the bond referendum to provide additional laboratory and classroom space . . . space that continues and will continue to be critical to our ability to provide quality instruction to our district residents."



RLC honors senior citizens by offering fun, information

MAY 1977

About 500 senior citizens from the district are expected to participate in the upcoming Rend Lake College "Gold Day" being held Thursday, May 26, on the Ina campus, according to Dean of Community Services Mark Kern.

A comprehensive slate of activities have been planned, ranging from horseshoe and kitchen band competitions to informative lectures on tax breaks for senior citizens and opportunities for part-time employment.

This will be the second "Gold Day," described by Kern as "fun and informative for all." The goal also is to honor the senior citizens and help make them aware of programs the college has designed to meet their needs and interests on an ongoing basis.

Along with the kitchen band and horseshoe contests, there will be several craft displays, baking contests, storytelling contests and checkers competitions. Prizes will be awarded to each of the winners.

Various health services will be available to participants, including hearing, blood pressure and diabetes tests.

Reservations are required, with a \$1 admission fee for in-district residents. The cost covers the luncheon and all scheduled activities.

FIRST CAREER DAY

Potential employers from business, industry; four-year college reps; service reps . . . for RLC and area high school students. / Spring 1979

SPECIAL EVENTS TIMELINE

STATE H.S. BETA CLUB
32 schools represented at Illinois H.S. Beta Club Leadership Conference held on RLC campus. / September 27, 1975

GWENDOLYN BROOKS
Poet Laureate for the State of Illinois on-campus for workshop, readings and reception. / April 21, 1977

R.L.C. "GOLD DAY"
About 500 expected for 2nd Annual Community Service event for Senior Citizens. / May 26, 1977

STATE TOURNAMENTS
RLC begins hosting S.I. Jr. H.S. Athletic Assn. Basketball Class S, M and L Tournaments for Boys and Girls. / January 78

FOUNDERS DAY DINNER
30-plus civic-minded members of Steering Committees and original Trustees who "shaped" RLC recognized. / April 6, 1979

1975 - 1976

1976 - 1977

1977 - 1978

1978 - 1979

SIMON SAYS, FOREIGN TRADERS, POET, MSHA, CLYDESDALES ... 'Celebrity Auction,' celebrity guests and a whole lot more



Four legislators to help celebrate 'C.C. Month'

FEBRUARY 1986

Four area legislators, and possibly more, are expected to be on the Ina campus Friday, February 21, to help Rend Lake College celebrate "National Community College Month" as declared by President Ronald Reagan. A noon luncheon is planned in their honor.

February 17-21 also has been declared "Community College Week" in Illinois.

Accepting invitations to attend the Rend Lake College celebration are Senator William O'Daniel (D) of Mt. Vernon (District 54), Senator Glenn Poshard (D) of Carterville (District 59), Representative Larry W. Hicks (D) of Mt. Vernon (District 108) and Representative Jim Rea (D) of Christopher (District 1178).

Invitations were extended to all state and national leaders representing the eight-county district served by Rend Lake College, which includes most of Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson and Perry counties and parts of Washington, Wayne, White and Williamson.

The state legislators will be joined at noon by RLC President Dr. Harry J. Braun and other administrators, members of the RLC Board of Trustees, officers of the RLC Foundation and the RLC Student Senate and the college's Government instructors.

College officials will provide information relative to the history of the community college movement statewide and how Rend Lake College has been able to serve its Southern Illinois district since its inception in 1967.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MARCH 17, 1994

The "Celebrity Auction" conducted Wednesday afternoon (March 16) by Instructor Therese Howard and her Art students at Rend Lake College was an unqualified success, raising over \$7,000 for the benefit of The Amy Schulz Center in Mt. Vernon.

Approximately 235 items or groups of items were sold, both by silent auction and on the auction block by Instructor-turned-Volunteer Auctioneer Rob Little, and brought in \$6,337, Howard reported.

Another \$825 in checks was donated to the center for child abuse victims in nine Southern Illinois counties, and \$165 was made from refreshments and a bake sale by members of the RLC Human Services Club in conjunction with the event, which attracted a large gathering throughout the afternoon in the RLC Theatre.

The tentative grand total: \$7,327.

Actress Melanie Griffith contributed \$500 of that total in a check sent to the center.

Items that attracted high bids included a Super Bowl XXVIII football for \$330; a National Basketball Association basketball signed by Coach Jerry Sloan (a McLeansboro native) and the Utah Jazz, including "Dream Team" Olympic members Karl Malone and John Stockton, \$215; a colorful bra worn by Madonna in her 1993 Girlie Show Tour, \$200; a Therese Howard painting of a Rend Lake dock, \$200; a book signed by Katharine Hepburn, \$160; a script signed by the cast of the "Murphy Brown" television show, \$145, and a Chicago Blackhawk puck autographed by Chris Chelios, \$100.

Student efforts likewise paid off in a big way with autographed photographs . . .

- Actress Elizabeth Taylor
- Hall of Fame NFL Quarterback Johnny Unitas
- Former NBA great Larry Bird
- Former NBA great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
- Singer/Actress Superstar Dolly Parton
- Singer/Actress Superstar Barbra Streisand
- Actor Charlton Heston
- Director Stephen Spielberg
- Actress Anne Rice
- Golfer Chi Chi Rodriguez
- Singer Kenny Rogers
- Singer Richard Marx
- Actress Shelley Winters
- Actor Bernard Hughes
- Musical group Restless Heart

- NFL Hall-of-Famer/TV Announcer Lynn Swann
- News Personality Connie Chung
- Actor Gene Wilder
- NBA star Isiah Thomas of the Detroit Pistons
- Country-Western group Sawyer Brown
- Versatile Performer Ben Vereen
- Leonard Nimoy as the mature "Mr. Spock"
- Country Music's Alabama
- Actress Jane Seymour
- Actress Kathy Bates
- NFL Hall-of-Famer and TV Announcer Terry Bradshaw
- Shawn Bradley, the 7-foot-6 rookie with the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers
- Dallas Cowboys team picture
- Chicago White Sox Cy Young Award-winner Jack McDowell and Shortstop Ozzie Guillen
- U.S. Olympic Silver Medalist Nancy Kerrigan
- Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders
- Wrestler Hulk Hogan
- Singer Phil Collins
- Actor Lou Gossett Jr.
- Singer Tanya Tucker
- Actress Raquel Welch
- Singing duo, The Righteous Brothers

Other notable donations included . . .

- A "gold mine" from the National Basketball Association, with eight different items, inc. a folder filled with cards of each NBA player "Airtime," Michael Jordan's VCR tape
- A box of "goodies" from Laurie Metcalf, Jackie on "Roseanne," inc. a No. 16 jersey with her name on it and a script yet to be aired in which she has a baby
- A book, "The American Adventure," signed by former President Gerald R. Ford
- A "Backdraft" crew cap signed by Ron Howard
- A photo and autographed M*A*S*H script from B.J. actor, Mike Farrell
- A recipe signed by James Earl Jones
- Two pairs of earrings and a fashion pin created in metal by Anna Kafka Designs
- A Doonesbury comic book signed by creator Garry Trudeau
- Two autographed photos from Actress Susan Strasberg, one of herself and one with the late Marilyn Monroe
- "Talking Straight," a book from Lee Iacocca
- A poem, signed by Erma Bombeck, entitled, "When God Created Mothers"
- A brochure signed by Arnold Palmer
- "Sleepless in Seattle" poster signed by Meg Ryan
- A "Just Say Nay" button worn in the movie, "Robin Hood: Men in Tights" from Mel Brooks

- From Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman, an original photograph taken by the actress in Hawaii in 1977
- A golf glove signed by Lee Trevino
- A section of the TV "Wheel of Fortune," signed by Pat Sajak and Vanna White, from Merv Griffin Enterprises
- A M*A*S*H script, "Dear Sigmund," signed by Alan Alda, who earned an Emmy from this show
- A "Late Show" script and photo, signed, from Dave Letterman's sidekick, Paul Schaffer
- A T-shirt signed by Billy Ray Cyrus
- Two hardback books, "Cold Fire" and "Dragon Tears," signed by Author Dean R. Koontz, along with an autographed T-shirt
- An autographed copy of William F. Buckley's book, "Gratitude"
- A poster from the NBA Los Angeles Lakers
- A script and picture, both autographed by TV Actor Finola Hughes of "Jack's Place"
- Two small environmental stickers signed by Science Fiction Writer Arthur C. Clarke
- A T-shirt, cap and book from the Statler Brothers
- Autograph and thumb print from Stevie Wonder
- A videotape, "From MAO to Mozart: Isaac Stern in China," signed by the Carnegie Hall President, with a message, "Bravo! For Supporting the Amy Schulz Center"
- A Full Lead Crystal from the Althea Collection, donated by Welch's of Concord, MA
- A drawing and photograph, both signed by Carol Burnett
- An autographed script from a 1973 M*A*S*H show from Loretta "Hot Lips" Swit
- An autographed poster of the movie, "Sister Act," from star Whoopi Goldberg
- An autographed cassette tape from Debbie Reynolds
- A miniature digital clock and note from "Mr. Warmth" himself, Don Rickles
- A tote bag donated by U.S. Rep. Glenn Poshard
- Four pairs of Faux Pearl earrings from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York
- A golf foursome from Rend Lake Golf Course
- A 5-foot by 3 1/2-foot oil painting of a Rend Lake dock area by Therese Howard
- The one-night musical services of Thompsonville singer Kendell Marvel and his group
- Wendy's coupons and an autographed autobiography of founder Dave Thomas
- A videotape of some of her skits, signed by Lily Tomlin

- Letters of regret from Singer Paul Simon and "Star Trek: The Next Generation"
- An autographed photo of teen heart throb Luke Perry and T-shirt from his movie, "8 Seconds"
- An autographed C.D. of Christmas music from Harry Connick Jr.
- A paste-on bookplate signed by Julia Child
- A Santa Claus doll donated by Mary Manis
- Gift Certificate from "Your Nails Only"
- Two Ducks Unlimited prints by Tom Hartwell
- Two cases of assorted "Country Bob's" all-purpose sauces
- A haircut by Dianne Essay of Benton
- Free limousine services from Special Occasions Limo Service
- \$25 Gift Certificate from Kmart
- Oil filter and case of oil from AutoZone
- Hand-crocheted doilies by Orient's Carroll Law
- A deluxe "Weekend-for-Two" package from Ramada Hotel in Mt. Vernon
- \$100 Gift Certificate from Mt. Vernon Wal-Mart
- Four meals from Mr. D's in Benton
- A Cross pen-pencil set from Jackson Jewelers
- The book, "Natural Causes," from B. Dalton Bookstore in Mt. Vernon Times Square Mall
- A set of fish locker filet knives from Buck Knives
- Gift Certificates for a four-foot party platter and three subs from Subway in Mt. Vernon
- Blanket from Linen's End
- Portable cassette player from Walgreens
- Bag of goodies from American Greetings Co.
- A stuffed sheep from Mt. Vernon craftsperson Joan Hattendorf
- Eight assorted cassette tapes from WCIL Radio
- \$25 Gift Certificate from One-Stop Interiors
- \$25 Gift Certificate from Easton's Flowers

AWESOME AUCTION ▶ 'Heartfelt thanks' to Howard, students from reps of 130 children in 9 counties

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. MARCH 21-27, 1994

"Celebrity Auction" CEO Therese Howard was in a thankful mood Wednesday (March 16).

But her thanks to cohorts who helped make the event a rousing success paled in comparison to the message brought by Amy Schulz Center Executive Director Michael A.

ADULT ED SUCCESS STORY

RLC's 83% Adult Ed retention rate was a featured topic at Title XX Special Projects Workshop in Springfield. / September 23, 1980

SPECIAL EVENTS TIMELINE

RECOGNITION CEREMONY

First General Educational Development (GED®) event for recent "graduates" and their families. / Summer 1979

S.I. QUILT EXHIBIT

"Quilts - A Tradition in S.I." returns home after drawing record 56,000 to Chicago Public Library. / February 1980

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

New National MSHA Electrical Training Objectives finalized in meetings at RLC. Chuck Foster lone educational rep. / July 1981

\$4M BOND REFERENDUM

Voters reject appeal to raise annual taxes \$15-\$18/household to improve facilities, 8,980-7,191. / March 16, 1982

1979 - 1980

1980 - 1981

1981 - 1982

1982 - 1983



Project CHILD Festival becomes yearly highlight

NEWS RELEASE APRIL 2006

Pony rides, an enormous inflatable obstacle course, a petting zoo and visits from Dora, Diego and Strawberry Shortcake will be sure to keep the young participants happy during the Sixth Annual Project CHILD Children's Festival, set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 6, at the Rend Lake College MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon.

This free celebration of families and children is sponsored annually by Project CHILD (Caring How Illinois Lives Develop), a 12-county Child Care Resource and Referral program committed to advancing the quality, affordability and accessibility of child care. Organizers operate under the philosophy "high-quality child care and education enables children to develop to their fullest potential."

The festival features local organizations which offer early childhood programs and services to meet family needs. There will be a plethora of exciting activities and games for the kids and vital information for parents.

The new giant inflatables area will include the XP360 obstacle course, the 55-foot Kiddiepillar bounce house and a Hoop Shoot. Other features include the local Lions Club train, a petting zoo and appearances by Dora, Diego and friends. Young participants will not want to miss face painting, carnival games and a puppet show, and will have an opportunity to take part in other games, create art masterpieces and sing and dance. Kids also can bring their "Best Bear Buddy" for a checkup at the Teddy Bear Clinic. Free children's haircuts will be available at Studio RLC.

Morris and the father of the center's name-sake, Dennis Schulz.

"Most importantly," Morris said, "we are here to let you know your help today is going to help about 130 children from a nine-county area.

"On behalf of all those children, I thank you so much for what you are doing."

Schulz praised Howard and her Art students. "Our heartfelt thanks to all of you," he said.

Morris was one of a half-dozen Amy Center representatives on hand to enjoy the afternoon festivities and get in on the bidding for some 235 items donated by celebrities, local craftspeople and businesses.

A much-relieved Howard, thankful the three-month ordeal was almost at an end, noted the hard work of her students – over 1,200 letters of solicitations were mailed – and thanked many for their support, including members of the Human Services Club; the RLC Maintenance Staff; Willie Johnson, a Mt. Vernon collector who helped establish the value and authenticity of donated items; Auctioneer Rob Little and his two "lovely" assistants (one of whom was President Mark S. Kern); the "Queen of the South Oasis," Department Secretary Cathy Cross; special friend and mentor, Sarah Capps; Cashier Lisa Collier, and student helper Karen Hugo.

"But most of all, I want to thank the students," Howard said. "Without their hard work and dedication, this auction would not have been possible."

FIRST LADY-TO-BE? Sen. Simon's 'most trusted advisor,' Jeanne, featured at '87 Annual Dinner

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 1987

Jeanne Simon, lawyer, former state representative and "most trusted advisor" to her political partner and mate, Presidential hopeful Sen. Paul Simon, will be the featured speaker for the Rend Lake College Foundation Annual Dinner Meeting on Monday, November 2.

Reservations are being accepted for the evening's activities, scheduled to get under way at 6 p.m. with a reception in honor of Mrs. Simon and previously announced RLC "Alumna of the Year" Dr. Mary Kay Bengtson.

Activities of the Rend Lake College Foundation the past year will be reviewed during the business portion of the annual meeting, according to RLCF Executive Director Kenneth R. Miller.

Mrs. Simon "has the gift, as does her husband, of making people around her comfortable," noted Bill Lambrecht in a recent article for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch Magazine*. The author quoted another source who observed, "It looks like Paul Simon married a woman a lot like him."

Lambrecht compares Mrs. Simon to her "role model," former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. "You know the phrase, 'In back of every man there's a strong woman.' Well, I'm not in back of anybody. I'm right alongside him," Jeanne Simon is quoted as saying.

"Mom is Dad's most trusted advisor," her daughter, Sheila, told Lambrecht.

Never before has a First Lady boasted a law degree, but Mrs. Simon is one of four candidates' wives-lawyers on the campaign trail.

A graduate of Northwestern University and a product of the affluent Chicago suburbs of Western Springs and Wilmette, the former Jeanne Hurley was first elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1956. She married fellow Representative Paul Simon four years later, forming the first husband-wife team in the history of the Illinois General Assembly.

The 65-year-old Jeanne Simon has been active since then helping her husband in his campaigns for the legislature, Lieutenant Governor, Congress, Senate and now the Democratic nomination for President.

She was appointed a member of the Advisory Council to the White House Conference on Libraries in 1979 and served as a legislative analyst for the National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs. In 1983, Illinois Attorney General Neil Hartigan appointed her as his Washington Representative for Governmental Relations, a post she held until the following year when she left to help her husband's successful bid for the U.S. Senate.

Mrs. Simon, whose "world view has its roots in old-fashioned, New Deal liberalism," according to the article by Lambrecht, is admitted to the bar in both Illinois and the District of Columbia. She is a former President of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois. She also participates in the League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, Women's National Democratic Club, Congressional Wives for Soviet Jews and Peace Links.

The Simons maintain a home in Mankanda, near Carbondale, and reside in Wash-

ington, D.C., when Congress is in session.

Individuals do not have to be members of the not-for-profit RLC Foundation in order to attend. The public is invited.

"A stimulating speaker, the opportunity to honor another outstanding graduate, good food and an evening of fellowship should make for a memorable occasion," Miller commented.

LISZT, CHOPIN, ROMANTIC PERIOD ▶ Classical Pianist K.B. Doyle delivers year after year on RLC Theatre stage

A "regular" on the Rend Lake College Musical Concert circuit for many years was Classical Pianist K.B. Doyle, the United Parcel Service (UPS) driver who delivered on an annual basis on the RLC Theatre stage during the 1990s.

The first appearance by Doyle, a Marion resident and graduate of Union University in Jackson, TN, came in 1993.

Following his sixth appearance in October 1998, Doyle told *RLC Pressing Times* Staff Writer Ellen M. Tripp, "I'm always appreciative to be asked back. (Sponsor) Lynn Nimtz 'persuaded' me to first perform at Rend Lake College, the Student Senate agreed to sponsor my appearance and they have continued to ask me back year after year."

A typical program by Doyle, offered free of charge thanks to the RLC Student Senate, might include works by Beethoven, Chopin and Liszt, the "romantic composers," as well as the likes of Ravel, Mozart, Debussy and Brahms.

His performance in 1998 featured a couple of numbers he wrote and composed. In addition to those "classical pieces with a contemporary twist," he also sang his own rendition of "Amazing Grace."

"One of the things K.B. always does at any of his concerts is to take time to explain the music to his audience . . . tell a little more about the composer or the music," Nimtz commented.

The featured performer holds a Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance and Music Theory from Union University in Jackson, TN, and was in the Master's program

at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale at the time he played here in April 1994.

Doyle recalls listening to the classical music of Chopin as early as age 6 and starting music lessons a couple of years later. Living in a household where his father was a college music (voice) professor, he began accompanying vocal students around age 12 and still does so for Marion junior high and high school students entered in contests.

He also has served in the past as an accompanist for the Rend Lake College Chorus.

"Music has been a haven for me, but I avoid engaging in too many performances that would make it just another job," Doyle told *The Pressing Times*.

"I am limited to 10 hours of physical practice each week, but I spend as many hours as I can 'playing music' in my head. I remember the score and try to feel my hands playing the piano away from the instrument. I avoid mindless repetitions and force myself to think putting more thought and less physical time into it. This is more beneficial."

Doyle has played for audiences connected to Governor Jim Thompson and Congressman Ken Gray, the Rend Lake Golf Course, the Rend Lake Resort, a special event to help save the band shell in West Frankfort and Union University, including two Governors Receptions at the Rend Lake Golf Course. He was the focus of a news feature on WPSD-TV Channel 6 in 1996.

He informed Tripp his two favorite composers are Franz Liszt and Chopin. The Romantic Period is his favorite, he said.

In addition to showing his appreciation to Nimtz and the Student Senate, Doyle thanked those who helped make it possible for him to practice his talent, including Maintenance, Security, the Art program and Instructors Sarah Capps and Therese Howard.

"I thank the college for allowing me to pursue a childhood dream," he said.

Doyle's talent has made him well-known



RLC hosts state prepsters for Beta Club Leadership

NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 19, 1975

More than 100 outstanding students from 32 Illinois high schools will convene at Rend Lake College Saturday, September 27, for the Illinois High School Beta Club Leadership Conference.

The Beta Club is a national organization of high school honor students.

The conference will begin at 10 a.m. in the Student Center. The RLC Collegiate Choir will provide entertainment and Dr. W. Travis Martin, President of Rend Lake College, will speak to the Beta Club leaders.

Rend Lake College faculty and staff members will conduct workshop sessions on a variety of topics, and Student Senate members will take Beta Club members on tours of the Ina campus.

High schools to be represented are Anna-Jonesboro, Brookport, Cairo Camelot, Carrier Mills, Cave-in-Rock, Century (Ullin), Clay City, Cobden, Crossville, Deer Creek-Mackinaw, Delavan, Dongola, Egyptian (Tamms), Elgin ACD, Enfield, Equality, Fisher, Goreville, Grayville, Hopedale, Joppa, McLeansboro, Mascoutah, Mounds Meridian, Norris City-Omaha, Ridgway, Robinson, Shawnee (Wolf Lake), Shawneetown, Vienna, Wayne City and Webber Township (Bluford).

SPECIAL EVENTS TIMELINE

● **FARM-GARDEN SHOW**
First RLC Home-Garden Show on-campus. / August 18-19, 1984
JR. HIGH TIP-OFF TOURNEY
First 10-team event. / Oct. 27, '84

● **R.L.C. DAY AT THE MALL**
First RLC Day at Times Square Mall in Mt. Vernon. / Spring '85

● **AREA LEGISLATORS**
Four area legislators at RLC to celebrate National C.C. Month, inc. IL Senators Glenn Poshard and Bill O'Daniel. / Feb. 21, 1986

● **20th ANNIVERSARY**
20th Anniversary Celebration includes sculpture dedication and salute to 10 original faculty members. / April 30, '87

1983 - 1984

1984 - 1985

1985 - 1986

1986 - 1987



Chicago Public loves it, but 'Quilts' returns home

FEBRUARY 22, 1980

If quilting is "a way of life for women in this area," as one authority notes, then Chicagoans must be envious.

Over 56,000 art-lovers visited the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center in recent months to view the exhibit, "Quilts: A Tradition in Southern Illinois." It proved to be the Cultural Center's most successful exhibition ever in both attendance and popular appeal, according to the program director.

A critic for the Chicago Sun-Times called it "a once-in-a-lifetime exhibition."

Welcome home, Quilts.

Twenty-three of those quilts will be on display throughout the month of March at Rend Lake College in Ina, IL. This marks the first stop outside of Chicago for the exhibit, which is scheduled to make a tour of the state for 15 months.

The works of seven Southern Illinois women, including 103-year-old Allie Doyle of Vandalia and 98-year-old Leotris Webb of Benton, will be joined by 25 others one day only for a special program honoring these women Tuesday, March 4, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

"This exhibit focuses on an art form that isn't just a hobby and isn't a fad . . . it's a way of life for women in this area," noted Susan Kolojeski, who proposed the idea to the Chicago Cultural Center and then was hired to curate the show.

Kolojeski is the Art Instructor at Rend Lake College.

"In every real sense, you could say these women recorded Illinois history with their hands," said Kolojeski, alluding to the fact quilting has been docu-

(Continued at far right on next page)

throughout Southern Illinois and he has a loyal following of admirers. His annual concerts on the RLC campus typically come close to filling the 350-seat Theatre.

LAST STOP: INA, ILLINOIS Southern Illinois Tour 'eye opener' for Foreign Reverse Trade Mission

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE NOVEMBER 2006

Rend Lake College was the last stop on the first Southern Illinois tour for the Reverse Trade Mission – an initiative created by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to introduce Foreign Trade Commissioners to industry throughout the state.

The 19 Commissioners who participated in the Reverse Trade Mission are the trade liaisons between the U.S. and their countries. Based in Chicago, each Commissioner typically covers a 12- to 14-state region.

Their Chairman, the Netherlands Consulate General Cor W. Hersbach, said the tour was an "eye opener" for the "Global Club" and that he was impressed with the collaboration and cooperation he found among Southern Illinois businesses and community colleges.

"We are very happy the DCEO took us to these parts of Southern Illinois," Hersbach said.

In addition to RLC, the two-day tour took them to Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, John A. Logan College, Aisin Manufacturing in Marion, DBT America in Carrier Mills, Southeastern Illinois College, Man-Tra-Con Corporation in Marion, Bombardier Recreational Products in Marion and Continental Tire North America in Mt. Vernon.

Rend Lake College officials were able to meet with Commissioners representing 16 different countries during lunch and a tour of the new RLC Applied Science Center. They included Commissioners from the Netherlands, China, South Korea, Hungary, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Japan, Lithuania, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, Malaysia and Canada.

Enrique Alejo, the Trade Commissioner from Spain, said the educational aspect of institutions they visited is "impressive" and he recognizes the important role higher education plays in a well-trained workforce.

"I especially like how educational opportunity is offered to low-income people," Alejo said.

The tour, he added, provided him a different perspective of Illinois outside of Chicago and he noted the quality workforce he saw at corporations in Southern Illinois communities.

According to Warren Ribley, Director of Operations for the IDCEO in Springfield, the Southern Illinois workforce is one area the IDCEO wants to impress upon the Trade Commissioners. Community colleges are a key facet of that quality workforce, he said. Gov. Rod Blagojevich called the Reverse Trade Mission "an important move to strategically expand foreign direct investment in Southern Illinois and open new markets abroad."

"We see Rend Lake College as a strong asset in Southern Illinois," said Ribley. "In the southern region, you see a cooperative effort between local industry and institutions within the community college system. You have to have a very productive workforce. Production is the key."

Global competition has created a tremendous challenge for the entire U.S., according to Ribley. In regard to jobs in Illinois, he said technological advances are often overshadowed by outsourcing. He pointed out some loss in manufacturing jobs are due to technological advances in industry that have made it easier to reach high levels of productivity with fewer workers, thus trimming the workforce.

However, the employees needed to maintain that high level of productivity must be trained well and community colleges, such as RLC, are where much of that training is provided, Ribley said.

State Rep. Kurt Granberg (D-Carlyle) also attended the event at RLC.

Ribley said fostering economic development in Illinois through the Reverse Trade Mission would not be possible if it were not for individuals like Granberg. He also stated continuous collaboration with RLC administrators is important to the IDCEO.

"We've come to see you and we hope you will come see us," Ribley said. "Get in touch with us. We are not just here for the hit and run. We hope to collaborate in the future."

Miklos Martin-Kovacs, Trade Commissioner from Hungary – along with China's Consulate General Liang Gang and Switzerland's David Kouidri with Polydec International – harmoniously agreed that coal mining and technological advancements in removing harmful emissions from coal were the two most interesting aspects of the tour.

Martin-Kovacs said Illinois coal's potential is impressive.

"I could hardly believe how much coal is reserved," he said. "Also, the technology that is based on the demand to mine it and reduce the emissions, to me, that was the most striking potential."

Gang said China is interested in coal, since it is a country that uses high quantities of coal to generate energy. First, he said, "the technology – particularly the clean coal technology – is very advanced here and we are interested in further promoting that."

China is interested in supplying the demand from U.S. companies – DBT America in Carrier Mills, for one – for coal mining and clean coal machinery, Gang added.

Kouidri also brought up advances in technology that enable the use of bio-products, such as corn and soybeans, to produce things like paint, glue and tables.

Following a luncheon, buzzing with conversation between the commissioners and RLC representatives, the group toured the new Applied Science Center on campus that houses the Fabick Heavy Equipment Technology, Agriculture Mechanics and Diesel Mechanics programs.

Dr. Sarah Bond, Chair of the Applied Science and Technology Division, led the tour.

"We are very proud of this facility," she told the group of Trade Commissioners after explaining how students receive top-notch training at the Applied Science Center.

"It was our esteemed honor to be a part of the first Reverse Trade Mission to tour Southern Illinois and showcase the Applied Science Center," Bond said. "The visit certainly reiterates the fact we live in a global society. While we tend to focus our daily efforts on the communities we serve, building relationships on a global scale is of paramount importance."

FOSTER REPRESENTS EDUCATION **National MSHA Electrical Training Objectives set during RLC meetings**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASES JULY 1981

Electrical training objectives for the coal mining industry were established recently

during meetings conducted on the Rend Lake College campus by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).

National representatives from various sectors of the mining industry were responsible for establishing minimum student performance objectives. Included was RLC Instructor Chuck Foster, the lone representative of an educational institution on the committee.

Also represented on the National Electrical Training Objectives Committee were from the United Mine Workers Association and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. The Ina meetings finalized training objectives which were begun at an earlier meeting in Arlington, VA.

The three-day meeting included a luncheon the final day with former RLC Mining Department Chair Brad Evilsizer, now Director of the Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals. Also joining the group at the luncheon were Rend Lake College Vocational-Technical Education Dean Carroll Turner and Electrical Instructor Gene Mitchell.

"Our courses at Rend Lake College exceed all the minimum standards," Foster told RLC Board of Trustee members following the committee meetings.

"I asked the other members of the group for an evaluation of our facilities," he added, "and they all agreed they were the best they had ever seen. The facilities are better than all but one place, and they were comparable to the United States Steel Training Center in Ohio. I could accept that."

Foster was selected to participate because of his extensive background in the electrical field. He has taught certification, both surface and underground, for the past six years. Retired from the U.S. Navy, Foster has been an electrician for 26 years.

Foster's "participation and input was invaluable to the success of the committee," noted James P. McGoye, Chief of the Division of Training Policy, Plans and Evaluation for MSHA. "We recognize and appreciate the commitment to mine safety that Rend



'Quilts' returns (cont.)

mented "as the most prolific art form in Southern Illinois." Miss Webb will attend the March 4 workshop in the college's Learning Resource Center, as will contributors Mary Webb and Nancy Webb, her sisters from Benton, Genevieve Bakel of Mt. Vernon, Betty Sirles of Alto Pass and Violet Ebers of Steeleville.

Included on the March 4 program are show-and-tell opportunities by the quilt-makers, a luncheon and demonstrations. Others from the area are encouraged to bring their quilts that day and share with the group.

Quilting techniques on display in both the library area and RLC Theatre lobby include piecing, applique, embroidery, trapunto and painted quilts.

A show last year at the Mitchell Museum in Mt. Vernon by Kolojeski likewise broke all viewing records.

"Obviously knowledgeable about this area of textiles, Ms. Kolojeski created an exhibit that has garnered high praise from both critics and the general public," commented Chicago Cultural Center Coordinator Janet Smith.

The month-long exhibition and March 4 workshop are open to the public without charge.

SPECIAL EVENTS TIMELINE

J. SIMON FEATURED
Jeanne Simon, wife and "most-trusted" advisor of Presidential hopeful Sen. Paul Simon speaks at RLCF Dinner. / Nov. 2, 1987

AUSTRALIAN FRIENDS
World Affairs Forum Art Exhibit at RLC during "U.S.-Australia Friendship Month." Also, wife of Australia Prime Minister Robert Hawke. / October 1988

PRISON GROUNDBREAKING
Groundbreaking Ceremonies for Medium Security Correctional Center across I-57 conducted. Gov. James Thompson among dignitaries. / May 11, 1990





First 'Farm/Garden Show' at RLC to reach for the sky

AUGUST 1984

Enthusiasm promises to be sky-high for at least one of the participants in this weekend's first "Farm and Garden Show" to be conducted on the Ina campus of Rend Lake College.

A drawing to be conducted Saturday will have the winner floating on Cloud Nine – or in that vicinity – because it will be for a free ride in a hot air balloon. The winner will be able to choose an area destination of choice, within reason.

The hot air balloon ride giveaway is one of many entertainment values planned Saturday and Sunday, August 18-19, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

In addition to attracting the farmer and/or gardener, the inaugural show will boast exhibits, food and other entertainment of interest.

Co-sponsor Jim Glassman of WMCL Radio said the show will boast exhibits from such agri-businesses as implement dealers; feed, seed and fertilizer; grain bins; computers; financing and leasing; the latest in planting and harvesting methods, and insurance. Gardeners can see the latest equipment and films on current methods and trends.

Exhibits will be set up indoors and out. Also displayed will be RVs, mobile homes/trailers, spas, outdoor buildings, wood-burning stoves, chain saws, welding products, recreational equipment, building supplies and photography services.

Federal Crop Insurance reps will be on hand, as will the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Three musical groups will perform. The Southern Illinois Fun Tractor Pull Association will have contests in seven classes of lawn and garden tractors.

Lake College has demonstrated by making Mr. Foster available for this important undertaking.

"The results of the committee will benefit the mining committee nationwide."

RLC Board President Joe McClure Jr. echoed that praise. "This is what makes Rend Lake College tick, folks," he said. "People like Chuck Foster."

PULITZER PRIZE-WINNER ▶ State of Illinois Poet Laureate Brooks conducts creative writing workshop

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASES APRIL 1977

The Poet Laureate of the State of Illinois visited the Rend Lake College campus on Thursday, April 21. The talented, world renowned Gwendolyn Brooks held a workshop for college students from the creative writing class and recited her poetry to an enthusiastic audience of high school and college students and staff who packed the RLC Theatre.

Her 1 p.m. reading was followed by an informal reception in the Theatre Lobby.

She was also scheduled to present a reading later that evening at Mitchell Museum in Mt. Vernon.

The appearance by the Pulitzer Prize-winner is sponsored by the Rend Lake College Student Senate, RLC Community Services, the Mt. Vernon Arts and Humanities Council and Mitchell Museum.

The author of almost a dozen books of poetry, as well as one novel entitled **Maud Martha**, Miss Brooks was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1950 for a book of poems called **Annie Allen**.

She was named Poet Laureate of Illinois in 1968 by then Gov. Otto Kerner. Among her other honors are the Shelley Memorial Award of the Poetry Society of America and membership to the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

A native of Chicago, where she now lives, Brooks has been very active in her attempt to reach Illinois elementary and high school students with her poetry and also encouraging them to write poetry of their own. She is a popular speaker on college campuses as well.

Brooks began writing poetry when quite young, encouraged by her parents, and began sending her poetry to publishers when she was 11 years old. By the time she was 14, her poetry began appearing in some newspapers on a fairly regular basis.

Today her poetry frequently is anthologized in high school and college poetry collections and she is represented in most collections of black poetry.

Several area high schools will be sending students to the poetry reading at the college – having prepared for the visit by reading her works in English classes – and the public is encouraged to attend, according to Dr. Evelyn Claxton, the RLC English Instructor who has arranged Brooks' appearance in Southern Illinois. There is no charge.

This is a real humanities event for all of the college community," Claxton said. "We do not often have the opportunity to hear such a well known poet so close to home. All of us associated with bringing Miss Brooks here hope the community will come to hear her."

TARN YEARBOOK 1978

GWENDOLYN BROOKS

I went early to sit in front
so I could really see her.
She came in (walking as if her feet hurt)
head turbaned, eyes mild behind thick glasses.
She looked like a middle-aged housewife
(like my black counterpart I thought, surprised).
Had I expected a nimbus of sacred fire around
her head?
She looked, in fact, like Maud Martha.

With quiet humor, she talked of her life;
She talked, as I would,
of childhood
of love in early drab apartments
of birthing babies
of growing children
and, as we listened, she talked of poetry.

She read her poems and I was shaken
for, when she read my favorite, "We Real Cool,"
she did not read it, as I had done,
with a jazzed-up, white-synthetic, jive-beat,
but, oh so slow and soft,
like a funeral song.

~ Evelyn Claxton

TEN COLLEGES SPONSOR ▶ Regional 'Innovation Showcase' boasts considerable RLC input

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 1996

Registration is under way for a four-state research conference with a distinct Rend Lake College flavor.

"A Showcase for Regional Innovation: Research, Teaching and Service" will be presented Thursday, October 17, in the Southern Illinois University Student Center in Carbondale.

Co-sponsors along with Rend Lake College and the host institution are three

other Southern Illinois community colleges – John A. Logan, Shawnee and Southeastern Illinois – along with Paducah (KY) C.C., SIU-Edwardsville, University of Southern Indiana, Southeast Missouri State University and Murray (KY) State University.

The first "Showcase for Innovation" is expected to bring together faculty and staff from the four-state area to share information on sponsored research and service projects. It will provide an opportunity to share results of projects, learn what peers are doing, identify collaborators and network with colleagues.

The showcase is designed to publicize these activities as well as to promote cooperation between researchers and service providers.

Under the category Community Service / Outreach, Rend Lake College's Jana Groh will provide one of the showcase programs, "AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois."

Lisa Payne, Coordinator for the RLC Center for Business and Industry, will be on a panel of presenters under the Economic Development portion. She will be joined by Hartzel Black of SIU-Carbondale, Don Denny of Shawnee Community College and Darren Pulley of John A. Logan College in an overview of "The Role of the Community College in Economic Development."

Coordinator Linda Cox and Program Specialist Nicole Garrett with the RLC Family Investment Education Centers in Franklin County will present one of the programs categorized as Human Services / Health and titled, "The Family Investment Education Center: The first year of a county-wide cooperative educational partnership program.

Bob Ross, Director of Planning, Research and Correctional Education, is a member of the conference's Planning Committee.

RECYCLING ▶ Targets include cans, paper, grass; cardboard, too, thanks to state grant

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. SEPTEMBER 16-22, 1991

Efforts to recycle as many products as possible are continuing on the Rend Lake College campus, Physical Plant Director

Dow Smith said in response to a recent query.

Some of the attempts are easily recognizable, others not quite so obvious, perhaps.

Special receptacles for can drinks may be found in the Student Center, North Oasis, South Oasis, Industrial Tech (lounge) and Maintenance Building. Although it certainly is not a money-making venture (figuring in man hours spent in collection, etc.) the college recoups about \$50 every two weeks for the cans at a rate of 25-35 cents per pound, Smith estimated.

The Student Senate initiated the project, but it is handled entirely now by the Physical Plant staff. Roger Treece and student workers primarily are responsible for this aspect of recycling. Proceeds go into a recycling account to pay for special containers, etc.

Paper recycling bins are now located in the Administration Building (for white and computer paper only), North Oasis (white paper) and Academic Building Computer Center (computer paper). Smith is still in quest of a vendor to take these materials, he indicated.

Grass clippings and landscape waste from campus grounds are shredded and used for mulch.

The impact the combined measures have on the environment are the main reason for recycling, of course, Smith admitted.

But the recycling efforts do amount to some cost-savings in reduced trash bulk; two dumpsters are emptied three times per week, compared to three dumpsters previously.

"That is about to change, though. I can see the need coming real soon for another dumpster. You wouldn't believe what a 2-3 percent increase in enrollment can mean in the amount of all related areas of trash," Smith said.

[Editor's Note: Accompanying the story on recycling efforts was this note: "Rend Lake College F.Y.I. is printed this week on recycled paper, available on request from the RLC Print Shop."]

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. JUNE 1-14, 1992

Rend Lake College recently received notification it has been awarded a \$20,749 Recycling Grant by the Illinois Department



World Affairs Forum brings Australia to RLC

OCTOBER 1988

Eucalyptus tree bark paintings, hollow log coffins and hunting boomerangs are coming to Rend Lake College in celebration of "U.S./Australia Friendship Month."

The objects are part of the Aboriginal art exhibit on display October 16-November 12 as the Eighth Annual World Affairs Forum hosted by Mt. Vernon again broadens its outreach to the Ina campus.

A three-part Australian Film Festival will open with Richard Chamberlain in "The Last Wave," which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 16, in the RLC Theatre. Other movies are scheduled the next two Sundays at Mitchell Museum.

At 4 p.m., the 100-piece exhibit of Aboriginal art organized by the Australian Embassy in Washington, D.C., will open in the Learning Resource Center. A reception will follow.

Consul General J.V.R. Hearder, who will be on hand for the Film Festival and exhibit openings, will return Monday, October 17, for a speaking engagement.

On Thursday, October 20, celebrated folk singer Seona McDowell will entertain grade school students from Jefferson and Hamilton counties at 10 a.m. in the RLC Theatre.

Mrs. Robert Hawke, wife of the Australian Prime Minister, will visit Friday, October 28, to meet with a History class of Dr. Richard Doherty and to view the exhibit. She will be joined by other Australian dignitaries, as well as a TV film crew.

CAMPUS RECYCLING

RLC Foundation is one of the underwriters for 10th Annual World Affairs Forum, "Brazil-Fest '91." / September 1991

RECYCLING BOOST

With recycling well-underway - cans, paper goods - RLC gets a \$20,749 IL Dept. of Energy -Natural Resources Grant.

CLASSICAL PIANIST

UPS Driver / Classical Pianist K.B. Doyle of Marion makes his first of many annual appearances, sponsored by Student Senate.

CELEBRITY AUCTION

Therese Howard's Art students raise \$7,327 for Amy Center - \$500 Melanie Griffith, \$330 Super Bowl ball. / March 16, 1994

1991 - 1992

1992 - 1993

1993 - 1994

1994 - 1995



A Glimpse Inside . . . REND LAKE COLLEGE

FALL 2009 PUBLICATION

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Adult Ed and Family Literacy
~ ESL / GED / Job Skills
- AmeriCorps
- Aquatics Center
- Center for Business Services
~ CEUs ~ Truck Driving
~ Co-op Ed ~ Volunteerism
~ Employ. Services ~ Training
~ Real Estate ~ WorkKeys
- Community Education
- Dual-Credit Classes
- Fitness Centers / Ina - MtV
- Institute - Lifelong Learning
- Kumon Learning Center
- Project CHILD (CCR&R)
- RLCF Children's Center /
MarketPlace Early Childhood
- RLC Foundation Scholarships
- Small Business Development
~ Consultation / Seminars
- University Partnerships
~ SIUC (2) ~ SIUE
~ McKendree University (4)
~ Mid-Continent University
- Upward Bound

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

- Art League • College Bowl
- Creative Writing Club
- Criminal Justice Club
- Culinary Arts Club
- Forensics Team
- Horticulture Club
- Phi Theta Kappa - Rho Xi
- Practical Nursing Club
- Radiology Club • SkillsUSA
- Society-Success/Leadership
- Student Ambassadors
- Thespians Club • Trailblazers
- Wireless Amateur Radio Club

MORE ORGANIZATIONS LISTED IN 2013

- Ag Club • AgriAchievers
- Auto Club • Computer Club
- Campus Christians
- Future Educators of America
- History Club • Lambda Nu
- International Studies
- Lesbian, Gay . . . and Allies
- Minute Prayer Gathering Club
- Musical Notes Society
- Nontraditional Students
- Phi Beta Lambda
- Rend Lake Readers

of Energy and Natural Resources.

Only 33 of 156 applications submitted statewide were funded. The RLC grant was prepared by Physical Plant Director Dow Smith, Groundskeeper Gary Sims and Bob Ross, Director of Resource Development, Research and Planning.

The grant will allow Rend Lake College to implement a campus-wide recycling program that could significantly reduce the amount of office paper and cardboard the college presently is sending to the Herrin landfill, which amounts to hundreds of cubic yards per year.

This reduction will be achieved by a combination of source reduction and recycling and will be complemented by an institutional commitment to increase the purchasing of recycled materials.

Paper consumption on campus is projected to continue increasing steadily as the college moves toward computerization of both its instructional and management components.

Funds from the grant will be used to develop a collection system comprised of waste baskets, collection bags and bins, a utility vehicle (golf cart), shredders, paper baler and storage sheds.

College staff also will receive training in recycling concepts and processes.

RECYCLING? ▶

By now, it's taken for (DCCA) Grant-ed RLC is a Southern Illinois trendsetter

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. AUGUST 26, 1996

Rend Lake College continues to be a Southern Illinois trendsetter in terms of recycling, in large part in recent months due to a grant of \$17,950 from the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs to improve and enhance its ongoing efforts.

The Ina-based community college, which initiated its recycling program in 1990 through the Student Senate, was believed to be the first in Southern Illinois to officially start a full-fledged recycling effort. It did so in 1992 with funding made available from the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, now DCCA, according to Campus Coordinator Phyllis Rice.

Following the start-up grant of \$20,749 used to purchase recycling equipment, containers and a bailer, college officials received a second grant in 1993 to conduct a waste audit, and now a third.

The most recent funds have been used to purchase 45 electric hand dryers to replace

paper towels in campus restrooms, as well as to obtain two outdoor multipurpose recycling bins, 20 aluminum can collection drum covers for parking lot areas and three moveable message boards.

Paper towel reduction in restrooms is expected to eliminate college waste by approximately 5 percent, or nearly three tons, Rice indicated. It also should reduce labor costs in custodial man-hours and material costs over a period of time.

The three-bin drop-off containers – for newspapers, aluminum cans and #1 and #2 plastics, including milk cartons and two-liter soft drink bottles – are accessible to students and the general public near the Academic Building and the Industrial Technology Building.

In addition, college efforts encompass both white and colored papers, computer paper, cardboard and magazine collection, telephone directories and the recycling of printer ribbons and toner cartridges.

“Cooperation from students, faculty and staff has been outstanding throughout our recycling program,” commented Rice. “We have found most people to be enthusiastic about our efforts and interested in doing what is environmentally correct.”

In Fiscal Year 1995, for example, thanks to community-wide cooperation Rend Lake College collected and recycled 18 tons of cardboard, 11 tons of paper (5.25 tons of white paper, 3.5 colored and 2.25 computer), 8.0 tons of newspapers, 3.25 tons of magazines, 1.5 tons of books, 1,963 pounds of aluminum cans and 687 pounds of plastic.

Those efforts brought in \$3,895.11 in revenues as well as proving environmentally beneficial, Rice said.

A 40 percent statewide reduction in the waste stream has been mandated by the State of Illinois and the Illinois Community College Board by the Year 2000.

AHEAD OF STATE MANDATE ▶ Student Senate got it started in 1990, recycling goes full-cycle in six years

MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS OCTOBER 17, 1996
BY BRIAN L. HUCHEL

In 1990, members of the Rend Lake College Student Senate tried to raise a little extra money by collecting aluminum cans on campus.

Eventually, the college's Physical Plant Maintenance crew took over the project to help put a dent in the amount of campus waste.

Six years later, that project has developed into the college's first recycling program. And the original dent sought by the Physical Plant has been transformed into eliminating around 42 percent of the campus waste.

Phyllis Rice, Coordinator of the recycling program, said it was tough trying to get a recycling program going on the Ina-based campus.

"There's so many different ways to do it," Rice said, "we went around in circles for awhile. You have to make it convenient for the faculty and staff if it's going to work."

Faculty and staff create about 60 percent of the total waste produced on the campus, Rice added.

The school has turned its good idea into a blossoming program that recycled 49.08 tons (98,169 pounds) of trash in 1996, up 16.69 tons from the program's 1994 total of 32.9 tons (64,779 pounds).

According to a mandate by the state and the Illinois Community College Board, Rend Lake College and other schools like it must reduce their waste totals by 40 percent by Year 2000.

The program, which started with recycling only white paper and aluminum cans, has been extended greatly during the past six years. It now encompasses everything from newspapers, mixed paper and magazines to scrap metal, batteries and plastic. Laser cartridges and printer ribbons also make up a small percentage of the program's recycling totals.

Although it started out well, the program has encountered some problems. Once the program caught on, the school was forced to scrap its smaller recycling containers, bring in larger ones to hold the trash.

"We also had a problem with sorting the paper," Rice said, referring to separating white paper from other kinds. "A lot of people were not sorting. But in February, we started mixing our paper, which has made our paper total go up."

In order to decide what kinds of waste should be recycled, the school has conducted two waste audits. During the audits, the trash from the campus is examined to decide what makes up the largest majority.

Despite putting forth the bulk of the planning for the recycling program, Rend Lake College officials have not had to put in the majority of the money. Three grants from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs have supplied much of the funding for the program.

The grants, the last of which amounted to more than \$20,000, have been used in several different areas, including buying equipment such as recycling bins.

Getting equipment to collect waste, however, is not the only way Rend Lake College has reduced its trash. The college recently bought 45 electric hand dryers for the campus bathrooms. The dryers are expected to decrease the college's waste totals by 5 percent.

Despite the large success the program has had, Rice said the Physical Plant is not finished yet. She said she expects another grant from the state which would allow the campus to begin recycling landscape wastes such as leaves and tree limbs. Both items are not allowed in landfills. A cafeteria recycling program for the food is another possibility.

[Editor's Note: Funding in the amount of \$20,749 from the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources (now Dept. of Commerce and Community Affairs) in 1992 enabled Rend Lake College to become the first college in Southern Illinois with a full-fledged recycling program.

A second award allowed the college to conduct a water audit in 1993. A third award came in 1996 (see following story . . .)]

ELECTRIC HAND DRYERS ▶ **Recycling OK...but whatever-you-do please do not take away paper towels**

Talk about controversial – make that, upsetting, to a large number of individuals on-campus – who would have guessed . . .

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. JUNE 17, 1996

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs approved a \$17,500 grant for Rend Lake College last October to help reduce the waste stream as mandated by the State of Illinois and Illinois Community College Board.



Adult Ed success story shared at ISBE workshop

SEPTEMBER 1980

The success story of Rend Lake College's Adult Education programs will be a featured topic September 23 at the Title XX Special Projects Workshop in Springfield.

Sara Jo Davenport, a Retention Counselor and Recruiter in RLC's Developmental Skills Center, will be one of three guest speakers at the workshop sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Title XX involves those individuals working with public aid recipients.

Rend Lake College, in the year since Davenport was hired, has retained 83 percent of its Title XX students, well above the acceptable state goal of 65 percent.

Classes involving General Educational Development (GED), Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) have more than doubled in the past year under Director Pam Sharp and Davenport. More than 350 students are enrolled this fall, compared to 170 a year ago and just 40 the previous year.

Rend Lake College also is offering a new Nurse's Assistant program thanks in large part to the work of Davenport, who submitted the proposal to help train former GED students.

● **REGIONAL INNOVATION**
RLC one of co-hosts for 4-state "A Showcase for Regional Innovation: Research, Teaching and Service" at SIUC. / Oct. 17, 1996

● **STUDENT ADVISORS**
Thanks to Student Trustee John Thompson, RLC "perfect" host for IBHE Student Advisory Committee. / March 1, 1997

SPECIAL EVENTS TIMELINE

1995 - 1996

1996 - 1997

1997 - 1998

1998 - 1999



Groundbreaking May '90 for prison across the road

F.Y.I. MAY 14, 1990

Rend Lake College was well represented at Friday morning's official groundbreaking ceremonies for the nearby Medium Security Correctional Center.

The May 11 ceremonies featured Gov. James R. Thompson, Department of Corrections Director Kenneth L. McGinnis, Capital Development Board Executive Director Gary J. Skoien and Larry Foster of the Rend Lake Conservancy District.

Other dignitaries and media on hand included area legislators Larry Hicks, Larry Woolard, Jim Rea and Bill O'Daniel.

"If Jim Thompson has been a good friend of Southern Illinois, it is because Southern Illinois has been a good friend of Jim Thompson the last 15 years," said the Illinois governor who is not seeking reelection. He cited a "bond of affection" due to the culture of this area, the work ethic of the people and a special "understanding of the people of Southern Illinois."

The prison is expected to take approximately a year to build.



Tri-County Electric Co-op gives RLC \$16,604 refund

JULY 21, 2011

Rend Lake College President Charley Holstein accepted a check for \$16,603.97 from Tri-County Electric Cooperative Member Services Director Bruce Barkau, who visited the Ina campus to make the presentation.

The money was refunded to the college as part of the TCEC Capital Credits program. The refund, according to Barkau, is for profits TCEC realized from 1981 to 1982.

This grant was approved by the administration before it was submitted.

In accordance with the grant, the college is removing hand towels from all campus restrooms and replacing them with electric hand dryers. Hand towels will be used in the lab areas only.

As of June 18, all hand towels will be removed (*gasp!!!*). This may cause inconveniences (*no kidding*) in some (*all?*) cases, but it will reduce the waste stream by approximately 5,000 pounds per year, in addition to reducing labor and material costs.

"Thank you for your cooperation," Physical Plant Director Randall Shively said in a recent memo.

The college will use the grant to purchase 45 hand dryers, two outdoor multipurpose collection bins and 20 aluminum can trash barrel covers.

COMPETITION / ENTERTAINMENT ▶ College teams with City of Mt. Vernon to bring Barbeque Showdown to area

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 1, 2006

See some of the best barbecue teams in the country work their magic, sample their awesome grilled food and hear great live music during the Fourth Annual King City Barbeque Showdown.

Many new activities have been created for this year's festival, adding up to a great time for adults and children. Of course, that is in addition to some of the best barbecue in the country, carefully prepared by grilling teams competing for their share of thousands of dollars in winnings. Last year, 31 cooking teams participated; this year's entries already have surpassed that number.

The King City Barbeque Showdown will be held Friday through Sunday, June 9-11, at the Rend Lake College MarketPlace and at Holiday Inn, both located on Potomac Boulevard in Mt. Vernon. The Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce and Rend Lake College are organizing the event. [It will be the third year in a row for RLC to co-host the community festival.]

The event is sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society, the world's largest international organization of barbecue enthusiasts. Let none say these contestants aren't dedicated to their craft. Many will be up in the wee hours of the morning during the contest to begin cooking. Several of the barbecue teams sport creative names as well – 2 Fat Larrys, Pigg'n' Grinnin', Ribs'n'Bibs and the Hoosier Hogs, to name a few.

The barbecuers can prepare up to four types of meat: chicken, pork ribs, pork and brisket. Later, in a room in which only KCBS representatives and media are allowed, several teams of judges will rate the barbecuing efforts of the competitors in the categories of appearance, taste and tenderness/texture.

KCBS's judges have honed barbecue judging to a science. For instance, many people believe that "meat falling off the bone" makes for great barbecue, but to a KCBS judge, it just means the meat is overcooked. Judges trained by KCBS are qualified to judge any Kansas City Barbeque Society event in the country.

Back by popular demand is the "People's Choice" Award competition. People will be able to sample the competitors' barbecue, a luxury which prior to last year was available only to the judges. The competition will allow spectators to have a taste and cast their votes for the best-tasting tenderloin.

For just \$10 from 5-8 p.m. Friday, people can sample tenderloin prepared by the cooks in their own styles, then judge for themselves who is the king of cooks. Trophies will be presented to first, second and third places.

Additional quantities of meat have been ordered this year so everyone should have the chance to participate. At last year's event, the "People's Choice" Award was so popular, the barbecuing teams eventually ran out of food.

"This is a chance for the general public to taste what the cooks prepare," said Floyd Brookman, Executive Director of the Chamber. The barbecue contestants will be set up on the north side of the Washington Monument across the street from Lone Star Steakhouse and Saloon.

There is far more to this festival than mouth-watering barbecue. A variety of bands are lined up for all three evenings and people can come to watch the finals of the Crossroads Community Hospital Karaoke Contest:

Friday, June 9 – Blind Date (rock), 7-9 p.m.; Probably Bob (rock), 9:30-midnight.

Saturday, June 10 – Kevin Blake Weldon (country), 1-3 p.m.; Crossroads Community Hospital Karaoke Contest Finals, 3:30-5; Mal Rodgers (country), 5-7; Amanda Sheridan (country), 7:30-9:30; Jennifer Thompson (country), 10-midnight.

Sunday, June 11 – Shady Mix (bluegrass), 1-3 p.m.; Rip Lee Pryor (blues), 3:30-5:30.

Another exciting addition to the 2006

KCBS is a full-size NASCAR simulator which features action screens and a cabin packed with surround sound to add to the experience. The car will be available at no charge at the Rend Lake College MarketPlace. Race cars from around the area also will be featured, including local track favorites. The Great Clips #38 Busch Series car will be on display as will a sports car from the road circuit.

More of a two-wheeler type of person? Check out the Harley-Davidson Show from 6-9 p.m. on Saturday. Golfers are in for a treat as well as they try to win a set of Ping irons by predicting their drives on the Rend Lake College Golf Outlet golf simulator.

Got wine? Visitors can enjoy a taste along the Wine Trail in the Woods – another new addition.

Saturday will see the return of the Crossroads Community Hospital Karaoke Contest finals. Awards of \$500 will be presented to the winners in three categories – male, female and youth.

Sunday literally kicks off at 8 a.m. with the Physicians Filing Service Volleyball Tournament. Four-person teams in two categories will compete for trophies, Cardinals tickets and more on the courts located across from the RLC MarketPlace.

Youngsters also can practice their barbecuing skills with their own version of a Barbecue Showdown – the “Kids-Que.” The Kids-Que will be held from 1-3 p.m. Sunday at the RLC MarketPlace on the walkway around the Washington Monument. The children will compete in two age groups: 10-and-under and 11-15. They will test their barbecue prowess in the categories of chicken and hot dogs. Adult supervision will be required for the younger children.

Of course, what good would a barbecue be without barbecue? The St. Mary’s / Good Samaritan Hospital Family Food Court is expanded and will allow hungry guests meats and treats prepared by four vendors, headlined by the local Elks Lodge of Mt. Vernon. Spectators also can take advantage of the Budweiser Beer Garden.

WDML’s David Lister will provide music and information during intermissions on

Friday, and a live remote from the Rockin’ Rhino on Sunday. Local country disc jockey D.T. Brown will perform a live remote and DJ on Saturday courtesy of Dana Communications and WMIX.

The schedule of events (music listed elsewhere):

Each Day – National Railway NASCAR Simulator plus NASCAR / Busch Series display and local favorites; Budweiser Clydesdales presented by B & G Venegoni Distributing; RLC Golf Outlet golf simulator; Budweiser Beer Garden; St. Mary’s / Good Samaritan Hospital Food Court; Old National Bank Wine Trail in the Woods.

Friday, June 9 – Festival open 5 p.m.-midnight; People’s Bank “People’s Choice” Awards; 5-8.

Saturday, June 10 – Open noon-midnight; Harley Davidson Show, 6-9.

Sunday, June 11 – Open noon-6 p.m.; Physicians Filing Service Inc. Pig ‘n’ Dig Volleyball Tournament, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; Kids Que, 1-3.

Additional cash sponsors for this year’s event include the City of Mt. Vernon, Rend Lake College, RAM Telecom, Banterra Bank, Brooke Insurance, Coach House Garages, Charter Communications, Computer Management Assistance, Mt. Vernon Register-News, Westaff, Battery Specialists and more.

According to the Kansas City Barbeque Society’s Web site, the organization’s mission is to celebrate, teach, preserve and promote barbecue as a culinary technique, sport and art form. “Our goal is to have barbecue recognized as ‘America’s Cuisine,’” the site states. In addition to its judging classes, KCBS also teaches barbecue cooking classes around the country.

Admission to the event is \$5 for adults; children 11 and under are admitted free. Entrants can save \$1 on admission by bringing in a specially marked can of Mountain Dew. There is no charge for parking.

For more information about the King City Barbeque Showdown, contact the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce at 242-5725, or visit the Chamber’s event website.



Annual GED Recognition Ceremonies began in '79

Annual recognition ceremonies for recent General Educational Development (GED®) graduates have been held each summer at Rend Lake College since 1979, followed by a reception for the honorees and their families and guests.

The RLC Adult Ed program sponsors the event, along with Jefferson/Hamilton and Franklin County Regional Superintendent of Schools Offices.

Typically, former or current Rend Lake College GED® students are featured speakers.

GED® Academic Scholarships have been presented in recent years to those who score 275 or better on the GED test and plan on enrolling at RLC.

“We are very pleased to have this opportunity to give special recognition to those who meet this high standard,” Skills Center Director Barbara Bauernfeind commented prior to the 14th Ceremony in 1992.

The official GED® exam, the equivalent of a high school diploma for those who dropped out previously or did not attain graduation from high school, and certificate are administered and awarded by Regional Superintendents of Schools.

Recognition ceremonies are intended for all GED® Certificate recipients in the past year.

Both day and evening classes are available in Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson and Perry counties. Free online GED® preparation likewise is available . . . GED-i Online Learning was introduced in August 2007.

SPECIAL EVENTS TIMELINE

PINCKNEYVILLE CAMPUS

Enthusiastic crowd of 200 joins Groundbreaking Ceremony for RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus on Industrial Park land donated by city. / August 16, 2001

1999 – 2000

2000 – 2001

2001 – 2002

2002 – 2003



World Forum volunteers include several RLC reps

RLC F.Y.I. SEPTEMBER 1991

Rend Lake College will once again be an active participant in the annual World Affairs Forum sponsored by the City of Mt. Vernon.

The program, founded on honor of Mt. Vernon native and former United Nations Ambassador Jeane Jordan Kirkpatrick, is celebrating its 10th anniversary in an effort to build international understanding and global goodwill.

This year's focus: BrazilFest '91, featuring the lecture series, "Brazil Comes to Main Street."

The RLC Foundation is one of the underwriters of the World Affairs Forum.

Committee members included such familiar RLC Foundation names as Ken Miller, Dr. Carl Lincoln Schweinfurth and Hank Hannah. Advisors include Project First Class Coordinator Camille Jones, International Studies Representative Joe Rust, Learning Resource Center Director David Patton, former employees Mary Ksycki and Dr. Howard Rawlinson and Teresa Doherty, wife of Instructor Dr. Richard Doherty. According to World Affairs Forum promotional material, "The committee shares a deep belief that an understanding of and appreciation for other countries is essential to our well-being as a nation."

Although the official opening is not until October 1, several activities and events already are under way.

The Rend Lake College/World Affairs Forum connection likewise includes at least five upcoming events on the Ina campus or with an RLC flavor.

KING CITY BBQ ATTRACTION World-famous Budweiser Clydesdales find temporary home at MarketPlace

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 6, 2006

A world famous icon of the "King of Beers" will call the "King City" home during the week of the Fourth Annual King City Barbeque Showdown, which runs from June 9-11 at the Rend Lake College MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon.

The Budweiser Clydesdales, sponsored by B&G Venegoni Distributing, are just one of many exciting attractions during the 2006 event. They will be sheltered beneath a 120 x 60-foot tent on the lot directly across from the RLC MarketPlace on North Potomac Boulevard.

One of the strongest breeds of horses, Clydesdales are built to pull and maneuver heavy loads like the Budweiser wagon. However, to become a member of the prized Bud team, they are required to meet some strict criteria. For example, they must be bay in color with a blaze of white on their faces, a black mane and tail with white feathering at their feet and legs.

Their strength comes from their impressive size. An adult will stand at least 72 inches, or six feet, at the shoulder and weigh in from 1,800-2,300 pounds. They become full grown around four years of age.

Eight-horse teams will be hitched to parade from their stables at the MarketPlace, then south on Potomac to the main entrance of the Barbeque Showdown behind the Holiday Inn each day of the event. Times will be from 6-8 p.m. Friday, 2-4 p.m. Saturday and noon until 2 p.m. Sunday.

The KCBS hosted more than 10,000 visitors during last year's event, and officials are expecting even more this year.

TRADITION BEGAN IN 1978 Southern Illinois Jr. High Basketball peaks at RLC - Boys, Girls 'S,' 'M,' 'L'

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 2010

Rend Lake College will join the Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association Friday in kicking off another decade of State Basketball Championships in three classes for both Boys and Girls.

SIJHSAA Girls State Tournaments are set to tip-off January 22 and will run through January 30 in RLC's Waugh Gymnasium. The Boys State Tournaments are scheduled to begin February 5 through the 18th.

"Rend Lake College is once again hon-

ored to be hosting the SIJHSAA basketball championships," said RLC Vice President of Finance and Administration Larry West. "It is a privilege to work with SIJHSAA officials, particularly Executive Director Jim Burnes, to put on the best tournament possible.

"As in years past, many of the young athletes who take the floor over the next month or so will one day attend our college - some as Warrior and Lady Warrior student-athletes. On behalf of the college and President Charley Holstein, I wish the best of luck to all the championship contenders. It's going to be a great time!"

The tournament dates back to 1928 when it was played as sub-states at various locations in Southern Illinois, particularly high schools.

Burnes, who has served as Executive Director 14 years, explained that a significant snow storm hit the region in 1978 causing officials to scratch game after game in regional tournaments throughout the area.

"We had to play games wherever we could and Rend Lake College bailed us out," Burnes said. "I guess everyone liked what they saw."

The event has been held at RLC ever since and has continued to grow larger each year, with more teams competing for the championship in Classes "S" (Small), "M" (Medium) and "L" (Large), according to Mike Hayes, President of the SIJHSAA.

Hayes played at Rend Lake College years ago under retired coaches Jim "Hummer" Waugh, for whom the gym is named, and Mike McClure. Hayes said the two years he spent as a Warrior were two of the best years of his life.

"This is a great event for the area," he said. Burnes also played for the Warriors, back in its first couple of years when it was Mt. Vernon Community College. He said RLC's location in the "dead center of our membership" makes it an ideal site for annual SIJHSAA championship events, including finals in track and field, and cross-country.

"Rend Lake, for us, is perfect," he said. "It's the perfect location, perfect size of gym, and we get a lot of cooperation running the tournament."

The college's recent addition of a first-class track facility and its national prominence in both track and field and cross-country adds even more prestige to the SIJHSAA championship events on-campus.

RLC-SIJHSAA ties run deep into the as-

sociation's membership. Its Vice President, Mitch Haskins, was Men's Basketball Coach and Athletic Director at RLC. Burnes called the tournaments a great recruiting tool for the college and pointed out that each year it calls RLC home adds value to the SIJHSAA brand and its identity.

"Later in life, when these kids say 'I went to Rend Lake in grade school,' they will be talking about being in a state tournament. The kids didn't have that until it came here."

Over the next month or so, numerous regional winners across Southern Illinois will be able to say just that as they converge on the Ina campus and compete for their right to be called "State Champs!"

It starts tomorrow with the Girls Class "M" Tournament as Sesser-Valier takes on Aviston (3:30 p.m.), Nashville goes up against North Clay (4:45), Meridian challenges Goreville (6) and Pope County faces Pinckneyville (7:15). The semifinals are at 6 and 7:15 p.m. January 25, and the championship is scheduled for 7:15 p.m. January 29.

The Girls Class "L" Tournament will start Saturday, January 23, with Hamilton County going up against Carlyle (9:30 a.m.), Highland taking on Mt. Carmel (10:45), Carterville facing off with Eldorado (noon) and Trico taking on Carriel (1:15 p.m.). The Class "L" semifinals will be 6 and 7:15 p.m. on January 26, and the final is set for 11 a.m. January 30.

The Class "S" finals will conclude the 2010 Girls State Tournaments. Playing in Saturday's opening round are St. Libory and Summersville at 2:30 p.m., Trinity St. Lutheran (Centralia) and Iuka at 3:45, Unity and Giant City at 5 and Tamaroa/St. Bruno and Bartelso at 6:15. The Class "S" semifinals are set for 6 and 7:15 p.m. January 28, with the final at 2 p.m. on January 30.

Boys Regionals are just beginning in the area. The SIJHSAA Boys Classes "S," "M" and "L" tournaments will begin February 5 at RLC and conclude with the Class "L" championship game on the night of February 18. More about that will be released as regional champions emerge in the coming weeks. Scores and results from the series of SIJHSAA tournaments at RLC can be found on-line daily at www.sijhsaa.com.

38TH COMMENCEMENT

Rep. Granberg challenges grads: 'Dare to dream, embrace the risk'

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MAY 2005

The Honorable Kurt M. Granberg admitted to Rend Lake College graduates and guests it had been a few years since he donned cap and gown for his own college graduation, but he vividly remembers being "eager to put my education to use."

With that in mind, Rep. Granberg (D-107), the Assistant Majority Leader in the Illinois House of Representatives, offered one final lesson plan in "Lifelong Learning" for those attending the 38th Annual Commencement in the Rend Lake College Gymnasium.

Had the Carlyle native handed out a syllabus to his attentive audience, it might have revealed the outline for his keynote address: 1) What a college degree and/or certificate represents; 2) a reminder of what it took to reach this stage in life, and 3) encouragement to go forward with their dreams.

"This is a critical stage in your career," Granberg said to the graduates. "It is the next step in what you are going to do with your life."

"The diploma you receive today tells those you meet in life that you worked hard and have gained the necessary tools to be successful. Now you have to use them. It's all up to you."

Knowledge gained from college professors does not represent the only worthwhile learning that has occurred during the process.

"You also have learned the valuable lesson that hard work, self-discipline and perseverance pays off. It does work, and you will succeed," added the keynote speaker. "By utilizing those attributes, you can achieve almost anything in this country, because it is the greatest country in the world and you are not limited."

"If you have the will . . . if you have the desire . . . if you have the enthusiasm . . . you



President candid, campus perfect for IBHE Students

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MARCH 1997

Trustees received copies of a letter to President Mark S. Kern from Theresa Cieslinski, University of Illinois representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee.

She indicated:

"I'm writing in behalf of the IBHE-Student Advisory Committee. I wanted to thank you for your time on Saturday (March 1). It was nice to have someone come in and talk to us on an equal level instead of talking at us. Your candidness and honesty were appreciated.

"I would also like to express how perfect Rend Lake College was for the meeting. The college seemed to provoke useful round-table discussions with its sense of space and freedom. I don't think we've had a more productive meeting anywhere. Again, I thank you for having us."

Rend Lake College, along with the Rend Lake Resort, served as host of the statewide meeting for the first time thanks to the efforts of local participant and Student Trustee, John C. Thompson (McLeansboro).

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL
Sixth Annual Project CHILD
Children's Festival at RLC Market-
Place celebration for families in
12-county area. / April 2006

● **COMMENCEMENT**
Long list of distinguished RLC Commencement speakers adds Hon. Kurt Granberg thanks to 38th annual event. / May 2005

● **CLYDESDALES AT BBQ**
Budweiser Clydesdales join fun, entertainment, competition at 4th Annual King City BBQ Showdown. / June 9-11, 2006

● **REVERSE TRADE MISSION**
RLC last stop for 19 foreign Commissioners on IDCECO So. Illinois Tour for Reverse Trade Mission. / November 2006

SPECIAL EVENTS TIMELINE

2003 - 2004

2004 - 2005

2005 - 2006

2006 - 2007



Lt. Gov. Simon visits RLC to note completion keys

MAY 23, 2011

Looking for ways to improve college completion rates, Lt. Governor Sheila Simon brought her Complete College Tour to Rend Lake College Friday to learn about programs in place that aim to help students earn a degree or certificate.

Simon met with RLC President Charley D. Holstein and members of his Cabinet one week after the college experienced its largest graduating class ever.

"Community colleges are well known as cost- and time-effective locations to earn a valuable degree or certificate," Simon stated in a press release on her website. "As community college enrollment continues to increase, we must work to ensure students are provided with the necessary resources to complete their coursework and walk across the stage at graduation and into an Illinois workplace."

As announced earlier this year, Simon's goal is to increase the proportion of working-age adults with college degrees or certificates to 60 percent from 41 percent by 2025, she stated. Simon is touring the state's 48 community colleges to see completion efforts at each campus, while also compiling ideas to overcome the barriers to each college's completion goals.

Following a morning stop at Kaskaskia College in Centralia, Simon continued her tour at Rend Lake and learned half of its students test into Developmental Math or Reading classes. In response, the school has implemented a College Prep Cohort program to provide essential teaching and support services to its

(Continued at far right on next page)

are only limited by your own imagination."

Granberg added, "Dare to dream of what you can do."

He recalled the words of Henry David Thoreau, "'If one advances confidently in the direction of his or her dream and endeavors to live the life which he or she imagines, he or she will meet with success unexpected in daylight hours.'

"And that is your charge. Unlimited enthusiasm can make your dreams reality. You have that power in your grasp."

The Congressman shared a scene from the '70s movie, *The Candidate*, starring Robert Redford, and a conversation shared by the young, idealistic, reluctant Governor-to-be and his Campaign Manager. Others had convinced the candidate he had a mission to run and to try and change the world. There were no guarantees, Redford's character was told, unless he were to lose.

With the results in following a successful race, the candidate was found alone in his own thoughts. "What's wrong? You won," commented the Campaign Manager. "I didn't expect to win," Redford replied. "What do I do now?"

"Some of you may be facing the same question, 'What do I do now?'" Granberg continued. "'You can do anything. You have to make the choice yourself. What path do I take? There is only one certainty, and that is there is no certainty."

"Remember, whatever path you decide to take, whatever career you decide to embark on, don't be afraid of the risk. Embrace it. Don't walk away from it, because all life is a chance. So grab it. Seize it. Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go. And that is the challenge!"

Granberg closed his message with a poem appropriately titled, "Risk." It concludes: "Risks must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing. Those people in life who risk nothing have nothing and are nothing."

"Only a person who risks is truly free. Graduates, if you are afraid for your future, then you don't have a present. You need not be afraid of the future, for the future is in your own hands. You control your own destiny.

"It is your dream, it is your vision regarding how you accomplish that. If you have the vision, you will (control your destiny)."

"Don't go through life where you are always looking back and saying two of

the most horrible words in the language, 'what if?' Use the risk. Don't be afraid of it. Embrace it. You will be successful in your endeavors if you have the enthusiasm and the will and the perseverance."

A total of 1,155 degrees and certificates – the second year in a row the 1,000 level was reached – were awarded to more than 600 eligible students. The breakdown: 594 Associate Degrees; 561 Occupational Certificates.

[Editor's Note: Rend Lake College students have never looked back, with 1,000-plus degrees/certificates awarded each of the last eight years. A giant leap of faith came in 2009, when the graduation bar was raised to more than 700 degrees (727) and more than 800 certificates (836) for a total of 1,563 awards.]

PINCKNEYVILLE CAMPUS ► **Murphy-Wall State Bank employees enjoy Groundbreaking Ceremony**

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 2001

Rend Lake College hosted a community get-together in Pinckneyville Thursday, August 16, and over 200 people joined in the celebration.

The occasion for the weekday party was the official Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Rend Lake College Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus, at noon on-site at Industrial Park land donated by the City of Pinckneyville.

Special guests were employees of Murphy-Wall State Bank and Trust, which closed early that day to allow staff, many of whom have attended Rend Lake College, to participate.

A total of \$200,000, approximately one-fourth of the estimated total project cost, was donated by Murphy-Wall State Bank and an anonymous friend of the oldest financial institution in Perry County. The naming opportunity was announced at the RLC Foundation Annual Dinner in December.

Other key contributors to the educational and training facility located less than a quarter-mile from the Matsushita Universal Media Services (MUMS) LLC of America plant it expects to serve are Southern Illinois State Senators William L. (Bill) O'Daniel (D-54) of Mt. Vernon and David Luechtefeld (R-58) of Okawville.

O'Daniel and Luechtefeld both promised \$200,000 from discretionary "member initiative" state funds when the off-campus project was first announced last July. Earlier

this year, O'Daniel pledged \$160,000 more from Gov. George Ryan's "Illinois FIRST" program designated to build, repair and upgrade critical infrastructure.

Those who spoke briefly prior to the official turning of dirt by a dozen or so dignitaries were Marty L. Davis, President/CEO of Murphy-Wall State Bank; RLC President Mark S. Kern; Luechtefeld; O'Daniel, and Rep. Mike Bost (R-115) of Murphysboro.

College officials had hoped they would be joined by Dr. Allen Y. Baker, former Pinckneyville optometrist and civic leader who was one of the founding fathers of Rend Lake College. But Baker, now living in Florida, was unable to attend.

Joining the speakers with shovels in hand were Murphy-Wall State Bank Board Chair W.K. (Bill) Crawford Jr.; MUMS Chief Operating Officer Gary Vaughn; Pinckneyville Director of Economic Development Tom Denton; City of Pinckneyville rep Harlan Yeager; Ross Zeidler, Capital Development Board Project Manager III, and two active members on both the RLC Foundation Board and Murphy-Wall State Bank Board, Dr. Bill Roe and Dr. Gene Stotlar.

ANOTHER OPEN HOUSE Ten years in Pinckneyville: 5,000 students, 24,000 hours generated

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 2012

Over the last 10 years, the Rend Lake College Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus, built through the determination and generosity of the community's residents, has served more than 4,500 students.

Everyone is invited to see the facility first-hand and learn how the campus continues to serve the community at an upcoming Open House. The event will be held from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, October 23.

The event is casual in nature and everyone is welcome to come at whatever time is convenient. There will be tours and door prizes, stadium cups will be given out while they last and staff will be on hand to answer questions.

"We have a beautiful facility and we are so fortunate to have this campus in our community," said Campus Coordinator

Heather Bauersachs. "It provides so many opportunities for our students. Please join us as we celebrate our first 10 years."

For the past decade, the partnership between Pinckneyville and Rend Lake College has worked for the benefit of the community. Since Fall 2002, the campus has served approximately 4,542 students and has generated 20,495 credit hours. In addition, 381 high school students have taken 3,463 hours of tuition-free dual-credit classes.

The Pinckneyville campus project first became possible with the support of Murphy-Wall State Bank and Trust, an anonymous donor and State Senators Bill O'Daniel and David Luechtefeld. Things have come a long way since a dozen area leaders, shovels in hands, broke ground on the project on a frontage lot along Highway 154.

The Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus now offers students general education courses, community education opportunities, computer workshops, children's camps, first aid and CPR training and specialized computer training requested by area businesses. It also provides dual-enrollment and dual-credit classes in which Pinckneyville Community High School students can earn college credit.

The capabilities of the campus took another leap forward in Fall 2011, when the new Science and Computer Center opened for business. This addition allows students at the Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus to earn a complete Associate Degree in some disciplines without ever having to travel to the main campus in Ina.

This project again was the result of the citizens and leaders in Pinckneyville banding together to raise the money with the help of the Rend Lake College Foundation.

FREE! FREE! FREE! Are you aware of these services available to in-district residents?

REND LAKE COLLEGE SPRING • SUMMER 1997 SCHEDULE

Services provided FREE to the public by Rend Lake College . . .

- Senior Citizens (age 60 years or older) do not have to pay tuition for RLC credit classes. Those who may qualify, however,



Net.Pages in Campus FYI helps educate new users

F.Y.I. JULY 24, 1995

Internet is new to most users on campus, but it is not the only thing new. **Net.Pages**, an informational page re: Rend Lake College Internet News becomes a regular feature of F.Y.I. with this edition.

It will be provided, at least the majority of the time, by Reference Technical Services Librarian Cindi Meisenhelder. She already has distributed Internet news to many, including a general introduction to the revolutionary computer world, glossary terms and proper etiquette. She also has new handouts on how to use Netscape and Telnet.



Lt. Gov. Simon (cont.)

students. Tutors are available in the classroom to address student questions in real-time, while additional tutoring services are available for free at the Learning Enhancement Center. Since the program's inception in 2004 until the latest available data in 2008, completion rates of these students have increased 11 percentage points.

"I believe, if we have a recipe for success, it's a concerted effort to focus on the needs of our students," said Holstein. "In terms of graduation rates, we rank second among public two-year colleges in the state of Illinois and in the top 10 percent nationwide, according to a study recently released by the Aspen Institute."

RLC was the 15th tour stop.

AMERICORPS PROJECT
Statewide AmeriCorps members (60) help renovate Ina School playground as part of 3-year service project. / August 6, 2007

SPECIAL EVENTS TIMELINE

2007 - 2008

2008 - 2009

2009 - 2010

2010 - 2011



'Greening the Campus' eyes sustainable energy sources

www.rlc.edu

The RLC Greening the Campus Committee advocates the use of sustainable energy practices in the Rend Lake College Community. Sustainable energy practices are characterized as economically viable, and as socially and environmentally responsible.

Objectives

1. We support the development of institutional policies and campus-wide goals for sustainable energy use.
2. We work toward the implementation of a formal reporting system of energy use and practices by RLC through the President's Office.
3. We facilitate the sharing of information throughout the Rend Lake College community to report, promote and support sustainable energy use.
4. We support the development / implementation of educational and training opportunities for faculty, staff, students and community members.
5. We recognize the best practices for energy sustainability.

Committee Members

Nathan Brouwer, Rachel Cristaudo, Sarah Draper, Cortez Hodges, Steve Kennett, Abel Kinser, Lee Knaus, Sarah Lee, Lori Ragland, Kevin Weston.

www.rlc.edu/sustainability-center-home

The Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN) was launched in 2008 as a President-led consortium of all 48 Illinois community colleges dedicated to the training and education of a green workforce and deployment of energy conservation and green technology. With financial support from the Governor's Office, Illinois DCEO and U.S. Departments of Education and Energy, IGEN works continuously to leverage the strengths and contributions

are responsible for identifying themselves as such at the time they register.

- **NO CHARGE** – General Educational Development (GED) and Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes / Tutoring / Adult Literacy / Returning Student and Young Parent Support / Child Care Referral / Early School Leaver Assistance / Toll-free telephone line 1-800-369-5321.

- **Library Facilities and Services** – All in-district residents are encouraged to take advantage of materials, services and staff available free in the RLC Learning Resource Center (library). Included: over 30,000 books, 450 magazines and 20 daily newspapers, records, tapes, etc., plus access to the Shawnee Library System computerized database. Hours: 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays; 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays.

- **HELP Writing Résumés and Finding a Job** – Having trouble writing an effective résumé to land that job you seek? RLC Cooperative Education and Job Placement personnel will give you the assistance you need and can even put you in touch with potential employers, or vice-versa, all at no cost to you!

- **Basic EMT Tuition Waiver for Rescue Volunteers** – If residents of the district are serving as volunteers on a fire department rescue squad for a not-for-profit group, RLC will waive the price of tuition for the Basic Emergency Medical Technician class. A special form (available from Department Chair Wilanna Patton) must be signed by the Fire or Rescue Squad Chief.

- **Career Change Under Consideration?** – Visit our Career Center and talk with an RLC Counselor to get a better idea of the direction in which you may want to start heading career-wise.

PYRAMID TIMES 1967 ▾ Newspaper historical highlights of Mt. Vernon Community College

THE PYRAMID TIMES MAY 24, 1967

The following are some of the "highlights" of the history of Mt. Vernon Community College. These "gems" were culled from past college news stories, particularly from the VERNON NEWS, the Mt. Vernon Township High School newspaper, during the years that it served the college, and the MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS.

SEPTEMBER 10, 1956: First day of classes at Mt. Vernon Community College; 116 day students enrolled.

FEBRUARY 7, 1957: MVCC Library has collection of 485 books.

MARCH 14, 1957: Student Council members Karen Jones, Mary Lou Parker, Christine Ivory, Jerry Nance, Benny Jackson and George Purdy work on writing a Constitution for the college.

MAY 1, 1958: Phyllis McGill, Sally Skinner, Judy Bailey, Mary Tinsley and Carol Hood nominated for Community College Queen. (Tinsley crowned Queen on May 17.)

MAY 1958: University of Illinois gives full recognition to MVCC.

SEPTEMBER 6, 1958: Register-News headline – "Mt. V. College Growing; Enrollment Hits 178."

MARCH 5, 1959: Scoring ace Jim Burnes sets Warrior single-game individual scoring record by tallying 38 points in the last game of the basketball season.

OCTOBER 8, 1959: High school newspaper interviews Reza Balakami, MVCC student from Iran.

NOVEMBER 1959: Warrior cheerleaders for '59-60 are Doris Hongaeremeir, Michael Quinn, Charles Garner, Thad Kuenz, Roland Webb and Mary Kiefer.

MAY 1960: Yearbook staff distributes 46-page **Pyramid**, edited by Jean Hutchison, Shirley Payne and Ron Wilson.

NOVEMBER 3, 1960: Kaye Hogue, representing the Democratic Party, and Jim Dulaney, speaking for the Republicans, staged a mock "Great Debate" followed by a mock election at Mt. Vernon Community College. [EDITOR'S NOTE: The 1960 Presidential race featured John F. Kennedy vs. Richard Nixon.]

MAY 5, 1961: Imogene Book elected Secretary of 1961 Illinois Association of School Librarians.

OCTOBER 4, 1962: MVCC Loyalty Song first introduced to student body.

MAY 1963: Yearbook dedicated to Dr. Rawlinson and Mrs. Ward for "their devotion to the school and its betterment."

DECEMBER 1964: MVCC moves from old building (built in 1893) to newly remodeled former Mt. Vernon Township High School Building "B."

SEPTEMBER 1965: College has record enrollment of 637.

DECEMBER 1, 1965: MVCC students donate blood for men fighting in Viet Nam.

DECEMBER 3, 1965: MVCC presents first public Variety Show, "Variety a-Go-Go."

MARCH 11, 1966: First dramatic production, "Mr. Roberts," presented in Stadium

Theatre under direction of Tom Allemang. Lead cast members were Jim Little, Larry Kite, Terry M. Pigg and Mickey Barton.

AUGUST 31, 1966: Board buys old First Baptist Church building for college use.

SEPTEMBER 1966: Enrollment increases to 740.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1966: Former student, Lance Corporal Jack E. Crouch Jr., first Mt. Vernon representative killed in Viet Nam conflict while serving with the Marine Corps. He died at the Clark Air Force Base Hospital in the Philippines as a result of wounds inflicted by a sniper.

Crouch was enrolled for the first time Fall Semester 1965 at MVCC before enlisting in the Marines November 29 of that year. A volunteer for combat duty, he arrived in Viet Nam on July 30, 1966, and had fought in five major combat operations.

A Memorial Fund has been organized by some of his friends at Mt. Vernon Community College.

OCTOBER 22, 1966: Area voters approve new college, 8,513-1,221.

NOVEMBER 29, 1966: Craig Spence, Mutual Broadcasting System newscaster, presents Convocation on "Viet Nam - A Reporter's Report."

APRIL 28, 1967: James Moseley presents Flying Saucer Convocation.

VISION 2000 Community College Board unveils 'blueprint' for 21st Century future

ICCB NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 8, 1993

SPRINGFIELD - "To go where there is no path and leave a trail" is the vision of the Illinois community college system, as stated in its Strategic Plan - **VISION 2000**. The document will serve as a "blueprint" of the system's course for the future into the 21st Century. The plan, unveiled at a statewide conference December 3 at Chicago's Wilbur Wright College, presents major goals for the system and strategies for accomplishment.

VISION 2000 focuses on five major themes: Teaching/Learning, Student Access and Opportunity, Accountability, Community and Resources.

The document's strength, according to ICCB Chairman Harry L. Crisp II, is in its global approach to the issues facing the system's 49 colleges and its emphasis on colleges collectively and individually implementing strategies and activities to meet area needs.

The document will become "alive," he said, "as colleges personalize its concepts into their own framework." Crisp called the Strategic Plan "evidence" of the community college system's role in actively planning for the future. Crisp stated, "**VISION 2000** is a testament to our best ideas for further improving our system, and a testament to our commitment to work together for the benefit of Illinois."

VISION 2000, with a Foreword by Gov. Jim Edgar, is a collaborative effort in both content and intent. A Steering Committee of 18 representing every group of the system - the Illinois Community College Board, Illinois Presidents Council, Illinois Community College Trustees Association, Illinois Council of Community College Administrators, Illinois Community College Faculty Association and the ICCB Student Advisory Committee - coordinated 13 town meetings around the entire state to solicit input not only from the system, but from other educational entities, civic leaders, governmental leaders and business and industry leaders on local and statewide issues. The Strategic Plan is presented for the purpose of initiating statewide dialogue about how community colleges individually and as a system can most effectively and efficiently address local community and statewide needs.

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Secretaries attend seminar; guest speakers on-campus

BOARD MINUTES MAY 1979

Dr. Harry Braun reported that about half of the secretaries attended the Seminar for Secretaries at Kaskaskia College; Vince Cain, History Instructor, arranged for Congressman Paul Simon to speak to one of his classes, hold an open session and have lunch with several on campus; Eleanor Hall, Sociology Instructor, arranged a seminar on Indian culture with Dr. Carter Revard of the Osage Indian tribe sharing what it is like to be a native American in today's world.

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'Greening Campus' (cont.)

of individual colleges to benefit all colleges within the system. [www.igcc.org]

The Sustainability Education and Economic Development Center (SEED) aims to advance sustainability and green workforce development practices by sharing innovative models and resources and building the capacity of college administrators, faculty and staff to contribute as leaders. [www.theseedcenter.org]

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) empowers higher education to lead the sustainability transformation by providing resources, professional development and a network of support to enable institutions of higher education to model and advance sustainability in everything they do, from governance and operations to education and research. [www.aashe.org]

SPECIAL EVENTS TIMELINE

TRUSTEE MARVIN SCOTT RECOGNITION RECEPTION
Celebrating 33 years of service since 1978 (and counting).
/ July 12, 2011

PINCKNEYVILLE CAMPUS OPEN HOUSE II
Murphy-Wall facility celebrates 10 years, 4,500 students served. / October 23, 2012

NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES IN THEATRE
U.S. District Court welcomes new citizens from 38 Southern Illinois counties. / June 28, 2013

2011 - 2012

2012 - 2013

2013 - 2014

2014 - 2015

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1971-1972

Building rate typifies progress RLC has made since inception

PUBLISHED FALL 1972

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July 1, 1967, Rend Lake College came into being. The developments which have followed are almost inconceivable. At this writing we have occupied the new campus and four permanent buildings for two full years, and construction is moving rapidly toward the completion of five more buildings. The completion date specified in the contract for the present construction program is February of 1974, but we expect to occupy three of the additional five buildings by February of 1973 instead, and the other two by Fall of that year. This accelerated schedule typifies the progress Rend Lake College has made since its inception.

Our financial planning in regard to capital funds parallels the development of the physical plant. In the Fall of 1967 it was decided that we would need about three-million one-hundred thousand dollars (\$3,100,000) as our local share for construction. The citizens of our district were asked for that amount, and request was approved overwhelmingly.

Today the total portion of local financing for the plant (as envisioned in 1967) is paid and we have a little over a million dollars left for future construction. This is quite in contrast to the situation being faced today by most institutions of higher learning. Furthermore, our facilities are such in regard to simplicity, functionality and beauty that visitors are most favorably impressed.

In addition to the progress that has been made at Rend Lake College, there are also challenges to be faced. We often hear about a "communication gap," particularly in the field of education. The phase is in vogue, particularly among college faculties. Communication is something that is seldom achieved to the complete satisfaction of every individual, and I would be first to admit that communication at Rend Lake College can and must be improved. I anticipate considerable improvement in this

regard in the coming year.

Closely associated with communications is the matter of involvement. It is a natural phenomenon that people like to get involved, but one essential must go with such involvement. It is responsibility. One without the other brings about little of lasting value. We must, therefore, work for maximum involvement by faculty and students alike with the necessary accompanying responsibility. We have had little responsible involvement of students on important issues, and to the extent this is true, we have failed to provide educational opportunity. An institution generates strength in proportion to the extent it utilizes the potentialities of all its personnel. Our greatest challenge, it seems to me, is to seek and encourage the maximum responsible involvement of all our people, including our students; because therein lies our strength. — Dr. James M. Snyder

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE COLLEGE, ITS MISSION AND ITS PHILOSOPHY

Rend Lake College was organized December 20, 1966, under the Illinois Junior College Act. On July 1, 1967, the college assumed the assets, liabilities and responsibilities of Mt. Vernon Community College. The new Community College District 521 encompasses parts of eight counties: Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Perry, Washington, Wayne, White and Williamson.

The Illinois Junior College Act requires to fulfill three basic missions. First, provide the first two years of a Bachelor's Degree program transferable to a university where the degree would be completed. Second, provide Vocational-Technical training to prepare students for immediate job entry, usually at the end of two years. Third, provide educational opportunity for people of the community who are beyond high school age, but who want further training.

The resulting Philosophy of Rend Lake College is . . .

While we have specifically defined many of our objectives in terms of courses, we also feel that there should be goals in all curricula which transcend those which can be described in terms of course content. Some of these goals may not be completely attainable. To omit goals which can never be completely attained is to aim at mediocrity in performance and product. We believe that any philosophy must apply to both the immediate population served by our individual college and society as a whole. We believe that we should offer opportunities for economic, cultural and social growth and that such opportunities should be based upon the capabilities and interest of the individual and upon the needs of both the individual and society. We believe that the individual who accepts such opportunities accepts an obligation to become economically, socially and culturally a contributor to the society of which he is a part. We further believe that the individual who avails himself of these opportunities and accepts these responsibilities will come to a better self-understanding and, therefore, to a more enlightened system of values.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ADMINISTRATION

The administration has remained stable in organization and in function during 1971-72 with one notable occurrence. At the end of the year, and effective in July, Dr. Howard Rawlinson retired as Dean of the College and was succeeded by Dr. Philip Ward.

Dr. Rawlinson has been with the college since it was first established as Mt. Vernon Community College, and he has been its Dean from the beginning. His contributions to the college and to the community have been great indeed. His talents are many, and he will be missed.

Dr. Ward comes to us from Ohio and is imminently qualified for his new position. He brings with him, in addition to his academic preparation, a real enthusiasm and a wealth of youthful energy.

Other administrative assignments remain the same as last year with Mr.

Paul Fitch, Business Manager; Mr. Ardell Kimmel, Dean of Vocational-Technical Education; Mr. James McGhee, Dean of Adult Education and Community Services; Mr. James Yates, Registrar and Director of Admissions; Mrs. Imogene Book, Director of Library; Mr. Skip Witunski, Assistant Business Manager, and Mr. Robert Webb, Director of the Physical Plant. Department Chairmen are Dr. Richard Doherty, Social Science; Mrs. Gela Goin, Business; Mr. Mark Kern, Agriculture; Mr. Edward Kownacki, Science; Miss Mary Ksycki, Nursing; Dr. Barbara Luchsinger, Communications; Mr. William Myers, Mathematics, and Mr. James Waugh, Health and Physical Education.

The President's Council continues to provide communications interchange, is increasing in effectiveness and promises much in improved relationships among the various elements.

★★★★ ★★★★★

FACULTY

The steady rise in number of faculty reached a peak in 1971-72. Two new members were hired in anticipation of increased enrollment, but when expectations were not realized it became necessary to reduce our staff by one.

The faculty is a highly trained and very competent group. Fifty-three instructors were on the staff, including Counselors. Of these, five hold earned Doctoral degrees and 43 hold the Master's Degree. These teachers are a heterogeneous people ranging in experience from one to 40 years and in age from the mid-20s to over 60. It is a teaching faculty dedicated to the teaching and the leading of young people toward high standards and goals of skill and knowledge

Secretarial, clerical, maintenance and custodial staff are doing an excellent job. There has been some personnel turnover, especially among the secretary category, but no more than is normally expected.

★★★★ ★★★★★

STUDENTS

The students at Rend Lake College are, of course, preponderantly residents of our own district, though some are from other areas of the state,

with a few from other states and even foreign countries.

Several things are noteworthy about these young people. First of all, they are responsible in the care of facilities. We have been on the new campus two full years, yet carpets and furniture in the Oasis and classrooms are remarkably free from damage. Second is the interest shown by Student Senate members participating in the President's Council meetings. They have come up with sound proposals and suggestions. And third is the academic performance being turned in. Elsewhere in this report is a letter from Southern Illinois University praising the work of our graduates at that institution. We are indeed proud of this record.

Of course, in their involvement in the affairs of the college, students occasionally take the opposing side of issues, but in nearly every case this has been the result of a lack of information or misinformation. In all things, theirs is the enthusiasm of youth.

Enrollments in the past few years have climbed steadily until this year when a leveling-off has occurred, which with normal attrition has resulted in an enrollment drop by year's end. It appears that this is a national trend, and it seems likely that it will continue. It is believed, however, that Rend Lake College will be less severely affected than most other institutions of higher education.

MT. VERNON COMMUNITY COLLEGE			
1963-64	613	1965-66	794
1964-65	722	1966-67	725
REND LAKE COLLEGE			
1967-68	765	1970-71	1,104
1968-69	707	1971-72	1,101
1969-70	986		

★★★★ ★★★★★

COLLEGE TRANSFER PROGRAM

Excerpts of a letter from Robert A. McGrath, Dean of Admissions and Records for Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, to Dr. James M. Snyder, President of Rend Lake College, dated July 17, 1972 . . .

"Enclosed is our second annual report summarizing the scholastic achievement of your former students at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale for the academic

year 1971-72. You will note that we have attempted to provide you comparative information in terms of how your students have performed in contrast to all students from community colleges and to native students at Southern Illinois University. This report did not include courses taken by students at the freshman level.

"We would like you to know that students from your institution have done quite well at Southern. In comparison with other schools that had 35 or more former students enrolled, your institution ranked No. 3, according to a mean grade-point average. You and your staff have reason to be proud of this achievement as it indicates excellent preparation and training at your institution. We appreciate receiving this caliber of students and would like to say, 'Send us more' . . .

". . . The academic status summary indicates the status of students at the end of the Spring Quarter 1972.

"To give you a general idea on how other schools performed, I would like to mention that we found a range in the mean grade-point average from 3.74 to 2.93 (5.0-point system); 15 schools had a mean GPA of 3.54 or higher; only one school was below a 3.0 average in this report. Fifty-seven Illinois two-year institutions were represented. Student count by institution indicated a range of 1 to 302; 16 schools had over 100 students; 33 had 50 or more; 41 had 35 or more (the remaining 16 schools ranged from 1 to 24). The total Illinois population amounted to 4,479 students from two-year institutions."

★★★★ ★★★★★

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL

In the Vocational-Technical area we have continued to expand the available offerings both on- and off-campus. Courses exceed, by a considerable amount, the 30 percent required by state law.

During 1971-72 the Legal Secretary program was added and groundwork was laid for a Medical Secretary program and an Architectural Technology program to begin next fall. In addition a special pilot project for high school dropouts has been planned to begin in September.

We are in the process of moving all Agricultural programs into on-campus facilities on a temporary basis, as a result of the destruction of the shops

at Bonnie by a tornado. Enrollments have increased to the point where the Automotive and Agricultural classes are of reasonable size, and the Auto facility at Benton is becoming crowded.

The Health Occupations continue in popularity, actually in an overload situation. It has been necessary to move this program from the old building to new quarters in Mt. Vernon, and this move has been completed.

A considerable number of Vocational students whose residence is outside our district are being served by our Vocational program, and it appears that this trend will continue and perhaps increase.

★★★ ★★ ★★

ADULT EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

This year has been a traumatic one for Adult Education all over Illinois, due largely to the repercussions resulting from the "Walsh Amendment" to the 1971-72 Appropriations Act. For a time it appeared Adult Education would die for lack of state support, but it now seems that the worst of the "storm" is over and, though a rocky road may still lie ahead, it is surviving and being reimbursed. "Hobby, spare-time and recreational activities" specifically are excluded from apportionment by the amendment. Both adult enrollment and the number of courses achieving the necessary minimum of students have dropped to a degree, but it is hoped this will rebound in the next year.

In the area of Community Services, an increase in activity has occurred. The college continues to participate in the Project Uplift program in Jefferson County with a representative serving on its Board of Directors. The Rend Lake Civic Symphony is being supported by the college providing leadership and facilities for practices and performances.

Three new and exciting activities were begun this year. One is a series of art exhibits utilizing gallery space in the Oasis and featuring a wide variety of works by local as well as state and nationally known artists. Space has been provided for the local Art Guild to exhibit, also.

Another is a land-use project to

plant trees and grasses on the northwest sector of the college lands. This eventually will have about a hundred species of trees on the south 40 or 50 acres of the tract, with a similar area to the north being returned to native prairie, using switchgrass, indiagrass and big blue-stem. Included will be a small pond and clearing, with the possible addition of a log cabin.

And one of the most exciting activities is the archaeological exploration begun this year under the direction of part-time teacher, Mr. Jerry Elliston. Working in cooperation with other interested agencies and with Anthropology students, a rich site is being explored. Several human burials have been discovered and artifacts of various prehistoric cultures unearthed.

Toward the end of the year, the Southern Illinois Tour Promotion Council of Carterville elected the Dean of Adult Education/Community Services (Mr. James McGhee) to membership as college representative.

Thus, it appears an increasing thrust in Community Services and special projects is gaining momentum as opposed to the troubled times being encountered by Adult Education.

★★★ ★★ ★★

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

The upkeep and maintenance of facilities has been accomplished most effectively by Mr. Webb and his people despite a year of fire and storm.

A new Maintenance Building, equipment and supplies have already replaced those destroyed by a fire last winter. At the severe handicap in the months between the fire and the replacement of the destroyed facility.

A tornado destroyed a major portion of the Ag installation at Bonnie this spring. It, too, resulted in considerable hardship and inconvenience to involved personnel and classes but was overcome in excellent fashion.

Phase II construction is underway, and we have been promised the Student Center, Vocational-Technical Building and Administration Building in time for Spring 1973. The Cosmetology, Nursing and Automotive programs continue off-campus.

★★★ ★★ ★★

THE BUDGET

Operating Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year '71 and FY72 . . .

1970-71 EDUCATIONAL FUND REVENUE -

Property Taxes, \$391,972.00 [39.4%]; State Sources, \$484,161.00 [48.6%]; Federal Sources, \$51,043.49 [5.1%]; Other, \$68,776.04 [6.9%] (Charge-Backs, \$37,322.19, Interest Income, \$9,094.34, Tuition and Fees, \$22,359.51). Total - \$995,952.53.

EXPENDITURES -

Academic Salaries, \$591,419.02 [55.1%]; Non-Academic Salaries, \$296,631.49 [27.6%]; Supplies and Contractual Services, \$69,334.50 [6.5%]; Capital, \$116,246.83 [10.8%]. Total - \$1,073,631.84.

FUND BALANCE - (\$77,679.31)

1970-71 BUILDING FUND REVENUE -

Property Taxes, \$97,993.00 [92.0]; Other - \$8,543.60 [8.0%] (Rentals, \$1,346.56, Interest Income, \$3,515.66, Miscellaneous, \$3,681.38). Total - \$106,536.60.

EXPENDITURES -

Capital, \$15,872.73 [13.6%]; Supplies, Utilities and Rentals, \$101,045.69 [86.4%]. Total - \$116,918.42.

FUND BALANCE - (\$10,381.82)

NET FUND BALANCE - (\$88,061.13)

1971-72 EDUCATIONAL FUND REVENUE -

Property Taxes, \$462,792.00 [39.2%]; State Sources, \$616,041.04 [52.2%]; Federal Sources, \$17,778.41 [1.5%]; Other, \$84,182.48 [7.1%] (Charge-Backs, \$50,129.95, Interest Income, \$9,520.38, Tuition and Fees, \$24,532.15). Total - \$1,180,793.93.

EXPENDITURES -

Academic Salaries, \$730,682.60 [62.5%]; Non-Academic Salaries, \$292,042.35 [25.0%]; Supplies and Contractual Services, \$125,906.82 [10.8%]; Capital, \$20,253.97 [1.7%]. Total - \$1,168,885.74.

FUND BALANCE - \$11,908.19

1971-72 BUILDING FUND REVENUE -

Property Taxes, \$115,699.00 [93.0%]; Other, \$8,679.20 [7.0%] (Rentals, \$2,409.46, Interest Income, \$2,835.53, Miscellaneous, \$3,434.21). Total - \$124,378.20.

EXPENDITURES -

Capital, \$13,957.52 [12.5%]; Supplies, Utilities and Rentals, \$97,530.02 [87.5%]. Total - \$111,487.54.

FUND BALANCE - \$12,890.66

NET FUND BALANCE - \$24,798.85

PRESIDENT'S REPORT '73

'I know of no college where the morale is better than at RLC'

PUBLISHED FALL 1973

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On Sunday, June 4, 1973, as I walked across campus with our guest speaker for graduation, I was extremely pleased to read the caption, "IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR," on the glass-enclosed student bulletin board. I found out later it was Suzi Woolley, one of our 1973 graduates, who had been responsible for this short, colorful and forceful expression of thought. Suzi was a very active student in all aspects of campus life, in addition to being a very good student. These six words apparently "summed up" Suzi's feelings as she approached her departure from the college.

I was so pleased with Suzi's departing words that I decided it would be good to use them as the theme of my Annual Report for 1972-73. This, I believe, is appropriate because I can think of no better way to describe this past year, other than to say, "It Was a Very Good Year."

Each of the previous five years that I have been with Rend Lake College, I have attempted to analyze in my Annual Report our major strengths and weaknesses, or putting it another way, the areas of greatest development for which we could truly be proud, as well as the areas in which we have opportunity for growth and improvement.

In my last report I indicated that the area for greatest growth and improvement was in the realm of communications and proper involvement of people, including students. I am a firm believer in the principle that, if people can and will communicate freely and unemotionally regarding common problems, and are willing to assume the accompanying responsibility, those problems can and will be resolved to the satisfaction of the great majority.

We have worked hard on this matter this past year, and, while there is still much room for improvement, there has been remarkable progress. I have stated many times in recent

months that I know of no college where the morale is better than at Rend Lake College. I feel certain that the great majority of our Faculty, Students, Secretaries, Maintenance Personnel, Administrators and Board Members feel the same way.

Time after time, particularly the last half of the year, visitors almost without exception have commented as to the friendly, courteous and wholesome atmosphere on campus. For this we can all be proud.

In many other ways we also have reason to be proud.

In terms of physical facilities, even though we got a rather late start, it appears that we will probably be the first community college in the state to have completed our total Master Plan as originally conceived. In terms of finances we have also done very well. All the local share of construction costs (capital funds) have been paid, and we have a substantial balance on hand which, of course, is invested and drawing interest.

In operational funds we have also done well. However, I do feel that a word of caution is needed in this regard. We have expanded programs and added staff to the point that the unit cost per semester hour is in most cases considerably in excess of the income per semester hour. Fortunately, we have developed some surplus funds over the six-year period the college has been in operation. Consequently, we are in no immediate danger.

However, it stands to reason that the annual expenditures cannot continue to exceed annual income. The expenditures must be brought in balance with the potential income. There are a number of ramifications to this matter. The one basic question that has to be resolved is, "How comprehensive a program will the resources of this district justify?"

The most difficult problem to resolve in sparsely populated community college districts is that of trying to operate anything resembling

a comprehensive program. This is particularly true in districts such as Rend Lake College where the taxable wealth is also relatively low.

These conditions will require some very serious deliberations on the part of all of us during the next few years. It will be difficult to balance our program with potential income because it means either more students, less personnel or some combination of the two. However, if we all work together on this task, there is no question in my mind but that we will resolve the matter to the best degree possible.

Another area on which we must concentrate is that of public relations. Nationwide, enrollments in colleges and universities are either leveling off or declining. The same trend is evident at Rend Lake College. There are many reasons for this, but, since our mission is that of education, each of us must put forth our best efforts to encourage all the residents of our area to take advantage of the educational opportunities available to them.

We all need to radiate our enthusiasm in regard to the value of education. Most of our personnel recognize the importance of this trait and are doing a good job in respect to it, but there is always room for improvement.

Finally, may I say "Thank you all" for your efforts in making this past year a good year because truly "It Was a Very Good Year."

— Dr. James M. Snyder

[Editor's Note: The bulletin board alluded to by Dr. Snyder was erected outside the South Oasis during the 1972-73 academic year in response to a student suggestion. It was turned over to the student body for their use under the auspices of the Student Senate. According to a photo cutline in the President's Report, the sign "was much in evidence as it proclaimed student activities and affairs from day to day."]

★★★ ★★ ★★

THE COLLEGE . . . PURPOSES

In light of the College Philosophy [as stated in the preceding President's Report 1971-72], the Purposes of the college are . . .

- To provide university parallel instruction for students wishing to pursue curricula requiring professional training beyond the Associate Degree level.
- To provide occupational training for direct entry into the labor market.
- To provide opportunities for adult and continuing education.
- To provide community service through faculty and facilities.
- To provide an opportunity for growth and development for those students whose educational background does not qualify them for immediate entry into other curricula.
- To provide an opportunity for personal, educational and vocational counseling.

★★★ ★★★★★

THE ADMINISTRATION

Several significant modifications of administrative structure have taken place this year after considerable study and deliberation. One such move has been to delegate greater administrative responsibility where we believe the primary judgements in terms of employment of instructional staff, evaluation of staff and retention of or termination of staff should be made.

Another major change was the creation of a Department of Fine Arts, which includes Music, Art and Dance. Then, also with the retirement of Mr. (William) Myers, who had served as Chairman of the Math Department for a number of years, we combined the Math and Sciences into a single department. The Chairman of this newly organized department is Mr. Edward Kownacki. We have also brought the Agricultural and Industrial Technologies programs together as a department under the Chairmanship of Mr. Mark Kern.

★★★ ★★★★★

THE FACULTY

Under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Evelyn Claxton, the faculty was very active during the year in examining the policies and programs

of the college. Policies regarding enrollment of high school students, tutoring, publications, withdrawals, admissions and General Educational Development were approved by the Board of Trustees following careful deliberation by all groups.

Several honors were bestowed upon faculty members. Both Mrs. Eleanor Hall and Mr. William T. Brammeier were awarded fellowships for summer study in their respective fields. Dr. Eugene Estes and Mrs. Eleanor Hall were named as Outstanding Community College Instructors in the United States. Dr. Eugene Estes has been President of the Faculty Council for 1973-74.

★★★ ★★★★★

THE STUDENTS

The students at Rend Lake College are widely representative of the population of the district. It is natural, of course, that the great majority are in-district residents, though some do come in from other areas within the state. These people from out of district are principally in the vocational programs. All ages are represented.

Rend Lake College students are generally a responsible group, both in the use of equipment and facilities, and in their participation in college affairs. The Student Senate, representing the student body as a whole, has been effective in its relationship with Faculty, Administration and Board. Communication gaps, if they exist, are small. The student proposals and suggestions in the President's Council, where they are represented, have been sound and they have been helpful in operating the college.

Enrollments have leveled off in the past three years. This seems to be a national phenomenon, and it is likely to continue. A drop in enrollment is occurring in some colleges, and may happen at Rend Lake College as well.

★★★ ★★★★★

COLLEGE TRANSFER PROGRAM

According to information provided by Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, transfer students from Rend Lake College ranked No. 2 among all 4,288 such students from all 47 Illinois public two-year institu-

tions, eight private Illinois colleges and a number of out-of-state schools in terms of mean overall grade-point average (in comparison with those schools with 35 or more former students enrolled during 1972-73).

This represented the second year in a row for the No. 2 ranking by RLC transfers.

★★★ ★★★★★

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL PROGRAM

In the Vocational-Technical area, we have continued to expand the available offerings both on- and off-campus. This has increased the number of students enrolled in career programs.

During 1972-73, the Medical Secretary and Architectural Technology programs were added to the program offerings. Plans were also made to move the Automotive Mechanics program into facilities on-campus. This has been achieved by an addition to the present Maintenance Building.

Approval has been received from the IJCB and IBHE to initiate programs in Mining Technology and Corrections and Law Enforcement. These programs will begin Fall 1973.

The need for persons trained in the Health Occupations area continues to grow. This has led to the development of an open-curriculum program in Nursing. This will provide Licensed Practical Nurses with the opportunity to enter an Associate Degree Nursing program being initiated by the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market Consortium of which Rend Lake College is a member. A Director for this program will be employed to organize the program during the 1973-74 school year. Students will be enrolled in the Fall Semester 1974.

Much of the expansion envisioned, particularly in Law Enforcement, Mining Technology and Nursing, and (perhaps later) the Fire Science program, is through the cooperative efforts of SICCM; the consortium brings together Shawnee College, Southeastern Illinois College, John A. Logan College, Rend Lake College and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

★★★ ★★★★★

THE PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM

Considerable change statewide has been effected with the reclassification of all adult education. These courses are now termed GENERAL STUDIES and are placed in eight categories. Adult Education courses, formerly under the Dean of Adult and Community Services, have as general studies, been assigned to the Department Chairmen. The Chairmen now have all courses in their area of interest, both day and evening, whether college transfer credit, occupational degree or certificate credit or general studies credit. The Dean of Adult and Community Services, no longer in charge of these courses nor of the "Evening Program," has been redesignated Dean of Public Service. This move accurately reflects state usage of terms. He is responsible for Community Education, Community Services and Public Relations activities.

Community Education includes short courses, seminars, workshops, clinics and similar activities. Community Service includes consulting services, speaker's bureau, programs for the disadvantaged and other special projects. Some of the Public Service Projects follow . . .

In cooperation with the staff of the Anna State Hospital and the Illinois Department of Mental Health, John A. Logan College and Rend Lake College have been awarded grant funding from the State of Illinois for pilot programs for the disadvantaged former residents of Anna State Hospital and others from the community. These people, placed in shelter care homes under the supervision of the Hospital staff, are being given basic educational experiences under the grant. Located in Benton, the program is using classroom space provided by the United Methodist Church there. Five shelter care homes are sending about 80 persons for training. Response to this project is enthusiastic. It is anticipated the Shelter Care Project will be expanded and continued under state grant funding.

In other projects, the college has continued its support of the Rend Lake Civic Symphony. The Art Exhibit series has continued and will

be repeated year after year. The Archaeological exploration site of last year was not reopened because of high levels of Rend Lake student and faculty efforts in the Archaeological Exploration of the Rend Lake Area continued with site surveys. A Speaker's Bureau has been organized and has furnished speakers for a wide variety of organizations and occasions.

A major effort has been the Forest and Prairie Environmental Area in the northwest sector of the campus. In the spring of this year, Dr. (Eugene) Estes, with the assistance of Mr. (Julius) Swayne and numerous students, planted over 20,000 seedlings of some dozen species of trees. Most of these were planted by hand in blocks and by species. A relatively small number were set with the aid of machines as border plantings. Abnormally wet weather hampered operations and still is the cause of problems. Profuse weed growth is presently being reduced by painstaking methods. In the next year or two several thousand additional trees of many varieties will be randomly planted among those already growing to reach a total of one-hundred species, all but two or three native to the region. The sowing of native prairie grasses, long delayed by weather conditions, has been completed. It is important to recognize the tremendous effort expended by men of the U.S. and Illinois Departments of Conservation, particularly Mr. David Lightle, Mr. David Cooper and Mr. William Mestel.

An additional outreach to the people of the district, though not specifically in Public Services, is the summer Basketball Clinic. This program has been operated successfully by Mr. (Jim) Waugh, Chairman of the Department of Physical Education and Recreation, for two summers.

Other projects will develop as the college increases its capacity to serve outside the classroom in many ways.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE PHYSICAL PLANT

The physical plant has been maintained in excellent fashion by Mr. (Robert) Webb and his personnel.

Supervision of the work of various contractors and the moving of off-campus programs to their new locations at the college have demanded major efforts of the Maintenance people. Particularly the moving and temporary storage of the Automotive program from Benton and the Agriculture shops from Bonnie have been big tasks.

As Phase II buildings are completed, the responsibility placed on Maintenance will double over that of previous years. The fact that this expansion of their responsibility has been going on for some months at an increasing rate without a lowering of quality work on their part speaks well for the entire Maintenance staff.

[Phase II buildings - Administration Building, Learning Resource Center, North Oasis, Student Center and Vocational-Technical Building.]

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE BUDGET

Operating Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 1973 . . .

1972-73 EDUCATIONAL FUND REVENUE -

Property Taxes, \$426,175.00 [39%]; State Sources, \$490,148.14 [45%]; Federal Sources, \$15,402.58 [1%]; Other, \$163,969.18 [15%] (Charge-Backs, \$73,291.68, Interest Income, \$7,676.95, Tuition and Fees, \$70,333.49, Miscellaneous, \$12,667.06). Total - \$1,095,694.90.

EXPENDITURES -

Academic Salaries, \$743,552.39 [63%]; Non-Academic Salaries, \$231,607.29 [20%]; Supplies and Contractual Services, \$158,272.70 [14%]; Capital, \$40,928.46 [3%]. Total - \$1,174,360.84.

FUND BALANCE - - \$78,665.94

1972-73 BUILDING FUND

REVENUE -

Property Taxes, \$106,544.00 [48%]; State Apportionment, \$107,573.38 [49%]; Other, \$6,603.83 [3%] (Rentals, \$3,219.46, Interest Income, \$1,442.47, Miscellaneous, \$1,941.90). Total - \$220,721.21.

EXPENDITURES -

Salaries, \$75,957.45 [38%]; Capital, \$8,756.14 [4%]; Supplies, Utilities and Rentals, \$115,387.68 [58%]. Total - \$200,101.27.

FUND BALANCE - + \$20,619.94

NET OPERATING

FUND BALANCE - - \$58,046.00

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1974

Unbelievable progress ... 'For this we are very proud/pleased'

COPIED OCTOBER 15, 1974

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Annual Report is late in coming to you this year. There are several reasons for this lateness, but the primary one is that a number of other matters simply had to be given a higher priority.

Overall, we have made unbelievable progress on all fronts at Rend Lake College since the newly formed district came into being as of July 1, 1967. Visitors to our campus find it difficult to believe what they see, especially in regard to physical facilities, furnishings, instructional equipment, color coordination, etc.

When members of our staff visit other community colleges, both in the state and in other states, they generally come back with the feeling that they hadn't realized that things were so good here at Rend Lake College.

There can be no question but that our instructional staff is much stronger now than it has ever been. This is not to say that we ever had a weak staff, but the composite of formal courses and professional background held by our present staff is considerably greater than it has ever been since the district was formed. We also have a fine group of Secretarial, Clerical, Maintenance and Custodial personnel. Most of these people take genuine pride in their work and their college. For this we are very pleased.

Financially, we have been in good condition from the time the district was formed. To date, we have never had to borrow money or buy tax anticipation notes. That is a claim that very few educational institutions can make today. Program-wise, we have developed quite a comprehensive array of offerings.

Consequently, I reiterate that we have made unbelievable progress on all fronts during the past seven years. Incidentally, the general tone, or atmosphere, among all personnel, including students, is also unusually good. For all these things we are very proud.

★★★ ★★★★★

Even though we have made un-

believable progress, I feel it would be improper for me not to point out some concerns, however. Some people would call these problems; we prefer to call them challenges or opportunities.

One of the challenges is that the enrollment of the college has not matched our earlier projections that were established when we planned our present facilities. This results in a rather low percentage of utilization and, consequently, higher than average overhead costs.

We, of course, are not alone in this regard. The economic, social and political factors of our society have changed such as to bring about a leveling off of enrollments. In fact, some schools have even had a reduction in their enrollment.

We are fortunate in that regard, in that our enrollment has gradually increased but not in accord with the predictions that we had made earlier.

Information available to us would indicate enrollment of full-time students in the College Transfer program will probably continue to stabilize. At least, we can visualize no great increase in that particular program.

We feel the Vocational programs will continue to attract more students.

★★★ ★★★★★

The one area that, frankly, has the greatest challenge for us is the total evening operation, both credit courses and the whole array of community services. We have promoted one of our very capable individuals, Mr. Mark Kern, to the position as Dean of these services. There is a great potential in this area that has scarcely been tapped, and I feel confident that with Mr. Kern's leadership and enthusiasm we can anticipate a sizeable growth in this portion of our program.

While we need to expand services and programs when practical, we also need to examine very closely all the offerings that have been offered continuously for a period of years.

It is a common saying that has been passed down through the ages that no institution can be all things to all

people. Since this district was formed, we have broadened the scope of the program considerably. It is presently quite comprehensive in nature. In my opinion, we have reached the point where we must examine all offerings very carefully to determine the degree of comprehensiveness we can justify.

★★★ ★★★★★

That leads me to the next concern that I feel needs to be mentioned.

Even though to date we have been in good financial condition, we have reached the point where we must examine very carefully everything we do in terms of income and expenditures. Year before last our expenditures exceeded our income. Last year our expenditures exceeded our income by a greater amount than the year before. The budget for next year shows a greater deficit than last year.

During the formative years of the district we intentionally developed some reserves, knowing that our costs would be greater when we got onto the new campus. Those reserves, however, are dwindling to a rather small amount. It is obvious that no institution can continue expending more money than it receives. This is a major concern that I feel needs to be pointed out.

★★★ ★★★★★

In the way of possible solutions to this matter, I would hope that the state legislature might see fit to provide a greater allocation of state funding this next year, and I feel it is proper that they should do so. It should be emphasized, however, that we cannot expect any substantial increase in support from that source.

At this time, in my opinion, the residents of the area are supporting the college quite well through their local taxes. Frankly, I could not consider suggesting or recommending to the Board of Trustees any additional income from that source.

The tuition at the college is quite low. Our tuition at present is \$2.50 per semester hour. The average tuition in

(Continued at bottom of Page 49)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1974-75

Mining, Vo-Tech programs find homes, increasing interest

PUBLISHED SUMMER 1975

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A major portion of the last President's Report from Dr. James M. Snyder appears in the **Excellence in Leadership** section of this history.

Not part of the Leadership excerpt on President Snyder were some of his thoughts on community college governance at the state level . . .

"With regard to the state level boards, I would state first that the achievements at Rend Lake College would not have been possible without the assistance and cooperation of all these agencies and the staff members of these various agencies. Therefore, they deserve their fair share of credit.

"I have become very concerned, however, particularly in the last few years, about several trends that have developed. One is the rapid and constant turnover of personnel with whom we are required to work at the state level.

"The other concern is a sharp increase in detailed information required of us by these agencies for every aspect of the local operation. Our local administrative cost must inevitably increase proportionately to the amount of detailed information required by these agencies. That, of course, concerns me greatly, but the thing that concerns me even more is the increased control at the state level that accompanies this type of activity.

"This is a trend of the times brought about by the increase of demands for money from the public till by all institutions of higher education. Greater coordination at the state level has resulted, and justifiably so. However, there is a tendency for society to swing from one extreme to another in reacting to new developments and, in my opinion, the problem has already swung beyond center in regard to the so-called state coordination of community colleges in Illinois.

"Dr. Harold L. Emerson, in an article for the March/April issue of *AGB Reports*, states that, 'In the nature of bureaucratic systems, loose

coordination moves easily into tight coordination, and from that stage, by a process almost imperceptible, coordination is transmuted into control.' I feel that Illinois has moved well along in this process to the point that there is really very little control, at least on basic issues, at the local level.

"This, in my opinion, is the greatest threat to the continued viability of our program at Rend Lake College."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

Along with the College Philosophy [as stated in the President's Report 1971-72], the following nine Objectives have been selected. Although the stretch naturally varies among the curricula, each student should acquire

...

- An understanding of the basic principles of the society of which he is a part, of the privileges that the society offers him and of his obligations to the society.
- A sufficient command of his language to convey his thoughts to others and to interpret spoken and written thoughts of others.
- The development of skills and knowledge to lead to employment, further training or the upgrading of his capabilities.
- Sufficient mathematical skill to meet his daily needs.
- An understanding of broad principles of science which affect his daily life.
- A sufficient understanding of the principles of health to enable him to maintain a healthy mind in a healthy body.
- A sufficient development of his aesthetic senses to appreciate the beautiful, wherever it lies.
- A foundation for his own personal system of moral and ethical values.
- An understanding of the gains derived from a wise use of time.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL PROGRAM

Rend Lake College's Vocational and Technical programs enjoyed two years of growth and expansion, highlighted by the development of an innovative and highly successful Mining Technology program.

The Mining program started modestly and was conducted by part-time instructors on loan from area coal mining companies. Ardell Kimmel, Dean of Vocational and Technical Education, coordinated the program.

Rising enrollment persuaded the college Board to name a full-time Coordinator for the program and approve the construction of a building to house the program. In the 1974-75 school year, Brad Evilsizer was put in charge of Mining Technology and a facility was completed. Over \$250,000 was expended on the building and on the sophisticated equipment needed to train coal miners and mine equipment repairmen.

The program, which started with 15 students, was serving more than 50 by the Spring of 1975, and the college foresees ever-increasing interest in Mining Technology and related programs.

The completion of the Vocational-Technical Building on the Ina campus was another major step forward for the Vo-Tech Department. Its opening provided a home for such courses as Welding, Architectural Technology and Agriculture Mechanics, Production and Business.

The Practical Nursing program also found permanent quarters in the Science Building during the 1974-75 school year.

That same year saw the establishment of an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program offered through the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market; a Certificate program in Corrections and Law Enforcement, taught by part-time instructors, and an Adult Basic Education program initiated to prepare students for the college's General Equivalency Degree course.

In 1973-74, the college entered into a cooperative agreement with Richland Academy of Beauty Culture to offer Cosmetology courses at Mt. Vernon. At the same time, the college continued offering Cosmetology at its facility in Benton.

★★★ ★★ ★★

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

A formal Community Service program at Rend Lake College was initiated in the Fall of 1969 under the direction of Mr. James R. McGhee. Previous to that time a few evening classes had been offered under the direction of the Vocational Dean.

During his tenure, Mr. McGhee built a solid foundation of evening courses as indicated by the number of people served by evening courses during the Spring and Fall of 1973. He also initiated the "Shelter Care Project" which has expanded to approximately 150 people in four centers throughout the district.

TOTAL EVENING STUDENTS

	Spring	Fall
1973	421	489
1974	573	456
1975	765	

Due to health problems, Mr. McGhee resigned from his position during the 1973-74 school year. In the Fall of 1974, Mr. Mark S. Kern assumed the position. The major goals for the 1974-75 school year were to expand the evening offerings, initiate educational projects of a workshop, seminar and conference nature and to better acquaint the citizens of the college district with the college.

With the Dean of Community Services and the Department Chairmen working in close cooperation, the evening program reached an all-time high in the Spring of 1975 by offering 80 classes and serving 7645 people. This represented a 33 percent increase over the previous enrollment high. For the first time the evening program began to rival the daytime program where 886 people were served.

Educational projects held for the first time included a Cheerleading Clinic, Secretarial Clinic, Quilting Clinic and a Small Business Clinic.

Various community groups were on-campus as invited guests of the college included various 4-H activities, Jefferson County Annual Farm Bureau Meeting, the Benton and Mt. Vernon Chamber of Commerce Dinners, Hobbs and Son John Deere Day and the King City Dinner Club.

Many service clubs in the college district were invited to have their night on-campus. Included were the Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary and the Veterans of Foreign War.

The area of community service is one that received increased emphasis by the college during the 1974-75 school year. This emphasis will continue and considerable expansion is planned for the near future.

★★★ ★★ ★★

THE ADMINISTRATION

The administration of Rend Lake College oversaw and took part in a number of program and personnel changes in the last two years.

One new department was created in December of 1974, with Secretarial Science, Accounting, Banking, Real Estate and Economics all gathered together in a Business Department. Myron Foley, Mathematics and Economics Instructor, was named Chairman of the new department.

An Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program was initiated in the Fall of 1973 through the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market, and Patricia Stiern served as Coordinator.

Two Department Chairmen assumed their new roles during the last two years. Shirley McHaney became Chairman of the Practical Nursing program when Mrs. Mary Ksycki retired, and Carroll Turner took charge of the Agricultural-Industrial Department when Mark Kern was named Dean of Community Services.

The college's Mining Technology program was opened in the Fall of 1973 and has rapidly grown under the supervision of Dean of Vocational-Technical Education Ardell Kimmel and Mining Technology Coordinator Brad Evilsizer.

★★★ ★★ ★★

THE FACULTY

Three veteran instructors retired in 1975 after leaving their marks on countless students and colleagues at Rend Lake College. Reading Instructor Lois Mackey, Automotive Mechanics Instructor Robert McKemie and Social Science Instructor Arthur Samford ended their careers of service during the year.

The college's Fine Arts Department acquired two new members during the past two years. Keith Drayton was brought on as a Music Instructor in 1973, and a year later Susan Kolojeski was named to teach the school's Art classes.

Other new faces on the Rend Lake College faculty belonged to Sandra Van Cleve, who joined the Practical Nursing program in 1973, and Virginia Robinson, who became a full-time Cosmetology Instructor in 1974 after a stint as a part-time teacher.

★★★ ★★ ★★

THE STUDENTS

Rend Lake College's student body is an ever-growing, ever-diversifying collection of human beings. Each new program or course that is offered brings in more students and assures the continuing diversity and complexity of the student body.

Every corner of the college district is represented, as are all ages. The students' educational and occupational goals likewise cover the entire spectrum.

As there is diversity in the student body, there is diversity among the clubs and organizations on campus. Students can participate in planning policies and events while serving on the Student Senate, or they may try their creative skills on the staffs of the student newspaper, *The Pressing Times*, or on the "Tarn" yearbook.

The college's Fine Arts Department is always active, and musical and theatrical productions dot the school calendar. Other students stay in shape playing baseball, basketball and golf for the college teams.

There are clubs and organizations for nearly every constituency: Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Phi Theta Kappa; Student Education Association; Ag Club; Lettermen's Club; Veterans Club; Student Organization for Black Unity, and others.

The 1974-75 school year proved to be a record-breaking one, as the Fall enrollment hit 1,317 and Spring enrollment hit an all-time high of 1,651.

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COLLEGE TRANSFER PROGRAM

While initiating and expanding

Vocational and Technical programs in recent years, Rend Lake College has still maintained a college transfer program that is annually among the best in Illinois.

A survey by Southern Illinois University during the 1974-75 school year showed that graduates of Rend Lake College make better grades at SIU than do the graduates of 40 of 47 Illinois community colleges. The same survey showed that students actually fared better in terms of grades by starting their college careers at Rend Lake College instead of at SIU.

The college's transfer curriculum, based in such departments as Communications, Social Science, Fine Arts and Mathematics and Science, covers enough courses to give the two-year student a wide range of choices and broad educational base.

★★★ ★★★★★

THE PHYSICAL PLANT

Years of construction and adjust-

ments came to an end with the completion of the five Phase II buildings on the Rend Lake College campus. New buildings completed and occupied in 1973-1974 were the Administration Building, Vocational-Technical Building, North Oasis, Student Center and Learning Resource Center.

Campus expansion enabled administration offices to move out of the Academic Building; the library to move out of the Science Building; Music and Art classes to move out of the Gymnasium. It also made it possible to offer the students cafeteria service in the Student Center. Vocational and Technical programs moved from Benton, Bonnie and Mt. Vernon.

★★★ ★★★★★

THE BUDGET

Operating Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 1975 . . .

1974-75 OPERATING FUND

REVENUE - Property Taxes, \$639,587.18 [40.1%]; State Sources, \$808,227.89 [50.6%];

Federal Sources, \$24,362.97 [1.5%]; Other, \$123,830.61 [7.8%] (Rentals, \$14,986.80, Interest Income, \$9,038.06, Tuition and Fees, \$90,703.30, Miscellaneous, \$9,102.45). Total - \$1,596,008.65.

EXPENDITURES BY OBJECT - Salaries, \$1,209,206.46 [72.6%]; Employee Benefits, \$23,125.38 [1.4%]; Contractual, \$39,709.06 [2.4%]; General Supplies and Materials, \$111,386.81 [6.7%]; Travel and Meeting Expenses, \$21,063.52 [1.3%]; Fixed Charges, \$22,198.54 [1.3%]; Plant Utilities, \$139,729.49 [8.4%]; Capital Outlay, \$20,100.43 [1.2%]; Other, \$79,120.20 [4.8%]. Total - \$1,665,639.89.

EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION -

Instructional, \$905,269.00 [54.4%]; Learning Resource Center, \$85,011.92 [5.1%]; Public Service, \$53,872.60 [3.2%]; Student Services, \$72,778.52 [4.4%]; General Administration, \$88,869.14 [5.4%]; Operation and Maintenance of Plant, \$301,382.88 [18.1%]; General Institutional, \$158,455.83 [9.5%]. Total - \$1,665,639.89.

OPERATING DEFICIT - (\$69,631.24)

Report 1974 (cont.)

the community colleges of the state is now approximately \$9 per semester hour. This is one source of funding that I think we need to re-evaluate.

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Salaries are another matter we need to look at very carefully. By far the greatest expenditure we have at the college is that for salaries. I think that we must look very carefully at the individual increases in salaries that have been granted since the district was formed in comparison with the recognized rate of inflation that has taken place during that same period of time, any changes of responsibility of various individuals, additional preparations, etc., before granting any further across-the-board increases.

Another area we need to look at and concern ourselves with is that of becoming more service-oriented. Some have become very conscious about this matter, and an increasing number are becoming more conscious about it.

This is something, however, that ALL of us must accept as part of our responsibility.

Studies over the years have indicated a very close correlation between financial return of individuals and the amount of education they have completed. From this point of view alone, we need to encourage as many people as possible to further their own education. This will be to their own advantage as well as to the advantage of the local area, and it certainly would be beneficial to the college.

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Finally, I wish to emphasize that any of these concerns I have mentioned I feel can be resolved in a reasonably short time span if we all work together and cooperate with one theme in mind; namely, that what is in the best long-range interest of the total college and community will also be in the best long-range interest of all of us as individuals.

Thank you very much.

- J.M. Snyder, President

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THE BUDGET

Operating Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 1974 . . .

1973-74 OPERATING FUND

REVENUE -

Property Taxes, \$613,977.62 [44.3%]; State Sources, \$673,618.41 [48.6%]; Federal Sources, \$1,859.01 [0.1%]; Other, \$96,679.26 [7.0%] (Rentals, \$2,155.56, Interest Income, \$9,405.25, Tuition and Fees, \$82,649.95, Miscellaneous, \$2,468.50). Total - \$1,386,134.30.

EXPENDITURES BY OBJECT -

Salaries, \$1,086,332.30 [72.9%]; Employee Benefits, \$22,726.71 [1.5%]; Contractual, \$39,449.95 [2.7%]; General Supplies and Materials, \$101,907.41 [6.8%]; Travel and Meeting Expenses, \$15,088.09 [1.0%]; Fixed Charges, \$24,087.48 [1.6%]; Plant Utilities, \$86,434.94 [5.8%]; Capital Outlay, \$32,156.65 [2.2%]; Other, \$82,989.12 [5.6%]. Total - \$1,491,172.65.

EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION -

Instructional, \$816,905.15 [54.8%]; Learning Resource Center, \$75,513.24 [5.1%]; Public Service, \$44,473.27 [3.0%]; Student Services, \$67,612.56 [4.5%]; General Administration, \$88,025.27 [5.9%]; Operation and Maintenance of Plant, \$234,409.63 [15.7%]; General Institutional, \$164,233.53 [11.0%]. Total - \$1,491,172.65.

OPERATING DEFICIT - (\$105,038.35)

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FALL 1979

Next challenge ... 'What can we do to be of greater service?'

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 1979

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of my thoughts and observations as part of this report to the Board of Trustees and the public concerning major events at Rend Lake College during the past year.

Many things have transpired since my arrival a little over a year ago. A new Dean of Instruction had to be selected immediately; 18 faculty members expressed dissatisfaction with their contracts for the current year; preparations had to begin for a Special Focus Visitation by the North Central Association to evaluate the college's management decision-making process; it became apparent repairs to the Phase II Heating and Chilled Mechanical System had to be initiated or a serious break could result causing half the school to be shut down, and throughout the year the administration was faced with important personnel and policy decisions. The past 12 months unquestionably have been filled with challenges; however, steady progress toward bringing the college to a normal operation – due to the hard work of a lot of people – typified the year.

Issues were addressed and workable solutions set in motion. Progress was made in the above areas as well as in many other areas. Examples of this progress are evident through the development of a salary schedule and procedures for placing faculty on that schedule, which helped to eliminate the conflict between various factions of the faculty in the past; through the development of goals and objectives for each instructional and service area, with a responsible person identified in each area; with the realization of a budget surplus at the end of the fiscal year due to a larger enrollment than expected plus improved management of staff and class scheduling, and by the success of the college, with the help of an aggressive Board of Trustees and support from legislators, in obtaining inclusion in a bill that

is now before the Governor which would provide 100 percent funding of repairs to the Phase II Heating and Chilled Mechanical System. In addition, when college personnel visited in the community and posed the question, "What can we do to be of greater service?" one response came from the mining industry asking Rend Lake College to expand several programs in order to meet its needs.

Growth definitely is in our planning for the approaching year. Allied Health, Mining and Agriculture represent some of the occupational programs designate as growth areas. A public events series designed to bring performing artists before the public at Rend Lake College is planned. Remedial and developmental education needs will be emphasized through the establishment of a Basic Skills Learning Center. Another goal for the coming year is to involve the community more in its college through the establishment of a Foundation.

Along with our optimism, we must exercise caution in evaluating all growth potential. Particular attention will be given to the evaluation of instructional and service programs in order to phase out those programs no longer productive or alter those programs needing modifications to keep up with the changing times.

Our efforts the past year have focused upon providing quality programs aimed at helping people. Whether it is through programs which prepare students for vocations, programs which prepare students for transfer to senior institutions, programs to help individuals develop areas of personal interest or programs to help students achieve a high school equivalency certificate, quality is the underlying principle we strive for at Rend Lake College.

In closing, let me point out that when I visited the area as a candidate for the Presidency of Rend Lake College and spent time discussing the college, community and future, I discovered a very enthusiastic, sup-

portive group of people committed to Rend Lake College and what it could provide the area. After having been here a year, I find that support and interest exist on an even greater scale than I first imagined. It is truly a privilege to be among the fine people of Southern Illinois.

Sincerely, Dr. Harry J. Braun

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ENROLLMENT

Rend Lake College is bucking a national trend. While student populations are said to be on the decline, according to most reports, enrollment figures the past year for the Ina-based institution would seem to indicate just the opposite is true locally.

Both full-time and part-time student enrollments showed an increase during the 1978-79 academic year, with an overall growth of 14 percent.

Total enrollment for Fall Semester '78 was 3,806, or 468 more than the previous year. The same was true for Spring '79, where enrollment in a year's time went from 3,905 to 4,452.

That meant a total enrollment for the 1978-79 school year of an all-time high of 8,258, or a 14 percent increase from the previous year. The total represents a duplication of many students enrolled both semesters.

Included in those figures are 5,216 students enrolled in classes through the Community Services Office.

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FOUNDERS DAY

It was a cold, wind-blown gathering which assembled March 6, 1969, in a muddy field, a nearby lake-to-be no more than a mirage at the time. Yet reference was made that day to those who dared to dream as a "dedicated group starting something that will become a legacy."

So it must have been a heart-warming experience 10 years later, when many of those same individuals returned April 6, 1979, for a special Founders Day recognition dinner on a 350-acre campus of Rend Lake College ... their legacy.

The dinner, held in the Student Center on a site which now boasts 12 permanent buildings, was attended by more than 30 invited guests and their spouses representing the many civic-minded citizens who served as members of the College Steering Committee or members of the Board of Trustees from 1967-78.

That dedicated group included four after-dinner speakers who shared personal reflections – Dr. J.L. Buford, a nationally recognized educator and retired Superintendent of the Mt. Vernon elementary school system; Dr. Howard Rawlinson, the highly respected former Dean of the college and of Mt. Vernon Community College, and Dr. Curtis Parker (Mt. Vernon) and the late Melvin Farlow (McLeansboro), both Trustees in the college's formative years.

Buford reminisced about his visits with Dr. Allen Y. Baker in Pinckneyville and how Baker supported the concept of a college located on the shore of then non-existent Rend Lake.

Rawlinson told of how the founders took the best of various concepts of junior and community colleges and developed an institution with a strong technical, vocational and baccalaureate base.

Both Farlow and Parker recalled the overwhelming approval when 89 percent of the district-wide voters approved the establishment of a comprehensive community college.

"Your dreams and hard work made Rend Lake College a reality 12 years ago and shaped it into what it is today," Dr. Harry J. Braun, RLC President, told those assembled.

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EVALUATIONS

Rend Lake College welcomed two major evaluation teams to its campus in recent months and passed each test with flying colors.

Representatives of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools revisited the institution in the spring and found a significant change in attitude since its previous visit a year and a half before.

The organization which accredits over 800 postsecondary institutions

and over 4,300 schools in the 19-state North Central region made its normal evaluation of the college in November 1977 but found the college's decision-making process was not working effectively. At that time, a considerable number of faculty members indicated to the evaluation team learning and teaching were being adversely affected by dissension on-campus.

It was recommended then that a special North Central evaluation team return in Spring 1979 to determine if these problems had been corrected.

The latest vote of confidence from the accreditation group noted a definite change in the climate of the college and the atmosphere in which decisions were being made, as well as a positive faculty attitude that prevailed. The team also recommended the college be visited henceforth on a normal five-year schedule.

A period of stability and continuity is needed by the college at the present time, the report added.

Specific educational courses underwent a study in March by 15 professionals representing the Illinois Office of Education's Department of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education.

"The evaluation team found a positive commitment to serving the individual needs of students and the community," the head of the DAVTE team said.

According to their follow-up report, "The college occupational program is characterized by major strengths. The most significant strength is the comprehensiveness and quality of program offerings, and the high percentage of the college's students enrolled in the occupational courses. This indicates community acceptance."

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STUDENT SUCCESS

If student success is the name of the educational game, then Rend Lake College evidently is winning. Graduates continue to do the college proud.

A recent follow-up study of students who transferred to four-year schools in 1973 from the state's 50 community colleges places Rend Lake

College near the head of its class.

The study by the Illinois Community College Board revealed a 3.14 grade-point average (on a 4.0-point scale) for the 88 RLC students checked, second only to a 3.15 GPA achieved by transfers from Rock Valley College in Rockford.

Likewise, among students examined recently for certification as Emergency Rescue Technicians, more passed (44) from RLC than from any of the other 14 groups representing community colleges and fire departments around the state.

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DR. ALLEN Y. BAKER

Citing his "outstanding service to Rend Lake College, 1967 through 1979," administrators gathered April 20 with statewide educational leaders at a dinner honoring Dr. Allen Y. Baker.

A bronze plaque was unveiled at that time naming the college's Administration Building in honor of Dr. Baker, one of the leaders in establishing Rend Lake College and a member of the Board of Trustees since its inception.

Baker chose not to run for reelection earlier in the year.

Higher education did not lose a valued participant, however. Following his retirement from the RLC Board, four years of which were spent as its Chairman, Dr. Baker was appointed by Gov. James Thompson to a six-year term beginning July 1 on the Illinois State Scholarship Commission, and the Illinois Community College Trustees Association named him an Honorary Board Member at its annual meeting in Springfield.

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TREATMENT PLANT

A 2 1/2-foot tall traveling trophy will be on display during the coming year in the Administration Building thanks to Robert Webb, Director of the Physical Plant, and his staff.

Rend Lake College was presented the award for having the best waste water treatment plant in the state for similar institutions.

★★★ ★★ ★★

INA STATE BANK

You can take this to the bank . . .

When the Ina State Bank opened its facilities August 15 on the Rend Lake College campus, it was unique to say the least. The on-campus facility is the first of its kind in the state of Illinois and very possibly the nation.

The Student Center facility offers all of the banking services provided by the main office in downtown Ina.

★★★ ★★ ★★

JAZZ BAND

Mexico rocked to the peppery sounds of the Rend Lake College Jazz Band during an eight-day visit the middle of April. The 22-member ensemble was one of seven U.S. groups selected to attend the Fiesta Musical Mexicana, the first Illinois band on the community college level ever invited to compete in the international Musical Olympics. RLC brought back a bronze medal as the only jazz band to rank. Highlight of the trip were six concerts in three cities – Oaxtepec, the government-owned vacation center, Jojvtla and Mexico City.

The RLC Jazz Band, which held fund-raising concerts to help pay for half of the venture, was directed by Courtney Cox. Instructor Larry Phifer also accompanied the group.

★★★ ★★ ★★

ATHLETICS

The Women's Volleyball Team became the first Rend Lake College athletic team to qualify for a state tournament when it did so in the fall, but it did not take long to find company. The Tennis squad earned a state playoff berth in the spring.

Coach John Kretz saw his spikers finish second in the Southern Illinois College Conference and then qualify for the state finals in Rockford with a runner-up finish in the sectional.

The No. 2 Doubles team of Tim Morris and Bret Braden won its first-round match to score a point for the Warrior Tennis reps in the state meet. Coach David Patton's crew was 7-2 in dual meets and then placed second in the NJCAA Sectional to Kaskaskia.

RLC Basketball and Cheerleading squads brought home top honors from the eight-team Lincoln Land

Holiday Tournament in Springfield. Center Jerry Wilson paced Coach Jim Waugh's championship team and was named the tournament's "Most Valuable" Big Player, teammate Doug Creel joined him on the All-Tournament Team and the Warrior cheerleaders were chosen "Most Outstanding" among the participants. The cagers finished 18-11.

Freshman Scott Wagner was named First-Team All-State Catcher after hitting .373 for the Baseball Warriors. He played in the annual All-Star series May 22 at Wrigley Field.

★★★ ★★ ★★

G.E.D.

Enrollment in the college's General Educational Development (GED) program more than tripled during the past year. That speaks highly for the recently named Coordinator of the state and federally funded program, Pam Sharp. And the same is true of test results the past year . . . 87.3 percent of the RLC students who went on to take the GED exam passed.

A total of 157 adults was enrolled in GED courses Spring Semester, compared to just 54 the year before and 42 during the Fall Semester.

Purpose of the program is to provide persons with less than a high school education an opportunity to increase math/reading skills and to pursue the high school equivalency certificate.

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FINE ARTS WEEK

The Fine Arts are alive, witness the week-long activities in late April.

The entire Arts and Communications Department cooperated to bring high school students and other people from the community together with RLC students and staff for art lectures and workshops, films, a poetry reading and workshop, musical performances, an oral interpretation presentation, a piano workshop and the first performance in this area by a professional dance company.

Rend Lake College's newly formed drama group, "The Company," gave a free demonstration in the College Theatre, followed the next evening by the nationally known Hubbard Street

Dance Company from Chicago to cap off Fine Arts Week April 23-28.

★★★ ★★ ★★

FACULTY

Dr. Richard Doherty, who teaches Social Science courses at Rend Lake College, spent eight weeks at a summer seminar hosted by Columbia University in New York City following his selection by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Four Instructors were recipients of RLC Mini Grants, funds which were set aside as incentive for members of the faculty and staff with innovative projects to improve the teaching and learning environment.

Sandra Van Cleve and Karen Muench spent their summer producing videotapes on "Nursing Laboratory Procedures."

Math Teacher Richard Perrachione received construction money for his "Dancing Curves," models of conic sections used in Analytic Geometry.

Wayne Arnold of the Physical Education Department used his grant to pay travel expenses incurred over Spring Break while touring Aerobic Centers in Dallas, TX, and Tulsa, OK.

★★★ ★★ ★★

THE BUDGET

Operating Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 1979 . . .

REVENUE -

[Education Fund + Building Fund = Total]

State, \$1,370,183 + \$338,853 = \$1,709,036 [50.8%]; Local (Property Taxes, Fees, Tuition), \$1,282,025 + \$301,300 = \$1,583,325 [47.1%]; Federal, \$18,381 + \$0 = \$18,381 [.6%]; Other, \$32,172 + \$19,945 = \$52,117 [1.6%]. Total - \$2,702,761 + \$660,098 = \$3,362,859.

EXPENSES -

Salaries, \$1,974,810 + \$235,763 = \$2,210,572 [69.6%]; Employee Benefits, \$55,925 + \$0 = \$55,925 [1.8%]; Contractual Services, \$117,475 + \$37,991 = \$155,466 [4.9%]; Supplies, \$150,342 + \$52,780 = \$203,122 [6.4%]; Travel, \$61,909 + \$4,604 = \$66,513 [2.1%]; Utilities, \$0 + \$252,767 = \$252,767 [8.0%]; Capital, \$42,224 + \$0 = \$42,224 [1.3%]; General, \$86,604 + \$42,119 = \$128,723 [4.1%]; Contingency, \$26,354 + \$36,653 = \$63,007 [2.0%]. Total - \$2,515,642 + \$662,677 = \$3,178,319.

THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 1979-80

Braun: Emphasis on major Goals and Accomplishments

EXCERPTS FROM PUBLICATION FALL 1980

Need ♦ To develop a system of program evaluation in order to judge program effectiveness, student accomplishments, staffing needs and other related factors.

A procedure for identifying strengths and weaknesses of individual programs or areas of study was established the past year in order to insure program quality. First of all, an Evaluation Committee was formed, comprised of the three-member Curriculum Committee representing campus-wide faculty, the Dean of Instruction, Department Chairpersons and the Vocational-Technical Dean when appropriate. Its function is threefold: to see if a program or area of study is meeting its state objectives; to determine if those objectives are worthwhile to students and the community, and to gauge what priority it should receive in regard to existing or potential programs. Or, in other words, "Is it doing what it says it is doing?" and "Is it worth doing?" Tentative plans call for the evaluation of at least two programs – a series of courses which lead to either a certificate or degree – annually. An evaluation the past year resulted in the college dropping its Operating Room Technician program, which had no problem finding students who wanted to enter the field but did have considerable difficulty placing them in the local job market following graduation; when a survey of area hospitals showed this problem would continue, the program was dropped.

★★★ ★★

Need ♦ To identify the special learning and development needs of district residents.

One of Rend Lake College's objectives is to establish activities and/or courses for selected target groups. Perhaps the major accomplishment in this regard during the past year was the establishment and phenomenal growth of the Developmental Skills Center, which consolidates a series of related but heretofore separate programs and classes which benefit students in the

remedial/developmental stages of learning. For the gifted student, RLC again served as the site for a special Franklin County Gifted Cooperative program for grade school students. College representatives continued to maintain close contacts with members of community agencies, industry, public schools and other community resources as well, including close ties with such mining-related coal companies as Inland Steel and Old Ben. Off-campus classes were offered in Benton, Christopher, McLeansboro, Mt. Vernon, Pinckneyville, Sesser-Valier, Wayne City, Woodlawn and Zeigler-Royalton.

★★★ ★★

Need ♦ To pay particular attention to the development of faculty and staff; providing a wide range of development activities.

The philosophy of our Faculty Development program, according to Dean of Instruction Mark Kern, is to meet the varied needs of the individual rather than the group, realizing these needs will be different and unique. Toward this end, mini-grants were awarded for the second year in a row, more faculty travel was encouraged through a reimbursement program, a new sabbatical leave policy was adopted and a professional development grant established. The sabbatical leave plan developed by the Faculty Development Committee expands the old policy and encourages professional development by reducing the length of service required as a prerequisite and liberalizing remuneration during the leave of absence; two members of the staff, Music Instructor Larry Phifer and Librarian Imogene Book, took advantage of this new policy to work toward their Doctorate degrees. The Professional Development Grant helps encourage and pay for expenses incurred attending conventions and workshops, internships, specialized training and individual work projects, primarily at times when the college is not in session. In addition, the policy was changed to encourage full-time

faculty members to instruct more evening and off-campus classes by receiving expense allowances.

★★★ ★★

Need ♦ To maintain an open and positive communication flow with all segments of the college community.

A well-informed Board of Trustees is essential if it is to be actively involved relative to college policy and related activities. Community College District No. 521 is indeed blessed with an active Board. Re-elected to the Board in April were Dr. Richard Simpson (Benton) and Everett Thompson (Sesser). When the new Board was reorganized, Joe McClure (Mt. Vernon) was elected its Chairman, Dr. Allan Patton (Zeigler) its Vice Chairman and Marvin Scott (Belle Rive) its Secretary. Other members are Joe Scrivner (Mt. Vernon) and Rich Herrin (Benton). Doug Dunbar (Benton) served as the non-voting student member during the 1979-80 academic year, with Brad Rainwater (Wayne City) elected by peers to succeed him for 1980-81. Donald Musick was reappointed Board Attorney and B.J. "Skip" Witunski as Treasurer. Dr. Patton served as the delegate to the Illinois Community College Trustees Association. In addition to regular correspondence and individual meetings with the College President and regular Board of Trustees meetings which are open to the public the third Tuesday of each month, a Board Workshop was held in October 1979 with members of the administration.

★★★ ★★

Need ♦ To improve the collection and use of institutional data.

The college entered into a contract with Midwestern Services, Limited to maintain student and registration information in its computer. This will enable RLC in the future to have access to more up-to-date information regarding the registration process and eventually will serve as a data bank for various student identifications, facts and figures.

★★★★ ★★★★★

Need ▸ To replace or repair the heating and chilled mechanical system in Phase II construction.

The Capital Development Board released \$80,000 for architect and planning fees to be used in correcting construction deficiencies which have existed since the second phase of the campus was built in 1975. Hired to do this initial planning was Phillips Swager Associates, Inc. of Peoria. In the meantime, boilers had to be re-tubed during the past year due to the excessive leaking. As the 1979-80 academic year came to a close, the college was still awaiting funding from state resources and meetings with area legislators were planned in hopes of speeding up this process.

★★★★ ★★★★★

Need ▸ To initiate a preventive maintenance program to identify problem areas and establish replacement schedules.

The Board of Trustees accepted a proposal by the Honeywell Preventive Maintenance Manager Program on a two-year basis. The "Manager" will provide Bob Webb, Director of the Physical Plant, with a task assignment schedule for all mechanical equipment on the RLC campus; in turn, he will assign maintenance personnel specific tasks to help prevent the breakdown of these systems. The "Manager" likewise will record all repair and preventive maintenance data for future use.

★★★★ ★★★★★

Need ▸ To conduct follow-up studies of students in order to determine student satisfaction with their experiences at RLC.

A questionnaire was mailed to 1979 graduates; 98 responses were received, indicating such information as the following:

- Instruction in Occupational areas was rated Very Good or Good by 53 of 77 indicating the question was applicable; Non-Occupational Instruction was rated Very Good or Good by 48 of 72 said it applied; Library Services were considered Very Good by 32 former students and Good by 35.
- Fifty-one persons indicated their community college education was

Very Helpful in preparation for a specific job; over 80 percent of those responding listed as either Very Helpful or Somewhat Helpful in terms of Development of Ability to Think Critically, Improvement of Personal Relationships with Others and Development of More Effective Communication Skills.

- The primary objective in attending RLC for 50 of those graduates was to prepare for a future job; another 34 said it was to receive course work for transfer. Of those numbers, 60 indicated the college was Very Successful in helping them meet that objective.
- Of 35 full-time students and six part-time students currently, 23 lost no credits in transferring and only two lost more than six hours.
- Of the 38 currently employed full-time and 23 part-timers, 44 indicated they were working in fields Related Closely to their college education.

★★★★ ★★★★★

Need ▸ Other needs were met in a variety of ways during the 1979-80 academic year, considering . . .

- Dr. Harry Braun, RLC President, and Board of Trustees Chairman Joe McClure have met on a regular basis with Illinois politicians through a "Legislative Advocacy" project developed cooperatively by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association and Presidents Council.
- A salary schedule for the current year was established with the cooperation of the faculty, with the pay scale for a first-year instructor at the low end of the range increasing from \$12,000 to \$13,500. This increase is 9.8 percent over the state average of \$12,300 for FY80, and the Board agreed to pay half of the faculty member's retirement fees.
- A physical inventory of capital items over \$100 was conducted by the American Appraisal Company; items were identified and tagged for insurance purposes.
- Gary Wade was named Chairman of the Mining Department and the Audio-Visual Department and Learning Resource Center were incorporated under the direction of David Patton, while Shirley McHaney was appointed to the new position of

Coordinator of Nursing and Richard Heaton assumed the role of Acting Department Chairman in Science, Health and Physical Education.

- The Jefferson County Circuit Court and Fifth District Appellate Court of Illinois both upheld a Board of Trustee decision not to recognize a Teachers Union as sole bargaining agent in matters of salary and general welfare.
- Dr. Braun and Mining Department Chairman Gary Wade were among individuals representing the coal industry and educational institutions who met in December with Vice President of the United States Walter Mondale
- The "land laboratory" operated by agricultural classes at the college reported a net income of \$5,348.62 following payment made on a previously made loan.
- Approval was given for the continuation of the Honeywell BOSS system, which controls temperatures of campus buildings through computers based elsewhere. The college experienced a \$26,903.40 cost avoidance with this system the first year, thus paying for 83 percent of the capital outlay.
- College officials are still awaiting word on a \$5.2 million grant submitted for the construction of a simulated mine area above ground and additional facilities.

- Dr. Harry J. Braun, RLC President

★★★★ ★★★★★

MINING TRAINER

Mining students at Rend Lake College are really having to dig more nowadays, even though a one-of-a-kind teaching device is making life much simpler.

Since January, students and faculty alike have benefited from the presence of a part-task continuous miner, a computerized trainer on loan from its developer, McDonnell Douglas Corporation.

The project, which was funded by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Mines, is something special even to a department which is nothing short of something special itself, considering the tremendous growth in six years from eight students and one part-time instructor to a program

which serves more than 3,500 students annually and boasts almost one-third of the college's entire faculty.

The welcome "guest" consists of a simulated continuous miner control panel and digital computer hookup. As a result, the student-operator is able to follow his/her progress through the layout of an imaginary mine while viewing realistic front and rear pictures which were taken in an actual underground setting and are projected on two large screens. This is accompanied by the sounds an operator would experience down below.

"Personally, I think this is one of the greatest things ever to happen to the Mining Department," Instructor Dwight Dame commented.

"Now we'll be able to share with the students many of the things they will be exposed to underground. To my knowledge, this is the only such training device of its kind to be made and computerized."

Rend Lake College was selected as the training site for the computerized continuous miner thanks to a concerted effort on the part of several college officials.

Technical advice for the course content to be taught during a validation testing period was solicited from members of the RLC Mining faculty, along with the training staffs of the Inland Steel Coal Co. in Sesser and the Old Ben Coal Co. in Benton. The two coal companies made their facilities available for the collection of task analysis data relative to C.M. operations, while Rend Lake College provided the students and facilities required for formative evaluation of the preliminary course materials as they were developed.

"After taking this course, a person should be able to go below and perform functions required of an underground miner more efficiently and safely," Dame said. "We have never had anything like this before, nothing really practical to provide a hands-on situation" when it comes time to teach students how to "dig" coal.

★★★ ★★ ★★

R.L.C. FOUNDATION

At least 20 students will vouch for the fact Rend Lake College's Founda-

tion has been quite active during the past year, or since the not-for-profit support group was reactivated at an organizational meeting in November.

The Foundation was established to help promote and maintain educational, scientific and cultural endeavors on behalf of Rend Lake College but had remained virtually inactive since it was incorporated in August 1967.

"Active" has become the Foundation's byword under the capable leadership of Harold W. "Hank" Hannah, a resident of Texico who has practiced law in Jefferson County since his retirement as a professor at the University of Illinois. Hannah was elected to the position of Foundation President at the organizational meeting, along with Vice President Howard L. Payne (Benton) and Secretary Marian Farlow (McLeansboro).

Later in the academic year, Dr. Carl Lincoln Schweinfurth (Mt. Vernon) was appointed Chair on the Foundation's Financial Development Committee and Russell Monroe (Dahlgren) was named Chair for the Membership Development Committee.

Dr. Curtis Parker (Mt. Vernon), before turning the gavel over to Hannah, told supporters, "Foundations are here to do good."

The RLC Foundation seems determined to prove that statement accurate.

Nineteen of those students who will no doubt vouch for the Foundation's existence are present freshmen (Fall 1980) representing 10 of the 14 high schools within the college district. They are recipients of "President's Scholarships," which were based on academic excellence in high school and cover the cost of tuition and fees for their first year at Rend Lake College. High school personnel selected the award-winners from among students who had applied to RLC and were in the top 10 percent of their graduating class.

Recipients of the inaugural awards are: Becky Heard, Pam Higgerson and Lisa Neal, all graduates of Benton Consolidated High School; Luanne Aydt, Ken Savage and Karla Waier, McLeansboro H.S.; Tim Clemens, Angela R. Deitz and Cindy Lauten-

bacher, Mt. Vernon Township H.S.; Susan Malinski, Laura Rushing and Cathy Vaughn, Pinckneyville Community H.S.; Kathy Restoff, Tamaroa H.S.; Bryan Len Stubblefield, Thompsonville H.S.; John T. Kabat, Waltonville H.S.; John Blasdel and Dalelisa Crocker, Wayne City H.S.; Anita Riley, Webber Township H.S., and Ted Gajewski, Woodlawn H.S. Eligible students at Christopher, Enfield, Sesser and Zeigler-Royalton declined scholarship offers.

The other student directly affected, current Sophomore Maria Franscavitch of Mt. Vernon, was awarded a tuition scholarship for her second year at Rend Lake College. The "Foundation Scholarship" winner was cited for her outstanding achievement as an RLC freshman based on grade-point average and participation in college activities. Students were nominated for this award by faculty members.

Truly, the RLC Foundation "is here to do good."

The intent of the Foundation, which is authorized to solicit gifts as well as to receive, hold and administer gifts, is to appeal to the benevolence of all persons interested in the betterment and advancement of the college. Its members are charitable men and women who contribute their time and efforts in support of Rend Lake College and its students.

"There is more to enrichment than our pocketbooks," concluded Parker. "We're looking for people with concepts and ideas and with a willingness to work at various levels."

★★★ ★★ ★★

4-H LEASE

Cooperation was the name of the game when Rend Lake College, the Rend Lake Conservancy District and 4-H groups from both Franklin and Jefferson counties got together this past spring.

Their efforts produced adjoining 4-H Fair sites on the southwest corner of college property which will be leased free of charge for 50 years.

Dean of Vocational-Technical Education Carroll Turner spent several weeks working out the legal agreement between all parties after the

initial request by Jefferson County, which was forced to relocate its facilities. Franklin County was extended an invitation to join their neighbors across the county line.

"The project is a striking success," RLC President Harry J. Braun informed those involved after observing festivities this summer, "and reflects what can happen when people and agencies come together and unite towards a common goal."

"Because of the support of Larry Foster and his Conservancy District Trustees, the two 4-H Foundations and staff and RLC Trustees and staff, many citizens and youth of our area were able to come together and participate in wholesome family activities . . . activities that strengthen the moral fiber of American youth."

Both the college and the Conservancy District donated five acres of land in the rent-free lease.

Within a few days of the final agreement, construction began on the pole-type barn buildings, including a show ring, swine barn and cattle barns. "Pretty elaborate 4-H facilities," as one 4-H official told the RLC Board. Most of the work was accomplished with volunteer help and in time for this summer's annual fairs.

Although the two 4-H groups constructed separate facilities, the buildings were planned for coordinated use in activities such as judging contests and similar club projects. The lease agreement also permits the college to use the 4-H facilities whenever they are not otherwise in use.

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TRANSFER STUDENTS

The grade-point average for transfers from Rend Lake College to Southern Illinois University was higher than that of any other community college sending as many as 200 students to the Carbondale campus during the 1978-79 academic year, according to an SIU study released in March.

Transfer students who attended RLC before going to SIU posted a composite 2.75 GPA, compared to the mean grade-point of 2.69 (on a 4.0-point scale) for 6,148 transfer students from the state's two-year insti-

tutions and 2.55 for "native" students, those students who first enrolled at SIU as freshmen.

★★★ ★★ ★★

FACULTY AND STAFF

• **Eleanor Hall**, Sociology / Anthropology Instructor, spent the summer addressing "Themes in the Historical and Comparative Analysis of the Gender Roles and Race/Class Relations" at the University of California at Santa Cruz as recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Award.

• **Dr. Evelyn Claxton**, Chairperson of Arts and Communication, was a nominee for the Second Annual Governor's Award for the Arts sponsored by the Illinois Arts Council.

• **Dr. Harry J. Braun**, RLC President, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors for Southern Illinois Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the coordinated economic development of the area.

• **Imogene Book** was elected to the 10-member Executive Board of the Association of College and Research Libraries, the largest division of the American Library Association. She also served as Chairperson for the Community and Junior College Libraries Section.

★★★ ★★ ★★

ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

A banner athletic season was reflected in the Southern Illinois College Conference All-Sports Trophy shared by the Warrior males with John A. Logan. This was the first such honor in the award's five-year history for RLC, a league champion in Tennis and co-champion in Baseball.

Female athletes from RLC finished second overall in the All-Sports chase.

Warrior netters garnered first-time SICC and Section VI titles en route to a 15-3 record and 10th in the state.

★★★ ★★ ★★

SUMMER SAVINGS

The college again saved money and energy by switching to a four-day work week during summer months for the third year in a row.

Figures released for last summer by Business Manager B.J. "Skip" Witunski revealed a 44 percent reduction

in terms of kilowatt hours used when compared to similar figures for 1977, the year before the college went to the longer-day, shorter-week concept.

"In addition to the conservation of energy, the college realized a cost avoidance from 1977 over 1979 of \$27,497.04," Witunski informed Trustees last September, when the decision was made to once again go with the four-day work week. Commuting costs for students and staff alike also are reduced 20 percent, he added.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative indicated the energy savings experienced by RLC would be enough to operate 61 average homes for a year.

★★★ ★★ ★★

TESTING AND NUMBERS

• For the first time, 100% of the graduates from the Associate Degree Nursing program who took the State Board exam in the fall passed.

• In a test of Emergency Rescue Technicians, more students from RLC passed than from any of the other 13 community colleges represented.

• GED, ABE and ESL classes had 350 enrolled the past semester, compared to 170 the previous spring.

• Of 306 RLC students who took the GED exam last year, 250 passed (81%).

• Community Services workshops and conferences attracted 6,000-plus.

• RLC retained 83% of its Title XX (public aid) students; state goal: 65%.

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BUDGET – FY80

Operating Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 1980 . . .

REVENUE –

Local Government, \$1,132,013.67 [30.6%]; State Government, \$1,843,335.00 [49.8%]; Federal Government, \$12,745.93 [0.3%]; Student Tuition and Fees, \$651,910.67 [17.6%]; Other Sources, \$61,657.15 [1.7%]. Total – \$3,701,662.42.

EXPENSES –

Salaries, \$2,383,152.30 [64.4%]; Employee Benefits, \$75,445.47 [2.0%]; Contractual Services, \$213,176.79 [5.8%]; Materials and Supplies, \$250,886.25 [6.8%]; Travel and Meetings, \$86,465.20 [2.3%]; Plant Utilities, \$226,335.76 [6.1%]; Capital Outlay, \$157,083.86 [4.2%]; Other, \$99,259.89 [2.7%]; Contingency, \$210,242.18 [5.7%]. Total – \$3,702,047.70.

1980-81 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

'We will continue to be what we are ... responsive to needs'

EXCERPTS FROM PUBLICATION FALL 1981

To Residents of Community College District No. 521,

We are very pleased to present to you this report which speaks about our college's accomplishments, factual data concerning the college and the people served by the college and those who serve the college.

Planning, accomplishments, disappointments and rewards all play a key role in success; the trick is to maintain a proper balance in the mix. Before delving into successes and disappointments experienced over the past year, or what people accomplished, I want to set the stage by looking at what Rend Lake College was, is and will be. With our reason for being clearly in focus, I believe you will see why we have been successful and why our students, faculty and staff are able to successfully achieve goals.

First of all, the college serves citizens without regard to race, age, sex or educational background. It also places high priority on providing a wide range of educational opportunities and believes that Occupational education, Developmental education and service to the community are just as important to its students and community as a liberal arts education.

The college administration also believes it should aggressively seek to identify community needs and work in partnership with its community counterparts in meeting those needs.

Because of these characteristics, we have seen our enrollment grow steadily since the college opened its doors. As you would expect, some programs have grown or are continuing to grow faster than others. Since 1976, enrollment in Occupational programs has increased 41 percent with the overall enrollment increasing 20 percent.

Immediate projections and longer-term projections indicate our Occupational-Vocational programs will continue to expand. That's good news! The bad news is that laboratory space and classroom space necessary for the expansion of these programs

is not there. It should be obvious to anyone who has attempted to find a meeting room or classroom during mid-morning or in the evening, that these available spaces are oftentimes not to be found. Many of our technical laboratories are used to capacity. Approximately 13,000 people, representing community agencies, organizations, business and industry used our facilities during the past year.

People have asked me on numerous occasions what I see as the future of Rend Lake College. Is it going to become a university? Is it going to become a Vocational-Technical college? My answer is always an emphatic, "We will continue to be what we are ... a community college, responsive to community needs." That response usually clarifies very quickly the question of whether we will become a university. In answering the second question, I believe students have recognized that economic survival means acquiring a marketable skill. Obviously, that places a great deal of emphasis upon the role Vocational-Technical education will play at Rend Lake College.

However, we have to remember that graduates and students after spending time with us will have to live in close proximity with their fellow man and be able to get along. We will continue to expose students to social sciences, communication, arts and humanities in preparing them to live as wholesome a life as possible in what is a very complex world. So in addition to our being responsive to community needs and emphasizing the service role to our community, it is essential that we maintain a comprehensive approach to education, one which recognizes the education and development of the whole person. We feel comfortable with that role and look forward to another year of service to you and stand ready to be of assistance any time we can.

Sincerely, Harry J. Braun
Rend Lake College President

★★★ ★★ ★★

THE 'AVERAGE' STUDENT

The "typical" Rend Lake College student is not what he used to be.

In the first place, Mr. Average just as easily could be a Miss, Mrs. or Ms. Of the 904 full-time students at RLC during Fiscal Year 1981, 365 were female. Part-time students included 1,345 females and 1,650 males.

The average age of the RLC student five years ago was 23.4; today, that figure is estimated to be more like 30 or above.

And even though the college was built originally with the college-transfer student in mind, those persons no longer dominate the RLC campus scene. In fact, since 1976, enrollment in Technical programs has increased 41 percent. This past school year, 20,948 credit hours were generated in the baccalaureate area, compared to 16,777 hours in Technical-Occupational courses, 4,973 hours in Business Occupational courses and 3,825 hours in Health Occupational. That is the equivalent of 698 full-time students in transfer-related classes and 852 full-time Occupational students.

Another 2,334 hours were generated by students in Adult Basic Education (ABE), General Educational Development (GED) and English as a Second Language classes; 1,309 in General Studies courses, and 802 in Remedial/Developmental classes.

★★★ ★★ ★★

'80-81 Annual Report

looking back

looking ahead

program changes

developmental

honors

enrollment

athletics

budget

foundation

students & staff

meeting industry needs

community service

performances

THE DISTRICT SERVED

Rend Lake College serves a greater percentage of the population within its district than any other institution covering as many square miles, according to a summary profile of 38 Illinois public community college districts.

Fall headcount enrollment for 1980 was 3,144, or 3.48 percent of the total district population of 89,399.

Statistics also show only one college with a smaller population base from which to draw attracts as many students per 1,000 residents – 35 – as does Rend Lake College.

Information released by the Illinois Community College Board reveals only seven districts encompass a larger area than does Community College District 521, which includes parts of eight counties and 1,985 square miles. None of those seven has as small a population base from which it can attract prospective students.

Only two other districts served by a single campus have a lower ratio of inhabitants per square mile than District 521, and only two other districts have an assessed valuation tax base which provides fewer resources with which to operate.

Yet RLC ranked in a tie for seventh overall in terms of the number of students per 1,000 population served and ninth statewide when comparing the percentage of district residents attending a community college. Only two schools are being used by a greater percentage of the district residents in non-metropolitan, single-campus settings.

The “average” community college in Illinois draws from a district populated by approximately 280,000 residents (209,000 if Chicago City colleges are not included) in an area which covers 1,274 square miles.

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LOOKING BACK

MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS NOVEMBER 20, 1967

The people of a six-county area, backing up their beliefs with their dollars, voted 6-to-1 Saturday to put up the money for a new \$9.5 million Rend Lake College.

They voted – 5,263 to 901 – to approve a \$3.1 million issue to provide

the local share of a college south of Ina which is expected to serve 1,500 students by 1975.

The college board, elated over the resounding approval of the college at the polls, will set to work tomorrow night on plans for first-phase construction which will have classrooms ready by 1970.

The first task – a routine one – will be to canvass the vote.

The college will formally ask approval of the State Junior College Board of the Master Plan for the campus, on a 300-acre plot between Ina and Whittington, east of the Rend Lake shoreline and on the west side of Interstate 57.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Rend Lake College will forever be indebted to district voters, who on November 18, 1967, decided by a 5,263-901 margin to establish the multi-purpose community college.

But district residents are no longer in debt for RLC. The 13-year-old bonds which represented a \$3.1 million investment were ceremoniously burned prior to the February Board of Trustees Meeting. The bonds officially expired earlier in the month, meaning taxpayers will receive a reduction in their property tax assessed valuations. The \$3.1 million bond issue approved by that 6-to-1 show of support represented the local share of the \$9.5 million total cost of building the original college facilities.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HONORARY DEGREE FOR AMBASSADOR

United States Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Jordan Kirkpatrick was honored in July during special “graduation” ceremonies conducted by Rend Lake College.

College officials presented Kirkpatrick, a 1944 Mt. Vernon Township High School graduate, with an Honorary Associate in Arts Degree at a “Jeane Jordan Kirkpatrick Day” luncheon attended by a capacity crowd of 300 local well-wishers.

She was making her first visit to her hometown since being appointed U.N. Ambassador earlier this year by President Ronald Reagan.

The honorary degree is the third

awarded by RLC. The first went to former Congressman Kenneth Gray for his efforts in helping create the statewide community college system and Rend Lake College. Rose Maloney (Dahlgren), who helped seven children graduate from RLC, received a similar degree in 1978.

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FINANCIAL AID

Rend Lake College operates on the belief that no individual who has the desire and ability to pursue a college education should be denied that opportunity due to a lack of monetary resources.

For example, during the 1980-81 academic year, 1,135 RLC students were served by financial aid programs of various kinds . . .

Eighty-six students were employed on-campus, the majority through the federal College Work-Study program and others with institutional funds . . .

While financial aid cutbacks were widespread nationwide the past year, Rend Lake College increased its number of Basic Education Opportunity Grants (BEOG) over 4 percent compared to the previous year . . .

More than a quarter of a million dollars (\$286,466) was awarded to 447 RLC students who qualified for BEOG; another \$71,323 was awarded to 221 Illinois State Scholarship Commission recipients; \$50,655 went to 64 individuals on the College Work-Study program, and \$9,736 went to 46 individuals qualifying for Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (SEOG).

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IN THE BUSINESS OF MAKING FRIENDS

Rend Lake College has struck up a warm friendship with area industry in recent years, and vice-versa. More and more, education and the business world are discovering they can work hand in hand to the benefit of the public served by both.

Never was that more evident than in July, when electrical training objectives for the coal mining industry were established during meetings conducted on the RLC campus by the Mine Safety and Health Administra-

tion. National representatives from various sectors of the mining industry met to establish minimum student performance objectives. Included was RLC Instructor Chuck Foster, the lone representative from an educational institution on the committee.

Foster was selected to participate in an earlier meeting in Virginia because of his extensive background in the electrical field. His "participation and input was invaluable to the success of the committee," noted James P. Goye, Chief of the Division of Training Policy, Plans and Evaluation for MSHA. "We recognize and appreciate the commitment to mine safety that Rend Lake College has demonstrated by making Mr. Foster available for this important undertaking. The results of the committee will benefit the mining community nationwide."

RLC Mining Technology classes "exceed all the minimum standards," Foster commented. "I asked the other members of the group for an evaluation of our facilities, and they all agreed they were the best they had ever seen. The facilities are better than all but one place, and they said ours were comparable to the United States Steel Training Center in Ohio. I could accept that."

★★★★ ★★★★★

Seventeen members of the Southern Illinois Employee Relations Association (SIERA) accepted an invitation by RLC in December to attend a dinner meeting to discuss how the college can best meet the needs of local industry.

★★★★ ★★★★★

A good example of how the college can help local industry: Nutherm International.

After relocating in Mt. Vernon a year ago last January, Nutherm International was able to obtain funding for the training of employees in a highly specialized field through the Illinois State Board of Education's Department of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education.

"We'd probably be six months and several thousand dollars behind if it weren't for the HITS program," Nutherm President Rod Hanner

said in reference to the High Impact Training Service coordinated by Rend Lake College. RLC Vocational Dean Carroll Turner applied for the grant, which was used to hire an instructor and fund a 26-week training project.

★★★★ ★★★★★

Career Day, an annual event sponsored by the Cooperative Education and Placement Office, provided the opportunity for students and faculty to meet with representatives from over 40 area firms and organizations.

★★★★ ★★★★★

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The administrative team at RLC has undergone several changes in recent months . . .

- Robert Spuhler, who came here a little over a year ago, assumes the dual role of Dean of Administrative and Student Services; he previously headed Student Services only.

- Former student Larry Richmond (Mt. Vernon Community College Class of 1966), 34, a Teacher/Principal at Benton Consolidated High School, takes over the Chairmanship of the Science, Math, Physical Education and Health Department.

- Ron Sanderson, 37, is the new Mining Department Chair after spending the last nine years in Dean's positions at Wabash Valley and Lincoln Trail.

- Ronald E. Tremmel, 31, named "Outstanding Instructor" in two of his four years at McKendree College, joined the staff in August as Business and Social Science Department Chair.

- Ron Appuhn was named Comptroller to assist Spuhler in financial matters.

- The Counseling Center boasts two new faces – Director of Advising and Student Development Bob Englander and A.W. Speake, who fills a new position, College Representative.

★★★★ ★★★★★

NURSING NEWS . . .

Further expansion in the Nursing program resulted in the creation of an Allied Health Department, with Shirley McHaney named as its Chair.

Plans were finalized to expand the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program to 36 students, compared to

just 12 three years ago and 24 the past year. The Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market, under which the program exists, also received National League of Nursing accreditation the past year.

The Allied Health Department incorporates the ADN and Practical Nursing programs, Emergency Medical Technicians courses and openings made available to RLC students through the School of Technical Careers at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Meanwhile, Nursing students in the ADN program were perfect again on their state board exams. All 25 RLC graduates taking the test passed, a feat accomplished for the first time a year ago.

This compares to an overall passing rate of 87 percent for the 80 students representing the five-school SICCM consortium. RLC Instructors Sandra Lipe and Maryetta Kuhl are most responsible for preparing students in the five testing areas: medical, surgical, psychiatric, pediatrics and obstetrics.

★★★★ ★★★★★

A SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

You might say Rend Lake College went out of its way to serve over 3,000 students within the district during the 1980-81 academic year.

More precisely, RLC Community Services took 61 non-credit Community Education classes to 1,026 students at six off-campus sites; another 2,083 students attended credit classes offered in the communities of Benton, Christopher, McLeansboro, Mt. Vernon, Pinckneyville, Sesser, Wayne City and Woodlawn.

Mt. Vernon, as might be expected, was the leader among off-campus extension sites. Non-credit classes there attracted 499 students and credit classes 797 more. Benton, with 267 students taking non-credit classes and 409 in credit classes, was next, followed by Pinckneyville (363 total), McLeansboro (358) and Sesser (219).

Community Services experienced a 26 percent increase in numbers over the previous year when everything is considered – all hobby-leisure classes (another 192 students attended simi-

lar classes on-campus), off-campus credit classes, the 373 students who took Adult Education classes on-campus and 1,293 students involved in General Educational Development (GED) and Shelter Care classes.

Community Services reached out to many district residents during the past year through its workshops and seminars program, plus five trips to the St. Louis Myny Opera.

A total of 307 persons took advantage of the bus outings. Trips to see "Camelot," "George M!" and "Annie Get Your Gun" were so successful the college had to take two buses to meet the demand for reservations for "Show Boat" and "A Chorus Line."

Seminars and workshops, under Coordinator Becky Brymer, offered something for everyone, particularly the banking profession, hospital/emergency personnel and women in general. In all, they brought another 1,879 individuals on-campus.

★★★ ★★ ★★

WE HEAR A SYMPHONY

College representatives played a major role in reactivating the Rend Lake Civic Symphony last fall.

The RLC Arts and Communications Department, under Dr. Evelyn Claxton, was responsible for administering a grant from the Illinois Art Council which covered the expenses of a Business Manager to work with the Conductor in rebuilding community support for the symphony.

RLC Music Instructor Larry Phifer, a longtime member of the Civic Symphony, was named Conductor.

A December 2 performance at Mitchell Museum in Mt. Vernon marked the debut of the newly reorganized group, with a repeat concert on the RLC Ina campus in February.

Rend Lake College and the Music Committee of the Mitchell Museum worked cooperatively in support of reactivation of the Civic Symphony.

★★★ ★★ ★★

WELDING DAY AND NIGHT

"For all practical purposes, we doubled our welding space" with the addition of new building facilities, including 22 new welding booths and a room to house specialty welding such

as heliarc and TIG (Tungsten Inert Gas), according to Mining Department Chair Ron Sanderson.

Classes will be scheduled both day and evenings (four nights a week).

★★★ ★★ ★★

THE SPORTS SCENE . . .

Women's athletics came of age at Rend Lake College during the past year. Not only did the Lady Warriors steal some of their male counterparts' thunder by finishing third in the state in softball last spring, in the end they also walked off with the men's coach.

No athletic team from RLC had ever finished as high as third in statewide competition until All-State hurler Debbie Anselment (McLeansboro), All-State Tourney Tammy Spencer (Benton) & Friends accomplished the feat to cap a 26-6 season.

The Southern Illinois College Conference champions captured the Region VIII Tournament for the first time in the program's four-year history. No. 6 seed RLC entered the finals as the next-to-smallest school enrollment-wise among seven community colleges; eventual winner Lincoln is a private school.

Lincoln had to battle RLC and Anselment for 13 scoreless innings before escaping with a 3-2, 15-inning triumph in the second round of the double-elimination affair.

Coach Shlonda Horton's Lady Warriors, victors by the same score in their state debut against Lincoln Trail for a 15th win in the last 16 outings, bounced back to post two more victories - 3-1 over Triton and 11-6 over Lincoln Trail - before falling to favored Illinois Central, the defending champion and 1981 runner-up.

It was a far cry from the team's first winless season.

More big news, athletically speaking, did not occur on the field or court.

Jim Waugh, the only Men's Basketball Coach and Athletic Director in RLC's 14-year existence, asked to be reassigned to women's sports for the 1981-82 campaign.

Earlier, the RLC Board of Trustees had agreed to a plan which calls for athletic scholarships (grants in-aid) to be awarded for the first time in '82-83.

Chosen to head the Athletic pro-

gram prior to entering the new era was Mitch Haskins, a 16-year coaching veteran at the high school level in Missouri and Indiana and former Associate Head Coach at St. Louis U.

★★★ ★★ ★★

EXPENDITURES

Operating figures for FY 1981 . . .

REVENUE -

[Education Fund + Building Fund = Total]
 State Government, \$2,107,604 + \$452,713 = \$2,560,317 [56.8%]; Local (Property Taxes), \$905,211 + \$216,301 = \$1,121,512 [24.9%]; Local (Tuition and Fees), \$560,839 + \$108,061 = \$668,900 [14.8%]; Federal Government, \$0 + \$0 = \$0 [0%]; Other, \$131,157 + \$27,349 = \$158,506 [3.5%]. Total - \$3,704,811 + \$804,424 = \$4,509,235.

EXPENDITURES -

Salaries, \$2,402,487 + \$267,540 = \$2,670,027 [65.3%]; Employee Benefits, \$177,389 + \$0 = \$177,389 [4.3%]; Contractual Services, \$173,199 + \$49,767 = \$222,966 [5.5%]; Materials and Supplies, \$194,852 + \$50,812 = \$245,664 [6.0%]; Conferences and Meetings, \$89,765 + \$1,933 = \$91,698 [2.2%]; Fixed Charges, \$185,815 + \$33,058 = \$218,873 [5.4%]; Utilities, \$0 + \$248,958 = \$248,958 [6.1%]; Capital Outlay, \$105,039 + \$0 = \$105,039 [2.6%]; Other, \$88,273 + \$22,954 = \$111,227 [2.7%]. Total - \$3,416,819 + \$675,022 = \$4,091,841.

★★★ ★★ ★★

FACTS AND FIGURES

Current for Fall Semester 1981

- COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 521
 - Area (sq. miles) 1,985
 - Population (approximate) 89,399
 - Assessed Valuation \$413,719,182
- FINANCIAL
 - Operating Budget \$4,322,085
- STUDENT BODY
 - Headcount (Fall 1981) 3,510
 - FTE (Full-Time Equivalency) 1,595
 - Men 1,958
 - Women 1,552
 - Full-Time 1,143
 - Part-Time 2,367
- FULL-TIME STAFF
 - Administrators 13
 - Faculty 62
 - Classified Employees 29
 - Physical Plant Employees 17
 - Academic Support 20
 - Total 141
- PART-TIME STAFF 172

1981-82 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Exemplary partnership, evaluations; disappointing vote

EXCERPTS FROM PUBLICATION SPRING 1982

To Residents of Community College District 521,

I am extremely pleased to report that we had an exceptional year. Our enrollment climbed to an all-time high, enabling Rend Lake College to serve more students than ever before through new and expanded programs.

From July 1981 through June 1982, 36 courses were added to the curriculum. The Associate Degree Nursing program was expanded by providing space for 12 more full-time students and a part-time program was instituted accommodating 18 new students over a two-year period.

Several courses were offered via home television and videotape in public libraries. A Math Lab was initiated and off-campus classes were introduced in Waltonville, Tamaroa and Bonnie. Through cooperation with superintendents of area high schools and elementary districts, we were able to expand off-campus services at 14 locations.

We continued to maintain a strong commitment to providing services to industry and business. Specialized training and educational opportunities were offered in concert with the expressed needs of business and industry. This included industrial safety, management training, electrical and maintenance training, performance appraisal and a special course in machine calibration, to mention several.

I am proud to report that we were selected as one of three community colleges in the United States providing exemplary service to business and industry by the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges at its annual convention. A tribute to the entire college community!

The college evaluated its Mission, Goals and Objectives through an internal and external evaluation process. Evaluation teams from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the Illinois

Community College Board visited the college in October 1981 and reviewed the findings of an Institutional Self-Study in which the faculty, Board of Trustees, administration, staff and students participated. The institution received a seven-year accreditation from the North Central Association and continued recognition through the ICCB.

Obviously, a major disappointment was the failure of the bond referendum to provide additional laboratory and classroom space . . . space that continues and will continue to be critical to our ability to provide quality instruction to our district residents.

These are some of the highlights of what your college accomplished. The body of the Annual Report goes into much greater detail concerning items I have mentioned as well as numerous others which I am sure will be of interest to you.

With respect to the future, we are systematically evaluating each instructional program in terms of community need and economics. This evaluation process was set in motion several years ago. Results have led to improved learning opportunities; several programs have been deleted (Interior Design and Operating Room Technology, for example), while offerings in the areas of science, math, business, computer science and electronics have increased significantly.

An Associate in Science Degree was added to the curriculum to benefit those students planning to pursue a Bachelor of Science Degree at a four-year institution. An emphasis upon developing basic writing, computational and reading skills also has received and will continue to receive high priority. Placement exams in these areas have been instituted to assess student strengths and weaknesses.

Our goal is to insure that our district residents have the opportunity to prepare themselves for jobs and professions and to insure that our

courses and programs provide maximum benefit to our students.

A stable or slightly increasing enrollment continues to be our projection for the future. The economy, the cost of attending colleges and universities, availability of financial aid and students' needs for new and different learning opportunities will all play an important role in the future growth of Rend Lake College.

The college has been and will continue to be an important segment in the economic development of our area. Providing specialized training, general education opportunities and cultural opportunities to the residents of our district have been major factors in industry and families choosing to locate in this area of Southern Illinois. We will continue to work cooperatively with area Chambers of Commerce and industrial commissions, local government and other community partners in the support and development of Southern Illinois.

– A Message from the President
Dr. Harry J. Braun.

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'EXEMPLARY COOPERATION' BRINGS NATIONAL ACCLAIM

When the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges decided for the first time to recognize member institutions for exemplary cooperation with business and industry, Rend Lake College took center stage. RLC's partnership with two area coal companies, Old Ben and Inland Steel, was one of three programs nationwide to be honored during the 62nd Annual AACJC Convention in St. Louis in April.

"These programs exemplify very creative responses" to increased productivity for business and industry needs, according to Sarah Resnick, President of Media Systems Corporation, the New York publishing firm which sponsored the first-time college/business award.

Rend Lake College officials received a check for \$1,000 for the award, as did Bay De Noc Commu-

nity College of Michigan and Central Technical Community College of Nebraska. The winners were chosen from 28 model programs submitted for consideration.

"Through this kind of training," added Resnick, "we are making a tremendous investment in human capital."

Dale Parnell, AACJC President, said the Media Systems Business-College Partnership Awards "enable us to point with pride to outstanding examples of proven partnerships . . . colleges, business, industry and labor working together to improve America's economic development and well-being."

Parnell praised each of these example programs for the favorable impact they have had on the local economy; they illustrate the kinds of services many of the nation's 1,200 community, junior and technical colleges are capable of providing to business and industry, he added.

The national convention theme . . . "Opportunity with Excellence: A College and Community Partnership."

For more detailed information, see: RLC ONE OF FIRST THREE IN NATION RECOGNIZED **Business-College Partnership Award** in the section, EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

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EQUIPMENT DONATION

Rend Lake College is in the electronics business, thanks to a contribution from Old Ben Coal Company which was used to purchase eight solid-state core fundamentals training systems, electronics concepts training systems and DC electronic super-control training systems, along with the appropriate instrumentation and lab furniture.

"We are especially pleased to underwrite the purchase of new equipment that will enable the college to expand its electrical curriculum," Hugh W. Evans, President of Old Ben Coal Company, commented upon making the \$45,342 donation.

"Continued growth of Rend Lake College programs benefits both students and industry and contributes to the economic strength of the Southern Illinois area," Evans added.

Usage of solid-state components has increased significantly through industry, and with this growth comes a need for technicians and electricians trained in industrial electronics. Old Ben's contribution purchased equipment which has been identified as being highly desirable for teaching students to understand the solid-state components and control circuitry of industrial, motor-driven systems.

Old Ben Coal Company is a subsidiary of Standard Oil of Ohio, with operations at five mine sites in Southern Illinois.

The relationship between the coal company and the college, both sides agree, is "longstanding and mutually beneficial."

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'FORWARD-THINKING POSTURE' CITED IN POSITIVE EVALUATION

Citing significant progress in the development of a viable participatory form of self-governance, selection and retention of highly qualified individuals in key leadership positions and a "forward-thinking posture which bodes positive for future growth and development," an evaluation team from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools recommended a seven-year continuation of accreditation for Rend Lake College.

The team, comprised of four representatives from other Midwestern institutions, spent 2 1/2 days on the Ina campus in October 1981. Their conclusions likewise brought praise for "outstanding physical facilities which are attractive, well-maintained and certainly conducive to learning," well-qualified and dedicated faculty members and a student population, including graduates, displaying "a positive attitude toward the college and (who) are well satisfied with the education they are receiving."

The last regular visitation to the college for evaluation purposes in November 1977 brought only a three-year accreditation.

For more detailed information, see: SEVEN-YEAR ACCREDITATION IN 1981 **'Forward-thinking posture' bodes well** in the section, EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

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Among the lasting impressions left with the four members of the visiting Accreditation team . . .

- "The two Nursing programs continue to maintain a high rate of success on the licensing examinations."

- The (Business and Social Science) faculty utilize a variety of instructional methods in the classroom and laboratory."

- The Science laboratories are well-equipped for the needs of the department" and enrollment in this area "has increased this year."

- "In addition to teaching responsibilities, (Arts and Communications faculty members) are committed to promoting cultural events and opportunities for their students and surrounding communities."

- Class sizes (in Agriculture and Automotive) are relatively small – 15 to 25 – and contact hours with students are approximately 23-36 hours per week."

- "The (Architecture) faculty is well-qualified in both formalized education and practical experience in industry."

- "The faculty and staff of the Mining Technology Department are well-qualified for the task of preparing students in this industry . . . There is evidence that there exists an ongoing evaluation process conducted by the Coordinators of the program, the Department Chairperson and, finally, the Dean of Instruction. There also is the same process for curriculum review."

- "There is good cooperation between the on-campus faculty and the outreach programs."

- "The on-line registration process (introduced by Student Services) has provided many benefits to students, faculty and administration. Students are able to register quickly. Reliable, almost error-free data, is available for class lists and state reports."

- "Student recruitment efforts continue to be a high priority at the college. Both traditional and non-traditional efforts have been directed toward active marketing of the college, its programs and courses. Good results have been evidenced by the

high percentage of area graduates who enroll at the college."

- "Reorganization of the library and audio-visual departments has resulted in a more functional support service for the college. The facilities are excellent, open four evenings a week with adequate seating."

- "The Developmental Skills Center is presently meeting a very real need of the community. (Forty-four percent of the adult population does not have a high school diploma.) The non-traditional student is being directed to this department through two unique and interesting projects: a Title XX Counselor and two Early School Leaver Counselors. Both programs appear successful in serving the high-risk student."

Overall, the evaluation team concluded . . .

- "An easy, relaxed atmosphere was the impression the team received on this campus. The administration has the respect of the staff and faculty and, more importantly, the respect is mutual. There is freedom to communicate, to question and to resolve differences. It was very open, very refreshing."

- "The Board of Trustees represents a good cross-section of the area served by the college . . . They seemed knowledgeable, concerned and vitally interested in the institution."

- "The institution utilizes a Management-by-Objectives approach to its planning activities . . . In examining the MBOs in detail, the team noted that the college had 15 major areas planned for improvement with many subheadings. These addressed almost every aspect of the institution, together with the person responsible, date of completion and the priority."

If the officials of Rend Lake College follow through on their MBOs, great strides will be made in the advancement of the college toward significant goals."

- "In the area of finance, Rend Lake College has an enviable record. Most noteworthy is that the \$20 million (replacement cost) campus is debt-free."

- "Taken in totality, the college has done extremely well in its affirmative

action efforts given the isolated area in which the college is located and the low number of minorities who live in the region."

- Other strengths were identified, including "Well-qualified, dedicated faculty providing relevant information in both the occupational and academic areas," "Students (who) display a positive attitude toward the college and appear to be well-satisfied with the education they are receiving," "Advisory Councils which are active and providing the college with much-needed advice and support," curricula which meets the needs of the district and course syllabi which are "adequate and couched in objective language," an administration "at all levels that is responsive to the needs of the college" and overall morale which is "high in all areas within the institution and represents a complete turn-around from previous periods in the life of the institution."

- "After assessing all aspects of the institution, the evaluation team believes Rend Lake College fully meets the criteria of eligibility for consideration for accreditation and fulfills the obligations of membership through the commission."

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ICCB 'COMPLIMENTARY' VISIT

Scheduled in conjunction with the accreditation visit was a staff recognition visit conducted by representatives of the Illinois Community College Board. The ICCB team was able to attend the exit conference with the North Central Association group, at which time it was made aware of the findings and recommendations by the NCA team. In addition, the ICCB team was able to confer with NCA members both before and after their official visit.

The official ICCB report filed included six recommendations, all of an administrative nature in compliance with ICCB standards and all of which the college had responded favorably to within a matter of a few weeks following the visitation.

The first on-site evaluation by an ICCB team in the college's 15-year history provided even more reason

to boast. "The college Board, administration and staff are to be complimented," noted an ICCB guest, "for being able to keep a stable budget during difficult times. It is a credit to the college that you have been able to provide the services you have with resources which are available."

Added the visitation team's chair, "An exceptional number of very positive things" could be cited. "It was very easy for us to decide to grant the college full recognition."

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DISTRICT VOTERS REJECT \$4 MILLION BOND REFERENDUM

Badly needed facilities expansion and renovation will have to wait, meaning program reductions in some vocational areas, following a district-wide vote in March which rejected a \$4 million bond referendum proposed by Rend Lake College District 521.

Only voters in Franklin County approved the measure, which lost by a count of 8,989 to 7,194.

The \$4 million bond referendum would have been derived at a rate lower than the indebtedness for the original campus and was expected to cost the average homeowner within the district between \$15-\$18 annually.

As a result of the referendum's defeat, "We definitely are going to have to look at curtailing several programs and limiting others. We can't continue to provide the community with everything we've been asked to provide due to our space limitations," a disappointed Dr. Harry J. Braun announced following the vote.

For more detailed information, see:

DEFEATED 8,980-7,191 IN DISTRICT-WIDE VOTE
\$4 million Bond Referendum sought
in this section, EXCELLENCE IN SPECIAL EVENTS

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RECORD NUMBERS

Rend Lake College students attended classes in record-style during Fiscal Year 1982, which includes the Summer and Fall Semesters 1981 and Spring 1982. Attendance was up in all areas of credit programs, including Baccalaureate, Business Occupational, Technical Occupational and Health Occupational. A total of 7,187 students (unduplicated headcount)

attended classes at least one of those three semesters, for the equivalent of 1,805 full-time students.

Baccalaureate courses – those leading to transfer to a four-year institution – were up 8.0 percent in terms of hours generated, compared to 6.6 percent overall for a total 54,141 credit hours.

Dean of Instruction Mark Kern cited two reasons for the rise in baccalaureate hours: 1) the economy, and 2) scheduling of more afternoon classes. Traditionally, the more people who are out of work due to poor economy, the more they tend to return to college in order to gain the skills which will help them land jobs.

The afternoon classes, on the other hand, are part of a new scheduling concept to entice students who may be unable to attend morning classes due to conflicts with jobs. Eight classes scheduled in the fall between noon and 5 p.m. on campus averaged better than 25 students apiece, well above the average for all college courses and a pretty fair indicator of their acceptance.

Occupational classes, especially in the technical fields, showed a sizable increase as well despite times of strikes and slowdowns.

“What we lost in industrial contracts (with mining companies), the staff went out and replaced by developing new kinds of programs,” said Dean of Vocational-Technical Education Carroll Turner. “They filled the void with non-industrial programs.

“The negative aspect of this is the fact when the economy improves and our industrial programs do come back, the expansion facilities we need will be needed yesterday. The expansion we’ve been talking about for the past year will be even more critical than it was before this addition of programs.”

★★★ ★★ ★★

GOVERNOR SPEAK . . .

“Community colleges have a strong and dramatically new role to play in customizing training and education for employers in their communities.

“We believe in this administration

that community colleges are among the most important components . . . in efforts to revitalize the economy.”

~ Gov. James R. Thompson (on the Belleville Area campus for dedication ceremonies for a new regional office of the Dept. of Commerce and Community Affairs)

★★★ ★★ ★★

NEW DEGREE

Graduates may now receive an Associate in Science Degree from Rend Lake College following a recommendation by Dean of Instruction Mark S. Kern and Board approval in January. Previously, the college offered baccalaureate degrees in approximately seven areas, all under the Associate of Arts Degree.

Granting two separate degrees for those students pursuing a four-year diploma, Kern pointed out, “would be consistent with the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor in Science degrees granted by four-year institutions.”

At the same time, the number of specific courses required for the Associate of Arts Degree was increased from 16 to 39 credit hours, with 25 hours still permitted for electives.

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PLACEMENT TESTS

Placement tests were added for the students’ benefit in Mathematics and Reading. A similar test in English was initiated two years ago because “the faculty had asked for something like this for some time, primarily because of the wide variance in abilities of students in each class,” according to Dean of Instruction Mark S. Kern. “We plan on introducing the Math and Reading Placement tests for the very same reason.”

Kern indicated the English test, given prior to registration for those students who have not taken the ACT exam or did not score high enough on that exam, has proven to be “one of the best services we have ever had available for our students” and noted he did not feel it was a deterrent in keeping prospective students from enrolling at Rend Lake College.

“It is a bigger barrier,” Kern said, “if we put a person in a higher-level class than he or she belongs in. That

student may flunk the class and never be back in school again.”

★★★ ★★ ★★

MATH LAB

A “Math Lab” concept of individualized study also was introduced by Department Chair Larry Richmond and offered through the Developmental Skills Center. Under the tutelage of Diane Metzger, students may take selected courses through the Math Lab, were they work at their own pace in comprehending the subject and completing course requirements for credit.

★★★ ★★ ★★

TELECOURSES

Television came to RLC and vice-versa in 1981-82. In the fall, courses in Japanese History and American Government were offered as telecourses. The former was shown on WSIU-TV Channel 8, while the latter was made available to students through videotapes at public libraries in Benton and Mt. Vernon as well as on-campus in the Learning Resource Center. A Home Gardening class in the spring included an optional lab offering.

★★★ ★★ ★★

BUDGET – FY82

Operating Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 1982 . . .

REVENUE –

[Education Fund + Building Fund = Total]

Property Taxes, \$914,284 + \$208,471 = \$1,122,755 [26.2%]; State Government, \$1,779,697 + \$406,077 = \$2,185,774 [51.1%]; Tuition and Fees, \$696,645 + \$0 = \$696,645 [16.3%]; Other, \$244,499 + \$31,590 = \$276,089 [6.4%]. Total – \$3,635,125 + \$646,138 = \$4,281,263.

EXPENSES –

Salaries, \$2,617,809 + \$273,404 = \$2,891,213 [66.1%]; Employee Benefits, \$333,188 + \$0 = \$333,188 [7.6%]; Contractual Services, \$200,190 + \$24,958 = \$225,148 [5.1%]; Materials and Supplies, \$200,876 + \$43,114 = \$243,990 [5.6%]; Conferences and Meetings, \$92,608 + \$384 = \$92,992 [2.1%]; Fixed Charges, \$0 + \$42,425 = \$42,425 [1.0%]; Utilities, \$0 + \$312,769 = \$312,769 [7.1%]; Capital Outlay, \$134,343 + \$0 = \$134,343 [3.1%]; Other, \$98,913 + \$1,879 = \$100,792 [2.3%]. Total – \$3,677,927 + \$698,933 = \$4,376,860.

THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 1982-83 HIGHLIGHTS

Financial restraints, but mission remains unchallenged

PUBLISHED SPRING 1983

The challenges facing education continue to grow from year to year, as you will discover in the enclosed material, and 1982-83 certainly was no exception. Never has Rend Lake College been confronted with greater challenges in terms of financial restraints in difficult economic times and a stabilizing enrollment following several years of very rapid growth.

Yet our mission remains unchallenged: A commitment to excellence in all that we strive to do at Rend Lake College. Meeting the needs of the district we serve always has been our No. 1 priority and will remain so. Every decision, every action is guided by that desire and commitment for excellence.

Excellence also is something you may note throughout this document. We are extremely proud of the on-going accomplishments of RLC students, faculty and staff. We are convinced these are some of the finest people you will find anywhere, with a similar commitment to excellence.

Of special interest in the Annual Report to citizens of Community College District No. 521, please note the emphasis placed on maintaining a balanced budget as state dollars were shrinking, the establishment of a Business Resource and Assistance Center (BRAC) in an effort to maintain the college's role as a leader within the community and a shift in those programs which concentrate on the business and industrial sector of our district and computer needs. All of our classes, workshops and community-related events continue to be geared to meeting the needs and interests of Southern Illinois. The increasing burden to find external resources falls on the RLC Foundation, comprised of some of the most dedicated individuals within a district filled with many such caring, concerned citizens.

Our students never seem to let us down. They are, of course, our prized products, the best representatives any institution of higher learning could

have. Eight RLC graduates were awarded special transfer scholarships to attend Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, a figure believed to be the most ever from one community college. We increased our scholarship offerings with the advent of Welding and Automotive contests to go along with those already being awarded in Engineering, Math and Science, an English Essay Contest and the President's Scholarship program for high school graduates in the Top 10 percent of their class. Athletically, Rend Lake College was represented in the Region XXIV post-season basketball tournament for the first time last winter to cap a record 22-win campaign. The list of achievements could go on and on.

It is a difficult task keeping ahead of those students, but it is just as obvious our faculty and staff manage to do so. Their never-ending commitment to excellence resulted, among other things, in an administrator and an instructor earning doctorate degrees the past year and three other faculty members receiving recognition as "master" teachers.

These are but a few of the many accomplishments during the year. The Annual Report provides greater detail on a variety of other subjects as well. We are extremely proud of these accomplishments and trust you are, too.

We would encourage you to let your community college work for you in the years ahead.

REND LAKE COLLEGE . . .

"There's a future in it for you!"

A future of excellence.

Dr. Harry J. Braun

President, Rend Lake College.

★★★ ★★ ★★

BALANCED BUDGET

Program modifications, staff reductions and the establishment of a Working Cash Fund enabled Rend Lake College officials to steer a steady course budget-wise in times of economic rough waters.

Reductions in state funding and a drop in enrollment, primarily in

Vocational-Technical areas affected by the local mining situation and overall economy, necessitated many of the maneuvers to help maintain a balanced budget.

During the past year, college administrators received approval from the RLC Board of Trustees to discontinue the Cosmetology (Beauty Culture) program; reduced the Music program's staff by one, thereby eliminating for all practical purposes the possibility of a student coming to RLC and majoring in Music; granted a request for a year's leave of absence, without pay, to Dean Cheryl Foley and combined many of the Community Services functions with the newly created Business Resource and Assistance Center, and eliminated the position of College Representative, as well as not replacing other members of the faculty or staff upon their leaving.

Declining enrollments and the resulting financial considerations were the reasons given for termination of the Cosmetology program, which had been offered in Benton since 1969. The move is expected to save the college \$57,000 this year, the amount estimated it cost to operate the beauty school and pay two instructors, whose contracts were not renewed.

Nearly half of the estimated \$150,000 total earmarked for immediate reductions at the February Board meeting involved staff decisions.

Enrollment, again, was the key factor in the decision to reduce the Music program by one faculty member. The position of College Representative was eliminated after a two-year trial period. It also was determined an Agriculture Instructor who had resigned earlier would not be replaced.

Another \$40,000 in savings from a reallocation of resources and personnel was anticipated from the decision in March to consolidate Community Services functions with BRAC activities and to grant Foley's request while eliminating the Dean's position.

"We are looking at all the options," said Dr. Harry J. Braun, RLC Presi-

dent, "because it will be impossible to sustain the same kind of institutional commitment as we have made in past years with the bleak financial picture projected. We're working toward a balanced budget in spite of a statewide financial picture which does not look very positive. We hope two years from now the state's economic outlook turns around and we'll be able to experience a little more breathing room in terms of finances."

★★★ ★★ ★★

AID TO LOCAL BUSINESS

Rend Lake College's "exemplary cooperation" with local business and industry, cited nationally by the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges in April 1982, promises to continue through the creation of a Business Resource and Assistance Center (BRAC) to coordinate ongoing efforts.

A \$15,000 grant in January from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs enabled college officials to establish the center "to provide training and educational programs for businesses and industries within our district," according to RLC Dean of Vocational-Technical Education Carroll Turner.

"We are hoping to expand what we already are doing with the coal industry to other businesses and industries within the district," Turner noted. "This is something we were in the process of doing already, but the grant will accelerate the pace at which we could accomplish this otherwise."

The six-month grant enabled RLC to survey area businesses and industries as to their educational and training needs and to establish a program of work for the center so it might become self-sufficient within a couple of years.

Rend Lake College was one of 15 community colleges statewide to receive the grant out of 33 applicants.

Clarence C. "C.C." Lowery, 27-year-old RLC Vocational Counselor and a native of Benton, was appointed BRAC Director. As such, he will serve as the liaison between the college and area industries, along with BRAC Marketing Specialist Sandy Rhoads, the college's

Director of Cooperative Education and Placement.

"If a business or industry in our district has some training needs, we will develop a program for them," Lowery said.

★★★ ★★ ★★

COMPUTER EXPANSION

Students on the Rend Lake College campus are talking a different language these days. Four or five different languages, in fact.

"Computerese" is no longer a foreign language. The purchase of a Prime 2250 mini-computer has significantly increased the college's instructional capabilities in this ever-changing world of high technology.

Thanks to the new computer and eight Apple II-Plus micro-computers already in use, RLC now has the capability of teaching such languages as BASIC, COBOL, FORTRAN, Pascal and RPG. The mini is a multi-language, multi-use computer capable of handling five different languages at the same time.

More importantly, the recent addition means many of the college's expanding computer courses are transferable to four-year schools for the first time.

★★★ ★★ ★★

WHAT'S IN A NAME (CHANGE)?

A concerted effort to keep pace with these modern times has transformed the Mining Technology Department into the Mining AND Industrial Technology Department.

There is more to the change than merely the name, too.

Programs in Industrial Electronics and Industrial Service Technology were either added to the curriculum or initiated in the past year. In addition, many specialty courses, particularly in Welding, were originated to meet specific needs of the area labor force.

The Industrial Electronics program was made possible thanks to a major donation a year ago by Old Ben Coal Company and is designed to train students in electronics fundamentals, circuitry and components, troubleshooting and repair of industrial electronics systems.

"Electronics is a rapidly growing technology that provides many career opportunities," noted RLC Instructor Chuck Foster. "Technicians are needed to support our rapidly expanding electronics industry. To work in today's electronics industry, one must have a thorough understanding of solid-state electronics."

Courses generally are offered mornings and evenings in parallel, enabling students who may be working swing shifts to attend regularly. All courses in the two-year program contain a balance of the latest theory and hands-on lab experience.

The broader Industrial Service Technology program enables the student to design a program "tailor-made" to a specific need. Emphasis can be placed in electrical, electronics, mechanical, hydraulic or welding skills built around a basic core curriculum, with options available in terms of course choices and flexibility of scheduling. Graduates should have a broad background in all aspects of mechanical repair and maintenance and be qualified for entry-level positions in the industrial maintenance field.

★★★ ★★ ★★

HELP FOR WOULD-BE TEACHERS

Many local school systems are cooperating with college officials in a program introduced last fall for prospective teachers.

Clinical Experiences for Prospective Teachers, EDUC 2101, enables students who are education majors to visit public school classrooms for the purpose of observing a teaching professional at work interacting with students. It is intended for anyone majoring in Elementary Education, Special Education or some field in Secondary Education. "Experiences in this course will help our students determine if they really want to become teachers," noted Larry Richmond, Department Chair.

Area schools which cooperate with RLC in permitting students to spend four hours weekly in classroom observation include Benton Consolidated High School and Benton Grade School, Ewing Grade School, Mt. Vernon Grade Schools, Mt. Vernon

Township High School, Pinckneyville Community High School and Woodlawn Grade School.

Another transfer course in education, *The Teacher's Role in Education*, was added to the curriculum during the academic year and may be taken during a student's second year . . .

High School students who ranked in the top 20 percent of their class had the opportunity this past summer to be challenged by and earn college credit in three two-week courses in Science and Math-related fields.

The high-ability prep students studied paper, column, thin layer and gas chromatography in Chemistry 1120, along with electrophoresis and ion exchanges in qualitative identification of unknowns. Selected topics beyond those normally covered in high school were investigated with the use of a computer in Mathematics 1150. Biology 1120 was entitled "Light Energy to Life Energy" and covered such topics as photosynthesis, digestion, absorption and respiration.

★★★ ★★ ★★

FOUR-YEAR 'PARTNERS'

Officials of the School of Business at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville met with prospective students in December to discuss their proposal of offering a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) program on the Ina campus . . .

McKendree College began offering two Bachelor Degree completion programs on the RLC campus for the first time in the spring. Four courses offered lead to either a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree in a Capstone program open to Registered Nurses or a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree . . .

Southern Illinois University-Carbondale continued bringing classes to Ina by offering three upper-level undergraduate courses in the fall – Psychology Applied to Personal Adjustment, Introduction to Office Information Systems and Production-Operations Management."

★★★ ★★ ★★

STATEWIDE DEBATE

Rend Lake College supplied the site, moderator, two panelists and

the audience for the second of three statewide debates between Illinois Attorney General Ty Fahner (R, Chicago) and his Democratic challenger, Neil Hartigan, leading up to the November elections.

Dr. Robert Spuhler, Dean of Administrative and Student Services, served as moderator for the debaters and a four-member panel comprised of RLC Instructors Eleanor Hall and Ed Heischmidt and area Chamber of Commerce representatives Eunice Steffens and Terry Sharp.

Fahner may have won the war of words, in the opinion of most observers, but Hartigan won the election.

★★★ ★★ ★★

WARRIOR ATHLETICS

One season began before a friendly packed house and featured special ambassadors from another country, all for the benefit of a worthy cause. It ended in record fashion in unfamiliar surroundings.

Another season set records for wins and rains, capped by the signing of a Rend Lake College student-athlete to a professional contract.

Yet another season established yet another record, with the star attraction heeding the advice to "Go West, Young Lady."

So much – for the record – for Men's Basketball, Baseball and Women's Basketball during 1982-83.

The Olympic National hopefuls from Senegal, Africa, paid a goodwill visit to Ina for the unofficial home opener of the Basketball Warriors. They departed with an 82-79 setback, but there were no losers. Thanks to the efforts of Lamont Phemister, the Corinthian Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon and the entire community, over \$5,000 was raised in a heartwarming gesture to needy transplant recipient Don McMillen.

Point Guard Tim Wills & Friends capped the season with a record 22 wins and third-place showing in the college's first Region XXIV Tournament appearance.

The Baseball Warriors posted a best-ever 17-9 mark in the fall, but rains nearly washed out the spring campaign for the defending sectional

kingpins, considering 42 cancellations due to the wet stuff or soggy grounds.

Catcher-turned-pitcher Jeff Barton (Kokomo, IN) signed a pro contract from the Philadelphia Phillies to become RLC's first player ever to sign immediately following his Juco career.

Cager Susie Woodward (Mt. Vernon) closed out a brilliant career with a Lady Warrior-record 1,368 points – more than any other RLC player, female or male – before accepting an offer from NCAA Division I contender Eastern Washington University.

★★★ ★★ ★★

MISC.

The resignation of Dr. Evelyn Claxton, Arts and Communications Department Chair for the past five years and a college English Instructor for 13 years, was accepted with "deep regret" by the RLC Board of Trustees.

Claxton, who cited "personal and professional reasons" for her decision, "has worked exceedingly hard" as the Chairperson of her department, praised Dean of Instruction Mark S. Kern. "She has had goals and objectives all along and has tried to lead her department along those same lines."

Noting a national trend away from many areas in the arts and communications fields, Kern indicated Claxton leaves her department "in much better position now than we were in five years ago before she took over.

Claxton gave the Commencement Address for the 16th Annual graduation exercises at RLC, conducted on a Friday evening for the first time.

Dr. Stephen B. Tietz, an English Instructor at the college since 1979, was named to replace Claxton. He taught previously at Western Illinois University and SIUC.

★★★ ★★

Department Chair Larry Richmond, with the help of the Counseling Center and other departments, started *RLC High-Lites*, a publication intended to keep district high school students and staffs aware of happenings at Rend Lake College during the school year. The newsletter is mailed directly or distributed by school administrators to every high school junior and senior at 14 district schools,

plus faculty and administrators.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Officials of the School of Business at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville met with prospective students on the RLC campus in December to discuss their proposal of offering a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) program.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Eight graduates of the RLC Class of '83 were recipients of tuition scholarships for outstanding academic achievement to attend Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

A maximum of 63 scholarships were given out statewide to the top academic achievers among all those transfer students planning to enroll at SIUC. Although SIUC officials are not permitted to say, the Rend Lake College total is particularly noteworthy because last year the college was one of the state leaders with two.

Those students with at least a 3.5 overall grade-point average (4.0 scale) who were scholarship recipients are Anita Aydt (McLeansboro), Darla Bernard (Benton), Marla Benard (Benton), Ruth Brown (Sesser), Betty Jo Ellis (Mt. Vernon), Etha Jane Maynor (Mt. Vernon), Robin Morris (Mt. Vernon) and Beth Szczeblewski (Mulkeytown).

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dean of Administrative and Student Services Robert Spuhler and Science Instructor Elmo Richard Heaton each completed requirements for his Doctorate Degree during the past year, bringing to nine the total number of educational doctors among the RLC faculty and staff.

Spuhler, a college Dean since the summer of 1980, successfully defended his dissertation on "Retention of College Students" in late February to earn a Doctor of Education Degree (Ed.D.) in Higher Education from the University of Southern California.

Heaton has taught Physics, Physical Science, Geology and Math for RLC the past 12 years, serving 1 1/2 years as an Acting Department Chair. His Doctoral degree, which he completed by passing orals at SIUC in early March, also was in Higher Education and involved a dissertation on a "Follow-Up

Study of All Community College Mining Technology Graduates, 1974-80."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A representative of the Illinois Job Service moved into the college community during the past year, setting up regular office hours on-campus in order to work with RLC students on a daily basis.

"This partnership will enable the Placement Service to expand its services by increasing the number of employer contacts and job opening notices in the college district and all of Southern Illinois," commented Sandy Rhoads, Director of the RLC Cooperative Education and Placement Office.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The college inherited scheduling of the Rend Lake Conservancy District's Trap Shoot Facility through a two-year lease agreement, with four options for renewal. The facility was not being utilized to the extent RLCD officials originally had planned and the college was asked to handle scheduling so that both public agencies might benefit.

As a result, RLC now offers a class in Trapshooting and many workshops, seminars and meetings which might have been crowded into campus facilities may now be conducted in the spacious trap field building. Under terms of the lease, the college maintains the building and grounds and pays utilities and related costs but does not operate the trap facility.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FINANCIAL SUMMARY – FY83

Operating Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 1983 . . .

REVENUE –

Property Taxes, \$1,080,231 + \$238,648 = \$1,318,879 [30.7%]; State Government, \$1,476,655 + \$417,087 = \$1,893,742 [44.4%]; Tuition and Fees, \$749,901 + \$0 = \$749,901 [17.6%]; Other, \$280,761 + \$29,067 = \$309,828 [7.3%]. Total – \$3,587,548 + \$684,802 = \$4,272,350.

EXPENSES –

Salaries, \$2,885,805 + \$282,637 = \$3,168,442 [71.0%]; Employee Benefits, \$130,981 + \$11,918 = \$142,899 [3.2%]; Contractual Services, \$177,228 + \$18,720 = \$195,948 [4.4%]; Materials and Supplies, \$218,301

+ \$43,981 = \$262,282 [5.9%]; Conferences and Meetings, \$82,801 + \$689 = \$83,490 [1.9%]; Fixed Charges, \$18,854 + \$33,657 = \$52,511 [1.2%]; Utilities, \$0 + \$306,169 = \$306,169 [6.8%]; Capital Outlay, \$129,817 + \$0 = \$129,817 [2.9%]; Other, \$119,117 + \$0 = \$119,117 [2.7%]. Total – \$3,762,904 + \$697,771 = \$4,460,675.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FACTS AND FIGURES

- COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 521
 - Area (sq. miles) 1,985
 - Population (approximate) 89,399
 - Assessed Valuation \$481,743,057
 - In-District High Schools 14
 - Benton, Christopher, Enfield
 - McLeansboro, Mt. Vernon
 - Pinckneyville, Sesser-Valier
 - Tamaroa, Thompsonville, Waltonville
 - Wayne City, Webber Township
 - Woodlawn, Zeigler-Royalton

- STUDENT BODY
 - Headcount (1982-83).....6,228
 - Fall Enrollment.....3,025
 - Men1,655
 - Women1,370
 - Full-Time.....1,060
 - Part-Time.....1,950
 - Freshmen1,430
 - Sophomores1,580
 - Financial Aid Recipients1,115
 - Scholarships290
 - Work-Study Program161

- CREDIT HOURS GENERATED FY83
 - Baccalaureate.....22,117.5
 - Business Occupational5,410.5
 - Technical Occupational14,068.0
 - Health Occupational4,932.0
 - Remedial/Developmental.....807.5
 - ABE / GED / ESL.....2,348.0
 - Others.....81.0
 - TOTAL.....49,764.5
 - Full-Time Equivalency (FTE)1,659

- DEGREES CONFERRED
 - Total (1983)374
 - Men.....149
 - Women225
 - Associate of Arts Degree.....81
 - Associate in Science Degree.....29
 - Associate in Applied Science183
 - Occupational Certificate81

- FACULTY
 - Full-Time.....61
 - Staff (inc. administrators) holding
 - Doctorate Degrees8
 - Master's Degrees29
 - Part-Time.....120

GENERATIONS OF EXCELLENCE 1994 PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

There's a theme here: Success story after success story

PUBLISHED FALL 1994

"Time will tell."

No doubt there were skeptics out there when Rend Lake College was created in 1967, just as there had been when its predecessor, Mt. Vernon Community College, was formed 12 years before.

But Rend Lake College has stood the test of time quite well, thank you.

Today, almost 28 years after the comprehensive community college opened its doors and welcomed residents of an eight-county district in Southern Illinois, there could be few doubters among us.

One in every eight individuals in District 521 looks to Rend Lake College to fill a need each year . . . over 12,000 people annually attend classes and workshops, upgrade job skills or participate in summer camps, etc. They are our sons and daughters, our spouse, our friends and neighbors, our colleagues and co-workers. Their decisions to attend RLC grew from practical concerns. But what they have found is a place where they have been given a chance to grow, to achieve, to accomplish.

It has been nearly three decades now, and thousands just like them have passed through here on the way to a better life-style. We have all benefited from what they have done for themselves. Their success is our success, for we are, above all else, a community.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The average period between the birth of one generation and that of the next, by Webster's definition, is "about 30 years." That is why we are able to boast of our "Generations of Excellence." We are no longer a first-generation institution, even though many of those attending are first-generation college students from within their own families.

Likewise, the population we serve supports the "Generations" theme. We are not a college made up entirely of 19- and 20-year-old students fresh off of a high school campus. Yes, 40 percent of all in-district graduates last year chose to attend Rend Lake College (a source of pride considering only 50 percent of all high school students continue their education immediately after graduation), but the average age of our "typical" student is now 32 and climbing. Older students quickly find they are not alone when they finally make that important decision to return to school for whatever reason.

[Editor's Note: In figuring average age, the 70-year-old Arthritis Aquatics student enrolled in a one-credit hour fitness class counts the same as the more typical 20-year-old sophomore taking a full-time class load of 16 credit hours.]

Generations.

From that pre-schooler who benefits from RLC's "Project CHILD" and the kindergartner enrolled in a summer enrichment "College for Kids" class. To the hundreds of grade-school students whose elementary schools accept our invitations to enjoy educational field-trip productions in our Theatre and the noisy crowds cheering their favorite boys and girls junior high basketball teams in our gymnasium come state tournament time.

To the serious-minded prep student who sits in on a class to see firsthand what a particular college program may be like or the vocational student visiting campus to compete in contests with peers from other schools for tuition waivers. To that traditional student preparing to move on to a four-year college or university and those students who prefer a curriculum that will prepare them for a

place in the work force after one or two years on the Ina campus.

To that single-parent taking a giant step forward to prepare for a GED; a displaced homemaker or that middle-aged worker suddenly facing unemployment after years in a factory or mining operation that no longer is in existence. To that employee who needs job retraining or skills upgrading to maintain his or her status in the workplace.

To the middle-aged person enjoying a Community Education course for personal benefit. And to the senior citizen who reaps the mental as well as physical rewards of regular workouts in one of our Super-Circuit Aerobics Fitness Center.

Generations of students.

Generations of Excellence!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Rend Lake College has been busy producing success stories for "generations." A perfect example? Cinda Chullen attended RLC following her days as a Benton Consolidated High School student. Among her college peers was her mother, Ella.

"My parents always encouraged us to get an education," Cinda recalled. "I really had the honor of going through graduation ceremonies at the college (1979) with my mother. It was great! She always said (an education) was the one thing nobody could ever take away from you, and she was right! My road to success began here at Rend Lake College."

Today, Cinda Chullen is married to Joe Riccio and a mother herself (daughter Amelia, born in 1993). She has come a long way since graduating from Rend Lake College.

Cinda Chullen is a Technical Manager for the NASA space program in Houston, overseeing a \$1 billion project involving 2,000 engineers and scientists, and was our "Alumnus of the Year" in 1992.

Not all our "success stories" involve rocket scientists or individuals who have the privilege of going through Commencement with a parent.

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***Rend Lake College's Quest to be the BEST!***  
**BROADENING EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR TOMORROW**  
~~~~~

The common thread in this scenario is Rend Lake College's ability to help people of varying needs help themselves. It happens every day, and it has been happening on a very real, very regular basis now for generations!

John Zeigler was looking for answers when he turned to the JTPA Client Service Center located on-campus for help. He found it in the Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration program, along with the help he received from our Vocational Special Needs Coordinator.

Rend Lake College, he wrote in a letter to President Mark S. Kern in 1991, "has turned my life around and has given me a new lease on life." In other excerpts from that letter, Zeigler indicated . . . "I have the highest regard for Rend Lake College." . . . "I want to thank (five staff members identified) for having faith in me before I had faith in myself." . . . "I would like to express how grateful and happy my family and I are. My outlook on life has changed from negative to positive. Thank you Rend Lake College."

Dr. Mary Kay Witges Bengtson, another former "Alumnus of the Year," remembers waiting 16 years before purchasing her first RLC T-shirt.

"Upon graduation in 1971, a T-shirt would have been an extravagance. Much has changed . . . but Rend Lake College was the critical first step that made everything possible." She adds, "If I had not had access to a community college (23 miles from her Scheller home) with reasonable tuition, I would not have been able to attend college at all. Rend Lake College was small enough that I was not overwhelmed."

★★★ ★★ ★★

Maintaining the "margin of excellence" generations have come to expect from the affordable, comprehensive community college close to home is paramount.

One of the ways to help ensure there will always be that hope for future generations is the college staff itself. "If you have dedicated people, that margin of excellence is not re-

ally hard to maintain at all . . . and we do," said RLC President Mark S. Kern. "We have people who come here and their sole responsibility is to teach; they don't have a research assignment. Our class sizes are small, and the instructors get acquainted personally with the students. Those things all help contribute to maintaining that margin of excellence."

Critical, also, are finances. Quality education and state-of-the-art equipment are practically synonymous. Technology frequently translates into a need for additional resources. And yet it is vitally important that Rend Lake College maintains financial solvency while continuing to reach out and meet the ever-changing needs of the community.

This is where you can help.

Through a process involving the entire campus community, we have identified a prioritized "wish list" of institutional needs in our Strategic Plan that will carry us into the 21st Century. Each item is accompanied by a price tag.

From this planning document, we have singled out four major projects to focus on as we embark on the most significant capital campaign in the history of Rend Lake College. Our "Generations of Excellence" will be assured if we can help make these priorities become reality.

Caring individuals invest in Rend Lake College because they know it is a worthwhile investment in our product – your sons and daughters, your spouse, your friends and neighbors, your colleagues and co-workers. Generous donations touch the lives of many generations and make a very real difference for all of us . . . the future rocket scientists among us . . . the unemployed worker looking for the kind of "break" an education can provide to turn his or her life around . . . the deserving student who hopes to make a difference in the world and realizes the best place to start is home! Much has been accomplished already in terms of friend-building and fundraising.

For example, 156 students attended Rend Lake College the past academic year thanks to scholarships

provided by benevolent individuals, businesses or organizations or the RLC Foundation. These amounted to over \$75,000 in contributions. Many others receive tuition waivers from the college itself. President's Scholarships, for example, annually attract some of the very finest graduates – upper 10 percent – from each of the 13 public high schools within the college district. Nearly 200 individuals are employed part-time on campus through federal or institutional work-study programs.

Most recently, the college has been extremely active in pursuing a matching, 2-for-1 "Endowed Challenge" Grant on reservation with the federal government. College officials have until March 1995 to bring in \$250,000 in private resources in order to receive \$500,000 in additional monies. That \$750,000 would be placed in an endowed fund, with only the interest available for a 20-year period. Recipients of Title III "Strengthening Institutions" grants were eligible to apply for the matching funds; RLC was one of only 17 community colleges nationwide to receive the challenge grant at the time it was awarded last fall.

★★★ ★★ ★★

Goal: \$1,500,000

ACADEMIC STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Endowed academic scholarships are of a permanent nature and help attract some of the brightest students to Rend Lake College, enabling them to attend regardless of their financial situation. Both the college and the students benefit greatly from these scholarships. For example, other students tend to follow their peer leaders in selecting a college, and everyone stands to gain from their valuable contributions in class.

A large number of Rend Lake College students qualify as "economically disadvantaged." The per capita income of the district is \$8,913, well below the state average of \$15,201. A recent study revealed 68 percent of the RLC students in a given semester could be classified as "low-income" students. A majority of those attending – 63 percent in Fall '93 – are first-

generation students (by federal definition) in that neither of their parents graduated with a Bachelor's Degree. This becomes even more significant when compared to the fact that less than 10 percent of the adults in the district are graduates of a four-year college. In other words, as Director of Counseling Jay Lewis points out, "If it were not for RLC, many of these students would not be students."

A total of 2,226 RLC students received some form of financial aid amounting to \$3,213,992 during the 1992-93 academic year. Scholarships, some of which are administered by outside agencies, include those made possible by endowed gifts from individuals and businesses and others awarded by the RLC Foundation to deserving students in various manners – President's Scholarships, presented to high school seniors who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class (1-3 presented per school, based on class size) throughout the district; RLC Foundation Scholarships, given to deserving students who are returning for their sophomore year; "College Bowl" for participation on RLC's academic squad that was a state champion the first year such competition was held in 1993; "JETS" awarded to the top overall scorers in seven individual testing contests sponsored by the Junior Engineering Technology Society for area high school students, and academic performance scholarships in such programs as Agriculture, Architecture, Art, Automotive, Journalism and Welding, as well as athletics.

★★★ ★★ ★★

Goal: \$1,000,000

BUILDINGS ~ ALLIED HEALTH / STUDENT SERVICES / LABS

An institution of higher learning is so much more than just mortar and bricks, and yet without adequate facilities and state-of-the-art equipment, the objectives of the college and the lofty ambitions of the students it serves cannot be reached. Thus, it is absolutely necessary to maintain an aging campus while keeping an open mind to changing needs and expansion possibilities.

Allied Health programs at Rend Lake College have received statewide recognition as exemplary models for the standard of excellence they have promoted. Creation of an Allied Health Center could only enhance that reputation.

Our graduates in the various Nursing program typically experience a much higher pass rate on state board exams than other students, often approaching the 100 percent success level. But while the Practical Nursing and Associate Degree (R.N.) Nursing programs represent our cornerstones in this outstanding field, they certainly are not alone. Job availability, both within the district and in surrounding cities and ever-increasing needs in health-related fields and specialty care are creating greater demands. On-campus instruction could be consolidated and expanded to accommodate programs being implemented by a consortium of Southern Illinois two- and four-year colleges and universities and Distance Learning initiatives.

Construction of a Student Services Center would allow for the consolidation of most functions relating to recruiting and serving students who are entering the college. A centralized location would allow college personnel to more efficiently recruit, access, counsel, advise, place and process students, especially those seeking financial aid and/or special services. It also could provide much-needed conference meeting space for outside groups.

Computerized instruction is a fact of life today for almost any progressive instructional program. The college has added a half-dozen new, dedicated computer classrooms/labs in recent years, but the need to expand is ongoing and essential.

Buildings, even those financed by the state at the recommendation of the governing Illinois Community College Board, generally require a local match before becoming a reality. Typically, the college itself must provide 25 percent of the total cost through its own resources.

★★★ ★★ ★★

Goal: \$500,000

CHILD CARE CENTER

More and more Rend Lake College students need the availability of a child care facility if they are to be able to further their education. With a student body which averages 30-plus years of age and includes many "non-traditional" single-parent students, the need for a center has become very evident in recent years. It is not unusual to observe some students bringing small children to class with them, out of necessity.

We are one of the few community colleges in the state without such a center on-campus; development of this type of facility has been identified as one of the highest priorities of the college for a number of years.

However, because of limited space, Rend Lake College is at the forefront of Child Care Resource and Referral in a 12-county area and manages the Illinois ChildCorps volunteer program for the state through the national AmeriCorps domestic service project.

An on-campus facility would help substantiate our position as a leader in that area and would permit the college to expand and improve existing educational programs as well.

★★★ ★★ ★★

Goal: \$1,000,000

FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

The federal Title III "Strengthening Institutions" Grant enabled RLC to establish and staff a full-time Resource Development Office, which boasts a Director and Assistant.

The Director also doubles as the guiding force behind the RLC Foundation, while the Assistant coordinates activities of the newly activated RLC Alumni and Friends Association.

An endowment for ongoing needs of the RLC Foundation would ensure continued progress in the vital areas of friend-building and fund-raising. The grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, is due to expire in 1995 and is not renewable.

★★★ ★★ ★★

TO QUOTE BOB BROWN " "

"For me, it was the best thing that could have happened," 1983 Alumni hon-

oree Bob Brown recalled his days as a (Mt. Vernon) Community College student. A High School Counselor within the district today, Brown added: "I deal with a lot of students. The first thing most of them tell me is that they want to get away from their parents and their hometown. But usually by April, a lot of those same students have narrowed their college choices down to Rend Lake College. It may be the 'in' thing to tell their friends they are going away to school, but the bottom line is – once they really think about it – a lot of them realize they are not quite ready to leave home. The community college offers smaller classes and a little more individualized attention."

★★★★ ★★★★★

TO QUOTE JIM WAUGH “ ”

Jim Waugh wears many hats at RLC – Health Education / First Aid Instructor, Athletic Director, Women's Basketball Coach. "It has been my second 'family' for almost 30 years," he says with pride. "What is it that has kept him in one place that long? 'Seeing some of these 'success stories.' I see the people who start here as freshmen and that we've been able to help. It gives me a great deal of satisfaction to listen to some of my former students talk about their experiences here and know their kids are coming here now. It makes me realize they enjoyed themselves while they were at Rend Lake College . . . and they got a good education, too."

★★★★ ★★★★★

TO QUOTE JAY LEWIS “ ”

RLC Director of Counseling Jay Lewis has viewed the college from all perspectives. A 'nontraditional' student when he finished a tour of duty in Vietnam and enrolled at Rend Lake College when it first opened its doors in Fall 1967, Lewis later served as a High School Counselor within the district for many years and only recently joined the staff. His son, a University of Illinois student, also has taken courses at Rend Lake College.

He talks about "a sensitivity to students. It was here then, and it is here now." "What makes RLC special is that we do work with our students and we do get to know our students." "Rend Lake College," continued Lewis, "met my needs as a student. And for 20 years as a High School Counselor, I saw what Rend Lake College could do for many of my students." How important is the college? "That can

easily be summed up by saying that if it were not for RLC, many of these students would not be students."

★★★★ ★★★★★

TO QUOTE JAMES SNYDER “ ”

From the PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 1974-75 ~ "I have developed a philosophy over the years which can be summarized by a few words: 'Anything worth doing is worth doing well.' A short time spent on campus, I believe, will provide considerable evidence that this philosophy is accepted and practiced quite consistently by most of the personnel of Rend Lake College." Dr. James M. Snyder

★★★★ ★★★★★

TO QUOTE MARK KERN “ ”

"We still operate on that same philosophy today." Mark S. Kern, RLC President, 1994

★★★★ ★★★★★

NO. OF GRADUATES FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS ATTENDING R.L.C. Fall 1993 &/or Spring 1994

■ Benton Consolidated H.S.	676
■ Christopher H.S.	264
■ McLeansboro H.S.	327
■ Mt. Vernon Township H.S.	898
■ NCOE H.S. *	14
■ Pinckneyville Community H.S.	356
■ Sesser-Valier H.S.	270
■ Thompsonville Community H.S.	93
■ Waltonville H.S.	111
■ Wayne City H.S.	101
■ Webber Township H.S.	97
■ Woodlawn Community H.S. **	89
■ Zeigler-Royalton H.S.	139
■ IN-DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL GRADS ATTENDING R.L.C.	3,435

* Only Enfield students in RLC District

** Some students in Kaskaskia District

★★★★ ★★★★★

IN CONCLUSION . . .

More than merely seeking gifts or donations, we are asking you to consider investing in . . .

- **Campus growth**
- **Community growth**
- **Economic Development**

We are asking you to invest in the individual growth of the many students who come to Rend Lake College

. . . Students who may have to have that assistance to achieve their dreams and goals.

The "Generations of Excellence" capital campaign represents a partnership between public and private interests for the betterment of Rend Lake College students.

The RLC Foundation invites and encourages your continued interest and support.

Generous individuals who give to Rend Lake College because they believe in the vital mission of the institution may benefit in other ways. Donors often realize income and estate tax benefits, as well as reduced probate and administrative costs.

Some of the many ways to invest in the future of our community:

- Student Scholarships
- Memorials
- Corporate Contributions
- Alumni Giving
- Charitable Gifts
- Annual Giving
- Special Events
- Capital Campaign
- Outright Cash Gifts
- Cash Gifts Pledged Over Time
- Planned Giving
 - Life Insurance
 - Contingent Beneficiary
 - Bequests and Trusts
 - Life Estate in the form of Real Estate
 - Equities, Securities and Real Estate that have appreciated
 - Tangible Personal Property, such as art

A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 1996-97

thirtysomething ... 'It doesn't seem possible, does it?'

PUBLISHED WINTER 1996-97

MESSAGE from the President

The founding President of Rend Lake College, Jim Snyder, made the following statement in 1967: "We can't be all things to all people, but what we do we will do well."

Rend Lake College has done what it does well for the past 30 years, as evidenced by the fact our graduates consistently perform better after transferring to a four-year university than the university's own "native" students and better than transfer students from other community colleges. Our vocational graduates are given preference by many area businesses as they look for new employees.

The college's three main sources of revenue are local taxes, tuition and state reimbursement. From 1984 to 1994, the assessed valuation of the college district declined and unemployment increased, primarily because of the decline in the mining industry. These two factors affected the college's revenue by lowering local tax support and creating a need for low tuition for unemployed family members seeking a college education or retraining. These changes occurred during a time when the college needed to increase its expenditures for "High-Tech" equipment, primarily in the areas of computers and information technology.

To maintain its level of excellence despite revenue constraints previously mentioned, the college and the college Foundation decided to increase efforts to obtain money from private sources. In December 1994, a five-year capital campaign was initiated. Goals were to raise \$4 million for student scholarships, high-tech equipment and matching funds for campus buildings. The community response has been outstanding. After two years, annual scholarships provided by the Foundation have increased from 50 to over 100. The endowment fund has gone from \$120,000 to approximately \$1 million. Total contributions and pledges

during this two-year period are now approaching \$2 million, half of the five-year goal.

On behalf of Rend Lake College and the RLC Foundation, I would like to express our appreciation for this community support.

Sincerely yours,

Mark S. Kern, President

– December 12, 1966

★★★ ★★ ★★

REFLECTIONS *thirtysomething*

As golfers age, they can take great pride in having the ability to "shoot their age."

The same must hold true for community colleges.

Admittedly, we are having somewhat of a problem catching up to and acting our age. Rend Lake College is 30 years old – it doesn't seem possible, does it? – and the average age of our students keeps creeping upward as well. Thanks to an influx of what used to be known as non-traditional students – those going back to school after raising a family, those who have endured job layoffs or related setbacks, senior citizens concerned with keeping their minds challenged and their bodies fit, et al – the average age of all full-time and part-time Rend Lake College students is now close to 35 and on the rise.

But as a longtime employee observed recently, "Things really haven't changed all that much around here, have they?" And that is something we can be proud of, also.

Rend Lake College has, in many ways, changed dramatically in the "thirtysomething" years of its existence. Even its Mission Statement was updated awhile back. Keeping up with ... or more accurately, staying ahead of the times ... is no easy task in this exciting, ever-changing world.

By the same token, we have stayed close to our roots by making sure we continue to provide high-quality, low-cost educational opportunities for the residents of the district we serve. We are pleased to maintain open-door policies for those who might wish to

take advantage of our programs and stand to benefit from them. We offer Educational Guarantees for those entrusting their future well-being to us. Proximity to home remains a strong selling point, and the size of our classes enables us to boast of instructors who know their students on a first-name basis.

Over 10,000 Rend Lake College graduates (degrees and certificates) are now in the community and the work force helping promote our reputation and serving as living testimonials to our niche within the district and all of Southern Illinois. That many people and more – about 12,000 each year, one in every eight residents – enroll in college classes on- or off-campus, day and evening, credit and noncredit; attend workshops and seminars; participate in summer and weekend enrichment camps for youth, etc.

Computers. Technology. Hi-tech. Telecourses. Distance Learning. Internet. Voice mail.

We confess. A lot has changed in 30 years. Rend Lake College has, too, and will continue to provide "lifelong learning" for generations to come.

★★★ ★★ ★★

UP-TO-DATE *changing times*

Flashback: September 1967. Following a record, overwhelming show of support in the establishment of an area-wide community college, Rend Lake College begins Fall Semester classes on the campus of Mt. Vernon Township High School (where Mt. Vernon Community College had held fort previously) with a staff of 29 full-time and eight part-time faculty members, two full-time administrators and a librarian serving a student body that includes 465 full-time freshmen and 164 full-time sophomores, plus another 136 individuals attending part-time.

Update: 1996-97 Academic Year. The instructional staff is comprised of 30 Professors with 10 or more years of experience at RLC, 21 Associate Professors and nine instructors with less

than three years at RLC, in addition to 120 part-time instructors. Add to that list 28 administrators, 42 support staff, 48 other full-time staff and nine full-time correctional center employees. They give direction to a student body (headcount) totalling 4,200-4,500 per semester, between 1,500 and 2,000 of whom are attending full-time.

The annual college budget is now \$9 million in the Educational and Operations / Maintenance Funds alone. During FY96, the college also administered \$49 million in special grants and contracts, accounting for the employment of 41 of those full-time staff members and 40 part-time employees. Grants, for example, enable us to open Family Education Centers in area communities, oversee domestic AmeriCorps programs statewide (Illinois ChildCorps) and regionally (AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois), establish Distance Learning sites within the district, provide numerous special populations programs on-campus and purchase vocational equipment.

Rend Lake College was first in the state to complete its Campus Facilities Master Plan, with groundbreaking ceremonies for Phase I (five buildings) in March 1969 and occupancy less than a year and a half later, followed by the completion of both Phases II and III by 1975. A new Maintenance Building replaced the original one following a fire in the mid-'70s. A building also was erected in 1974 to house the Technology program; three expansions later, it was totally renovated in 1989. At that same time, a new Automotive wing was added to the Vocational Building.

Construction of a new Aquatics / Rehabilitation Center for public usage began this fall and is scheduled for opening around September 1997. Buildings / facilities renamed in honor of those who have made their mark at RLC are the Dr. Allen Y. Baker Administration Building, named in 1979 for one of the original Trustees, and James "Hummer" Waugh Gymnasium and the Wayne Arnold Fitness Center, both of which recognize longtime faculty members since special ceremonies last November.

★★★ ★★ ★★

the community college IMPACT

People attend community colleges for a variety of reasons. Although some students intend to transfer to a four-year college or university, others enroll to earn technical degrees to prepare for job entry, to upgrade their career or skills, to develop basic remedial skills and for personal interests.

Many are the first member of their families to enroll in higher education. These students tend to be older, have family and job responsibilities and attend college part-time.

The number of Associate Degrees they award is only one important measure of community colleges' impact. Success also is defined by such indicators as transfer rates, student goal attainment and satisfaction, job placement rate and employer satisfaction.

Community colleges are key players in training the workforce of the future. Teaming up with business and industry, community colleges train and retrain thousands of employees annually, providing an invaluable economic resource to their local communities.

Community colleges offer programs that place high-quality graduates in some of the most sought-after professions of the modern workplace. In fact, training for seven of the Top 10 "Hot Jobs" for the next century, as identified by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, is available at community colleges. Already, 65 percent of all nurses and allied health professionals are trained by community colleges.

Community colleges are accessible, as well. Over 90 percent of the U.S. population resides within an hour's drive or considerably less from a community college campus.

More than 400,000 Associate Degrees and nearly 200,000 one- and two-year Occupational Certificates are awarded annually by American Association of Community Colleges member institutions.

In a congratulatory note in celebration of Community College Month earlier this year, President Bill Clinton noted: "As we stand on the threshold of the 21st Century, our nation's continued success depends on our ability

to unleash the creativity and energy of all our people. Embracing the goals of educational excellence and opening new doors of opportunity, America's community colleges play a vital role in this effort. They serve as models of ingenuity and flexibility, making higher education accessible to more students and offering curricula that are both innovative and practical.

"I commend the hundreds of community colleges across our nation for empowering millions of students with the knowledge and training they need to succeed and for working to revitalize the bonds of community."

★★★ ★★ ★★

FINANCES now and then

Education and Operations / Maintenance Fund / FY 1996 ~ Year 29.

REVENUE – State Government, \$4,432,179 [57.3%]; Local Government, \$1,036,986 [13.4%]; Tuition and Fees, \$1,875,225 [24.2%]; Other Sources, \$295,925 [3.8%]; Interest / Facilities Revenue, \$101,303 [1.3%]. Total – \$7,741,618.

EXPENSES BY OBJECT – Salaries and Benefits, \$6,258,797 [78.1%]; Materials and Supplies, \$473,112 [5.9%]; Contractual Services, \$382,392 [4.8%]; Utilities, \$455,325 [5.7%]; Capital Outlay, \$225,894 [2.8%]; Other, 221,440 [2.8%]. Total – \$8,016,960.

EXPENSES BY PROGRAM – Instruction, \$4,573,426 [57.0%]; Academic Support, \$293,143 [3.7%]; Student Services, 749,530 [9.3%]; General Administration, \$616,196 [7.7%]; General Institutional Support, \$460,649 [5.7%]; Plant Operations / Maintenance, \$1,135,214 [14.2%]; Public Service, \$188,802 [2.4%]. Total – \$8,016,960.

★★★ ★★ ★★

FY 1982 ~ Year 15.

REVENUE – \$4,281,263.

EXPENSES – Salaries and Benefits, \$3,224,401 [73.7%]. Total – \$4,376,860.

★★★ ★★ ★★

FY 1972 ~ Year 5.

REVENUE – \$1,305,172.

EXPENSES – Salaries and Benefits, \$1,022,725 [79.9%]. Total – \$1,280,373.

FLIP SIDE / A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 1996-97

'generations of excellence' RLC Foundation campaign

PUBLISHED WINTER 1996-97 ON REVERSE SIDE WITH
RLC *thirtysomething* REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

MESSAGE from the Director

Dear Friends of RLC Foundation,

Since its revitalization in 1979, the Rend Lake College Foundation has worked hard to meet the goals and unmet resource needs of Rend Lake College.

In 1994, the college asked its eight-county community for help in achieving its mission. Individuals, corporations, foundations and service organizations all responded by stepping forward to join us in those efforts. They offered support in the form of cash, pledges, planned estate gifts, in-kind equipment and services.

Through these fund-raising efforts, a new future has evolved for Rend Lake College and the communities it serves.

The Rend Lake College Foundation works closely with attorneys, trust officers, accountants, money managers, community college consultants and volunteers who make up committees to help make wise decisions on behalf of Rend Lake College and its students.

The Rend Lake College Foundation supports and encourages our proud institution. Thanks to the generosity of our contributors, Rend Lake College has been able to help students see their dreams turn into reality and will continue to be able to do so in the years ahead.

Herb Winemiller Jr., Director
of Resource Development
Executive Director, RLCF

– December 12, 1996

★★★ ★★ ★★

generations of EXCELLENCE

The Rend Lake College Foundation was incorporated by the State of Illinois in 1966 to advance the educational, scientific and cultural purposes of Rend Lake College. However, it remained inactive until 1979, when amendments to the original Articles of Incorporation were adopted and Officers and a Board of Directors elected.

The Rend Lake College Founda-

tion provides a financial structure for soliciting, holding and administering privately donated funds and gifts for the benefit of the college. One of the major Foundation accomplishments has been the establishment of student scholarships.

A "Generations of Excellence" capital campaign launched at the Annual Dinner in December 1994 and chaired by Mt. Vernon Banker Sam Mateer is responsible for bringing in nearly \$2 million in outside resources in the first two years of a five-year plan.

This has been achieved thanks, in part, to a matching, 2-for-1 Title III "Strengthening Institutions" Challenge Grant from the federal government, which turned \$250,000 in donations into an endowed fund of \$750,000.

Thanks, also, to the generosity and dedicated work of numerous community / staff volunteers and business supporters and an internal Family Campaign which brought near-100 percent response from faculty and staff. Sound advice from consultants, The Clements Group, and liaison Susan B. Feamster, and wise investments likewise helped.

"Lead" gifts in the "Generations of Excellence" Campaign have been many. A \$35,000 donation from the estate of Stan and Jean Koziara, administered by Stan the Tire Man's Dale Lowery, was the largest donation to date when it was given during the year prior to the campaign start-up and helped set the example for others to follow.

And who could forget the 1994 Annual Dinner, when an emotional Jimmy Fulks and the trendsetting Mateer both told of five-year, \$100,000 pledges from their respective businesses, Mariah Boats, Inc., and Bank of Illinois in Mt. Vernon.

This occurred a few days after an announcement and \$100,000 gift from the district's largest industry, Continental A.G., General Tire and GTY Tire. Farrar Oil Company stepped forward to contribute \$50,000 that

evening, with sign magnate Coyn Mateer and Peoples National Bank hopping on the bandwagon for another \$25,000 each.

In the next year, John Kendrick and Kendrick Paper Stock Co., already good for \$50,000, pledged \$120,000 more to ensure aid for needy students. Radio / TV Owner Russ Withers, Master of Ceremonies deluxe, was announced as a \$25,000 donor, and members of the Mt. Vernon Retail Liquor Association made a \$50,000 gesture.

Other major donors: loyal RLC employees, Rend Lake Conservancy District, valued Foundation veterans Howard L. Payne and Mildred Fitzgerrell, McDonald's Tom McHugh, Dinner co-host First Cellular of Southern Illinois, Big Chief Auto Truck Plaza, Big Muddy Community Action Agency, Emil Perpich and two which choose to remain anonymous.

★★★ ★★ ★★

INVESTING in Rend Lake College

More than merely seeking gifts or donations, we are asking you to consider investing in:

- Campus Growth
- Community Growth
- Economic Development

Your gift to the Rend Lake College Foundation can provide assistance to students and programs at Rend Lake College in a variety of ways. No gift is too small to make a difference. All contributions from individuals, corporations, service organizations and foundations are welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Donors give because they support the mission of Rend Lake College. There are many additional benefits beyond the obvious tax deductions, such as: gifts in trust with retained income for the giver, which can increase spendable income, and opportunities to partially or completely avoid capital gains taxes, reduce estate taxes and / or reduce probate and administrative costs.

(Continued at bottom of Page 81)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010 REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

Ingenuity, commitment help RLC thrive in tough times

PUBLISHED SPRING 2011

In the President's Message in the 2010 **Annual Report to Our Community**, Charley D. Holstein is proud to admit, "Even during these trying financial times, Rend Lake College continues to thrive."

Later in the commentary, he goes on to state: "Our enrollment and credit-hour generation continue to increase and we experienced fast-paced growth in our online and hybrid offerings as well. We awarded 1,563 certificates and degrees and experienced a record number of students participating in our graduation ceremony this year. We added 10 new programs of instruction and 17 new courses, and we are in the process of adding another seven courses as I write this report. Overall, the college experienced a positive growth year even considering many obstacles we had to overcome.

"In the Spring of 2010, we experienced the same uncertainty of funding as other agencies or businesses that rely heavily on state funding. The slowdown of payments from the state caused us to take a hard look at our operations and to make adjustments to the services we provide. However, through a collaborative effort by the entire college team as well as a supportive Board of Trustees, we were able to trim operational costs by more than \$200,000 and did not suffer any layoffs or dismissals like many other colleges were forced to deal with. This fact alone illustrates the ingenuity and commitment we have from our team members and the commitment to our students as everyone pulled together, made sacrifices, all in an effort to ensure Rend Lake College continues to provide high-quality, low-cost educational opportunities. The efforts by the Illinois Community College Board, Illinois Community College Trustees Association and our elected officials to ensure we received as much funding as possible cannot be overlooked and is greatly appreciated."

★★★ ★★ ★★

SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NOTE:

- Significantly increased Cosmetology and Culinary Arts enrollments;
- Completed Phase I renovation of Welding Lab and started on Phase II.
- Completed renovation of a Science Lab on the main campus;
- Significantly increased Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) enrollment at the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon;
- Offered three new Elementary Education degrees;
- Graduated our first online Nursing students;
- And completed construction of a Mine Rescue and Fire Safety Training facility which complements our indoor mock mine and makes us a regional leader in Coal Mine and Fire Safety training.

Also this year, Rend Lake College:

- Enhanced online programming and services for students;
- Partnered with several four-year institutions to provide Baccalaureate and Master's degrees at the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon,
- And submitted plans for Science and Study Lab additions at the RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus.

★★★ ★★ ★★

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Words from Board Chair William D. Edmison emphasized the following . . .

"CNN recently reported the unemployment rate among high school dropouts is 14.9 percent, but the unemployment rate for those with further education is 4.5 percent. This certainly shows we must move forward to meet this challenge. Competition for jobs is worldwide. Programs like dual credit, online courses and expanded course offerings help serve the area.

"With dedicated staff, faculty and administration, Rend Lake College still provides the best education value. The future can be much brighter with the help of Rend Lake College."

★★★ ★★ ★★

TRAINING TO SAVE LIVES

The completed construction of a state-of-the-art Mine Rescue and Fire Safety facility at Rend Lake College has added another facet to the institution's rapidly growing Applied Science and Technology Division.

The new facility is equipped with a simulated mine entry and crosscut, with moveable fire pits and other structures needed for mine rescue and safety training. The structure is a T-shaped tunnel with three entry/exit points. Within the steel walls, smoke and fire, burning around 1,300 degrees, combine to create a tremendous training environment. Outside the tunnels, fire hose hookups allow students to connect to their water supply to fight the flames.

"I don't know that you could simulate a mine fire any better than what these guys see at our new facility," said Dave Columbo, Mining Technology Associate Professor. "These individuals are preparing for a disaster situation that no one wants to ever happen. But, if it does happen, it's good to know they have prepared the best they can in the most realistic training environment."

The project was funded by a Brookwood-Sago Grant, one of only six in the nation. The grant allows the college to provide the training free of charge for organizations looking to enhance their fire-fighting skills.

"The college started by breathing new life into our Mining Technology program with the construction of a 20,000-square-foot Coal Mine Training Center. From there, we received generous equipment gifts like the continuous miner from Joy Mining Machinery, an atmospheric monitoring system from CONSPEC Controls and Pillar Innovations, and grant funding has helped purchase a mantrip, a roof bolter, a CLA vehicle, a 12-volt power center and other training equipment."

★★★ ★★ ★★

HELMETS TO HARDHATS

Governor Pat Quinn visited the Helmets to Hardhats program this

August, promising to do more for the program and spin its model into new initiatives across Illinois.

"I really want to thank Rend Lake College, all of the staff and everyone here who is committed to learning and education," Quinn said. "I really believe in the mission of community colleges."

Launched in 2003, Helmets to Hardhats is a national initiative which connects National Guard, Reserve and transitioning active-duty military service members with high-quality construction industry training and employment opportunities.

At RLC, participants train four days a week, 10 hours a day. After successfully completing the tests, they start apprenticeships at local unions in the area for around \$20 an hour.

"They fought for us in Iraq and Afghanistan," Quinn said. "They should not have to fight for a job in Illinois. It is our duty on the home front to take good care of those who have borne the battle. And that's really the heart of Helmets to Hardhats."

★★★ ★★ ★★

STUDENT CENTERED

Student Services keeps the opportunities coming to our students. Some highlights:

- A total of 4,783 students from area high schools took 11,523 credit hours last year, totaling savings of \$852,702 in Rend Lake College tuition and \$187,416 in textbook costs, for a grant total of \$1,040,118.

- RLC earned a five-year renewal on its Student Support Services Grant, to the tune of nearly \$1.4 million. This will fund RLC's Student Transfer and Retention Support (STARS) and Upward Bound programs.

- Helped returning soldiers transition back to civilian life by hosting the Army National Guard Yellow Ribbon event. Approximately 90 local soldiers and their family members were served with classes on finance management, military benefits and counseling services on marriage skills, family and drug and alcohol abuse. Dean of Student Services Lisa Price was recognized by the Army National Guard for her efforts.

★★★ ★★ ★★



★★★ ★★ ★★

MOVING BUSINESS FORWARD

The Rend Lake College MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon has served as an innovative part of the RLC mission. Not only does it allow residents to take credit classes of all sorts at a convenient location, it also serves as a retail center and houses the Cosmetology and Massage Therapy programs, several auxiliary college services and state offices.

But area entrepreneurs rely on the MarketPlace for more.

The Illinois Small Business Development Center at Rend Lake College was established in 2001. In the decade that followed the office has:

- Created 579 jobs with 221 jobs retained.
- Assisted in procuring funding for 75 new and purchased start-up businesses.
- Reached \$25.5 million in investment impact for loans, equity and grant funding.

In the first three quarters of 2010 alone, the small business incubator has assisted 134 clients, 34 of whom obtained nearly \$1.5 million in needed capital.

"The center appreciates the hard work of these clients who have accepted the responsibility and risk associated with creating and retaining employees on their payroll. We also give credit to funding institutions and agencies that risk their investment every day by putting confidence in the plans our clients submit to them," said Curt Mowrer, Executive Director of the SBDC.

★★★ ★★ ★★

NEW LOOK, SAME HIGH QUALITY

This year, Rend Lake College proudly unveiled its new logo, created through a team effort between the college's Branding Committee and the Arthur Agency of Carbondale.

The new logo features the college's Staff Clock Tower, a prominent piece of architecture on the Ina campus, over the college's name in a serif font. Work to develop the new logo began in March 2009 with the college's Branding Committee, made up of a wide cross-section of campus employees and students.

After the Branding Committee came up with what it wanted to accomplish, the college hired the Arthur Agency to help develop the logo. The company's efforts were spearheaded by co-owners Clint Eilerts and Dennis Poshard. Eilerts is an RLC grad [Class of 1999, and the son of former AAA Department Administrative Assistant Ellen Eilerts Kirsch] who had long wanted to help the college develop its brand.

"The new logo will serve many purposes," Eilerts said. "It breathes new life into their brand and can stand the test of time by complementing any marketing campaign or initiative. The logo gives Rend Lake College a clear identity that can easily be used consistently, and one that they can be proud of and shout from the rooftops."

★★★ ★★ ★★

OUR MISSION: STUDENT SUCCESS

Rend Lake College provides educational opportunities across cultural and economic boundaries to the diverse student population that we serve. In addition to our commitment to fulfill all our education and community-focused program objectives, we are committed to every degree-completing student demonstrating the fundamental skills of effective critical thinking, problem-solving, oral communication and written communication. In fulfilling its mission, Rend Lake College will be an active leader in our region's development.

*Our students' success
is our own success.*

★★★★ ★★★★★

INVESTING IN INNOVATION

We realize the immense return on investing in technology. The Information Technology Department at RLC procures, installs, maintains and repairs all technology at the college's three campuses. In addition to solving everyday issues, the college devoted resources to these projects:

- Extensive research and sampling numerous vendors to get the best Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system for RLC. The ERP will integrate all functions and activities at the college, helping to reduce overall costs by more effectively managing financial, physical and human resources.
- Created Smartrooms at the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon.
- Upgraded BlackBoard software – used for online instruction – and scheduled more upgrades for Summer 2011.
- Planning has begun on a redesign of the college website. Also, we are piloting a content management system called Revize to potentially improve management and updating of the college's website content and features.
- Researching a system to streamline reporting duties of various campus departments.
- Upgrades to the college e-mail system.
- Coordinated a printer contract with an off-site vendor which should reduce printing costs by approximately \$18,000 a year.
- Installed digital display boards at main and satellite campuses.

★★★★ ★★★★★

PINCKNEYVILLE SCIENCE RALLY

The generosity of the Rend Lake College community is making possible an expansion to the RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus which will allow students to earn a complete Associate Degree at that facility.

The new 1,365-square-foot, \$400,000 Science Laboratory addition will allow students to fulfill their science lab requirements at Pinckneyville, which was the only component missing from a complete

degree. It is being funded totally by donations to the Rend Lake College Foundation.

During the RLCF Annual Dinner in December, CEO Pat Kern announced the Foundation Board had decided to increase the scope of the project to include a commons area for students, bringing the initiative to a total of \$500,000.

"Tremendous credit is due to our Foundation Board members Dr. Bill Roe, Mary Pericolosi and Kevin Pyatt, and especially to our retired member, Dr. Gene Stotlar, who championed this project," Kern said.

★★★★ ★★★★★

EDUCATING OUR COMMUNITY

Part of Rend Lake College's mission is to ensure quality education for all of our constituents; i.e., more than regular credit classes, degrees and occupational certificates. That is where the Center for Community and Corporate Education comes in.

Approximately 500 students attended courses and trips organized by CCCE last year. Highlights included classes on energy savings, taxidermy, hunter safety, sign language, digital photography, stargazing and numerous sports classes.

The center offers training for business and industry as well. Computer workshops were taken by 111 students, and 380 professionals attended Continuing Education workshops and training to improve job skills.

In addition, over 8,000 people received American Heart Association training, 75 Truck Driver Training students received Commercial Driver's Licenses and 52 RLC students found employment and experience through the Cooperative Education program by working in elementary and secondary schools in the district.

Another facet of CCCE is the Institute of Lifelong Learning, through which 160 students took classes and tours. Ex.: visits from Johnny Appleseed and Chief Lame Wolf in a living history presentation; two cultural trips to Missouri; a "Taste of St. Louis" Tour experiencing unique foods, and a trip to Marthasville, MO, for the Deutsch Country Days Festival.

A popular offering is the annual selection of Kids Summer Camps; 309 youngsters attended camps ranging from Outer Space Art and Weird Science to Culinary Chefs and Horseback Riding.

★★★★ ★★★★★

STUDENTS TO TAKE ON BIOFUELS

An exciting new course and research opportunity in biofuels will come to Rend Lake College next year, thanks to a \$60,835 U.S. Department of Agriculture grant.

This new transferable course, worth three credit hours, will be an Internet-based study of the production and use of methane, ethanol and biodiesel, with an on-campus laboratory. It will meet over four Saturdays and also will be available as a non-credit Community Education class.

Students will actually produce methane, ethanol and biodiesel from campus farm feedstock. In addition, the grant will pay for four student interns each semester to study the cost-effectiveness of local biofuel use.

"We are in the process of developing the laboratory now," said Physics Professor Dr. Linda Denton. "I've had a lot of people ask about it . . . former students who come in, mechanics interested in making it for their car, farmers who are interested in pressing their own soybeans and making biodiesels for their equipment and just people in the community who are interested in saving money on gasoline."

Denton predicts it will be more expensive to use biodiesels instead of regular diesel fuel, but there are other benefits, such as cutting down on pollution and building a back-up plan for the possibility of sky-rocketing fuel prices. Of course, she will have to wait for the study to come out before she knows for sure.

★★★★ ★★★★★

CHRIS NIELSEN: FACULTY EXCELLENCE

When Chris Nielsen was laid off by Old Ben Coal Mine in 1991, he did what many like him did. He went back to school at Rend Lake College. Nineteen years later, he is still there. The Applied Science and Technology

Division Professor was this year's recipient of the RLC Foundation "Faculty Excellence" Award.

"I was fortunate enough to have gone to college right out of high school. It was the education I had that allowed me to transition careers." Nielsen holds Bachelor and Master's degrees from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

When he first started teaching Electrical Retraining in the Mining Technology program at Rend Lake College, many of the faces looking back at him in class were people he worked with. Today, students look to him for skills they can use in their current jobs or valuable training for a new career.

"These students go on to find productive employment in maintenance and engineering departments all the way from Continental Tire to Toyota and Caterpillar," he said.

"Chris has an uncanny ability to reach his students on a level that not only facilitates learning, but also a sense of accomplishment," said Nielsen's supervisor, Terry Wilkerson.

"He deserves it," said student Greg Dillon. "He's a good teacher. He's an excellent teacher, actually. I'm 40 years old and he can still teach me."

[Editor's Note: When Wilkerson was named RLC President in 2012, he was succeeded as Division Chair by Nielsen.]

★★★ ★★ ★★

BETTER EDUCATORS, BETTER STUDENTS

Our faculty and staff have been extremely busy this year, not only in their classrooms and offices, but also in developing themselves and their skills. The list is far too long to include in its entirety, but we have assembled quite an impressive group of them here.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Christina Hutcheson**, Director of Adult Education and Literacy, was selected as one of 15 Adult Education administrators statewide to participate in the new Leadership Excellence Academy through the partnership of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the National Adult

Education Professional Development Consortium.

- **Shelly Kuhns**, Allied Health Division Chair, earned her Illinois Advanced Practice Nurse License.

- **Henry "Buster" Leeck**, Liberal Arts Division Chair, and Terry Wilkerson, Applied Science and Technology Division Chair, graduated from the Academy for Leadership and Development through the Chair Academy, part of Maricopa Community College (AZ).

- **Nicholas LeMay**, Assistant Director of the Illinois Small Business Development Center at RLC, was designated an SBA Certified Business Specialist by the Illinois Entrepreneurship Network and the Illinois DCEO.

- **Lori Ragland**, Director of the Center for Community and Corporate Education, is the 2010 President of the Illinois Council for Continuing Education and Training Board.

- **Walt Steele**, Help Desk/Web Assistant, earned 10 professional certifications as part of his Bachelor's Degree program at Western Governors University (UT).

AWARDS

- **Nathan Brouwer**, History Instructor, Phi Theta Kappa "Instructor of the Year."

- **Brenda Garvin**, Executive Assistant to the Dean of Special Programs, RLC Foundation "Outstanding Staff" Award.

- **Chris Nielsen**, Industrial Maintenance Professor and Mine Training Coordinator, RLCF "Faculty Excellence" Award.

- **Kay Shaw**, Developmental Math Associate Professor, RLC Assessment Award.

- **Nathan Wheeler**, Assistant Director of Marketing and Public Information, Bronze Medallion Award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations.

DEGREES EARNED

- **Chad Copple**, Director of Marketing and Public Information, and **Jason Swann**, Academic Counselor and Dual Credit Coordinator, both Master of Arts in Education, McKendree University.

- **Betty Jo Herbert**, Certified Nurse Assistant Associate Professor, Bach-

elor of Science in Nursing, McKendree University.

- **Greg Hollmann**, Political Science Associate Professor, Master of Science in Education Degree (Curriculum and Instruction in Science Education), Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

- **Beth Mandrell**, Reference Librarian, Masters in Library Science, Drexel University (PA).

- **Jeannie Mitchell**, Psychology Associate Professor, Educational Doctorate in Educational Leadership, Oakland City (IN) University.

- **Mark Mueller**, Agricultural Mechanics Associate Professor, Master of Science Degree, Murray (KY) State University.

- **Caroline Smith**, Subsidized Child Care Specialist for Child Care Resource and Referral, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Mid-Continent University (KY). Graduated cum laude.

- **Loughton Smith**, Culinary Arts Associate Professor, Master of Science Degree in Higher Education Administration, Drexel University.

★★★ ★★ ★★

WARRIOR ATTITUDE

This year was big for Warrior athletics. Four members of the Men's Cross-Country Team that earned the college its seventh National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) title – fifth in Men's Cross-Country – in 2009 graduated and moved on to four-year universities. This included Stephen Sambu (University of Arizona); in his first season with the Wildcats, Sambu took second at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Cross-Country finals this fall and was named the Pac-10 Conference "Male Athlete of the Year" and "Newcomer of the Year."

- Over 30 RLC representatives were named Athletic All-Americans; nearly 40 signed or committed to four-year universities, including powerhouse programs like Florida, Arizona, Tennessee, Arkansas and Ohio State, while one moved on to the Canadian Olympic Training Center.

- Jared Harp of Benton took third at the NJCAA Men's Golf National

Championships in the Spring and is now playing at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

• Tim Wills said goodbye after 18 seasons at the helm of Warrior basketball. Benton businessman and former Salukis standout Randy House succeeded Wills, who continues to serve as Athletic Director and Health Education Professor.

• The Cheerleading and Dance teams both received bids to compete at the Collegiate Cheer and Dance National Championships in April.

★★★ ★★ ★★

FY2010 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial information is from the Fiscal Year 2010 College Audit and includes the Education Fund, Operations and Maintenance Fund and Auxiliary Fund. Funds not included are restricted in purpose.

REVENUE – State Government, \$8,671,939 [34.4%]; Local Tax Revenue, \$2,285,817 [9.0%]; Tuition and Fees (generated from students, course lab fees and technology fees), \$9,899,845 [39.3%], and Other (represents sales and services fees, facilities usage fees, investments and any other sources of revenue), \$4,372,768 [17.3%]. Total – \$25,230,369.

The State Government figure illustrates our reliance upon the state for funding of basic operations. A delay in the receipt of funding or reductions in funding have a greater impact on our college because of this.

EXPENSES – Salaries and Benefits, \$12,310,763 [53.6%]; Materials and Supplies, \$3,303,717 [14.4%]; Contractual (fees paid for services provided by companies or individuals under contract with RLC, \$1,009,349 [4.4%]; Other (travel, utilities, capital outlay and other fixed charges), \$6,337,367 [27.6%]. Total – \$22,961,196.

★★★ ★★ ★★

2010 IN REVIEW ... MONTH-BY-MONTH

JANUARY – State funding problems lead to cuts and tuition increase of \$6 per credit hour. ❖ College announces third and final year of National Endowment for the Arts partnership in “The Big Read.” ❖ RLC hosts Southern Illinois Junior

High School Athletic Associations Boys and Girls Basketball State Championships [in three classes] for 22nd straight year. ❖ Courtney Cox and the Rainmakers hold concert to raise money for student scholarships.

FEBRUARY – Board accepts \$218,315 bid to construct the Mine Rescue and Fire Safety facility. ❖ New RLC logo launches. ❖ RLC Foundation Board member Dr. Gene Stotlar announces retirement, challenges Board to pursue Pinckneyville Campus Science Lab addition. ❖ Karissa Johnson (Mt. Vernon) and Brent Hanke (Carlyle) named RLC Homecoming Queen and King.

MARCH – Kelly Woodrow joins the RLC Board of Trustees. ❖ Board renews Illinois Department of Corrections contract through June 30, 2011, after meeting with college personnel to be affected by ending the training agreement. ❖ Radiology Director Kim Robert supports CARE Bill with ASRT in Washington, D.C. ❖ Bonds of \$3,433,914 are issued to meet cash needs in light of delayed state funding. ❖ RLC Alumna and Ball State University grad student Micah Rainwater presents at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting. ❖ Eric Ellington repeats as Wrestling All-American.

APRIL – College adds Agriculture Education program and three new courses in Culinary Arts. ❖ RLC takes third at Illinois College Bowl finals. ❖ RLC’s Phi Theta Kappa Rho Xi Chapter welcomes nearly 70 new members. ❖ New Student Trustee Kody Schwarze seated. ❖ PTK All-USA nominees Emma Talbert and Karissa Johnson represent RLC at state capital. ❖ John McKinney takes RLC “Outstanding Agriculture Student of the Year” Award at the program’s 34th Annual Banquet. ❖ Softball Coach Dave Ellingsworth claims 700th win.

MAY – ICCTA Southeast Region Trustees tour RLC Coal Mine Training Center. ❖ Industrial Maintenance Technology Professor Chris Nielsen receives the 2010 RLC “Faculty Excellence” Award. ❖ The Robert Earl Jones Mine Rescue Contest returns to campus for the fourth straight year.

❖ More than 700 graduates earn 727 degrees and 836 certificates at Commencement. Graduate Clint Eilerts delivers memorable address. ❖ College honors seven retiring employees.

JUNE – RLC hosts the 32nd Annual Lions Club All-Star Basketball Games. ❖ Nursing Conference in RLC Theatre features national speaker Barb Bancroft, RN, MSN, PNP. ❖ College says goodbye to most decorated Warrior in history, Stephen Sambu, who went on scholarship to Arizona after winning nine individual and one relay National Championships in Cross-Country and Track and Field. The Kenyan native was a 13-time All-America and the Men’s Outdoor Co-Track Athlete of the Meet.

JULY – Freshman Randy Jones grabs Bronze Medal at SkillsUSA. ❖ Softball teammates Kassandra Korte, Katie Wojtowicz and Nicole Rhein earn NJCAA Academic All-America honors. ❖ Liberal Arts Professor Steve Kennett studies plains Native American tribes. ❖ College hosts University of Illinois-sponsored Southern Illinois Beef Conference. ❖ VESTA wine making and grape growing classes made available in traditional, on-campus format.

AUGUST – Issues bonds of \$3,428,773 to defray the ordinary and necessary costs of operating the district. ❖ Hosts Illinois Mining Institute and Illinois Mine Rescue Association annual events for second straight year.

SEPTEMBER – Community Education and Center for Business Services merge into the new Community and Corporate Education department. ❖ College gives green light to RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus Science Lab addition. ❖ RLC hosts Eighth Annual Illinois College Expo. ❖ 30th Annual RLC Foundation Open Golf Tournament held. ❖ Gov. Quinn appoints Radiologic Tech Director Kim Robert to state task force.

OCTOBER – Accepts bid of \$66,535 for Welding Lab renovation. ❖ National Council for Marketing and Public Relations recognizes Marketing team for logo and feature story.

NOVEMBER – Judge Mike McHaney

becomes 2010 "Alumnus of the Year." ❖ Adult Education Director Christina Hutcheson picked for statewide Leadership Excellence Academy. ❖ Local RLAY Otter Katie Cully, 10, ranks second in nation in Girls 50-Meter Freestyle in youth swimming.

DECEMBER – Transfer agreement launches with Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at McKendree University. ❖ Degree completion partnership with the Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education program at Kendall College (Chicago). ❖ Sophomore Graphic Design major Lacey Pearce wins 2010 RLC Holiday Card Design Contest. ❖ RLC's 10 SIONI grads finish pilot hybrid-online

RN program. Rend Lake College is the only one of six participating colleges to have 100 percent completion.

★★★ ★★ ★★

QUICK FACTS

■ **STUDENT HEAD COUNT**

FISCAL YEAR 2010

Summer 2009	2,734
Fall 2009	7,400
Spring 2010	7,216
Total	17,350
Total Unduplicated	13,882

■ **CREDIT HOURS 2010**

Summer 2009	9,552
Fall 2009	41,432
Spring 2010	42,586
Total	93,570

■ **FULL-TIME EQUIVALENCY (FTE)**
 2,888

■ **TOTAL EMPLOYEES (Inc. FACULTY)**
 Full-Time..... 205
 Part-Time..... 383
 Total..... 588

■ **FACULTY HEAD COUNT**
 Full-Time..... 66
 Part-Time..... 233
 Total..... 299

■ **AVERAGE STUDENT AGE**
 31.91

■ **DEGREES AWARDED 2009**
 727

■ **CERTIFICATES AWARDED 2009**
 836

■ **TUITION (Per Credit Hour)**
 \$85.00

Report '96-97 (cont.)

There are many ways to give . . .

- Cash gifts
- Outright cash gifts pledged
- Contingent beneficiary
- Equities / securities / real estate that have appreciated
- Life estate in form of real estate
- Life insurance [Formal name: Rend Lake College Foundation; you may wish to designate planned gift to specific program or department]
- Corporate contributions
- Planned gifts (bequest / trusts)
- Tangible personal property (example, art)

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has classified the RLC Foundation as tax exempt under 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

★★★ ★★ ★★

gifts of kindness

(Beginning with "Generations of Excellence" Campaign – November 1994)

\$100,000 - \$500,000

- Bank of Illinois in Mt. Vernon
- Continental A.G., General Tire, GTY Tire
- Kendrick Paper Stock Co.
- Mariah Boats, Inc.

\$50,000 - \$99,000

- Farrar Oil Company
- Mt. Vernon Retail Liquor Association
- Rend Lake College Employees

\$25,000 - \$49,999

- Stan and Jean Koziara

- Coyn Mateer
- Howard L. Payne
- Peoples National Bank
- Russell Withers
- Anonymous

\$10,000 - \$24,999

- Big Chief Auto Truck Plaza, Inc.
- Big Muddy Community Action Agency
- First Cellular of Southern Illinois
- Mildred Fitzgerald
- Mark S. Kern
- Tom McHugh
- Emil Perpich
- Rend Lake Conservancy District
- Anonymous

\$5,000 - \$9,999

- Boatmen's Banks
- Hunt Bonan
- Central Bank
- Country Companies
- First National Bank of Pinckneyville
- FGM, Inc.
- James Fornear
- Larry E. Foster
- Gordon Research
- Calvin F. and Jean Ibendahl
- W. Juanita Kern
- Robert and Lucille Kirkpatrick
- Robert Lahr
- Newhouse Lumber Co.
- Dr. Bill and Mary Roe
- Southern Illinois Farm Show
- Springfield Electric
- State Bank of Whittington

\$1,000 - \$4,999

- Total of 81 contributors listed
- Includes 33 RLC Staff / RLCF Directors

\$500 - \$999

- Total of 68 contributors listed
- Includes 37 RLC Staff / Ex-Employees

[FOR COMPLETE UPDATED LIST OF MAJOR DONORS, SEE EXCELLENCE IN FOUNDATIONS SECTION]

★★★ ★★ ★★

ENDOWED scholarships '96-97

- Bank of Illinois in Mt. Vernon
- Keith Bauman Memorial
- Big Chief Auto/Truck Plaza
- Claxton Art Award
- Continental A.G., General Tire, GTY Tire
- Country Companies
- Mel Farlow Memorial
- Farrar Oil Co.
- Wayne Fitzgerald Memorial
- GTE
- Judge Roy O. Gulley / Legal Studies
- Dr. Leslie Johnson / Kownacki
- Kendrick Paper Stock Co.
- Stan and Jean Koziara
- Mariah Boats, Inc.
- McHugh / McDonald's
- Mercantile Bank of Mt. Vernon
- Howard L. Payne
- Peoples National Bank
- Emil Perpich
- RLC Practical Nursing
- Robert and Rose Rice
- Southern Illinois Farm Show
- Tri-County Electric Cooperative
- Doris Welch Nursing
- John D. Whittington Memorial

[FOR COMPLETE UPDATED ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS LIST, SEE EXCELLENCE IN FOUNDATIONS SECTION]

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2011 REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

'Best choice' validation: Record numbers, Aspen nod

PUBLISHED SPRING 2011

Charley D. Holstein, in his President's Message in the 2011 **Annual Report to Our Community**, noted "The report illustrates the many successes and hard work by so many to ensure your community college is here to support the communities we serve and to provide opportunities for all."

Other special points of interest . . .

- "In 2011, students set another record for credit hours by enrolling in 98,509 hours. That is an increase of nearly 5,000 credit hours from the year before and more than 20,000 over a four-year period. The number of students enrolled on a full-time basis was also up from 2010 – by almost 10 percent. This consistent rise in demand puts pressure on RLC to expand. It is both a great opportunity and a great responsibility for this college. This past year, RLC responded to that pressure with growth and prosperity despite an uncertain climate in state funding."

- "We witnessed a community come together on a building project that has opened doors for students. The Science and Computer Center addition to our Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus was funded completely by the generous donations of our Pinckneyville community and other like-minded donors. The \$560,000 project, led by the RLC Foundation, was completed on budget and in time for our students to begin classes this past fall. This much-needed addition allows students in the Pinckneyville and surrounding area the opportunity to now complete all Baccalaureate-Transfer degree requirements without traveling to the main campus in Ina."

- "Our effort to institute a new Enterprise Resource Planning system continues and is on schedule for full implementation in 2013. This monumental initiative is arguably the largest and most complex technology upgrade in the history of Rend Lake College and will allow us to synchronize our services, create

a new student-centered portal and further our efforts to offer our first fully online degree in 2013."

- "Our college received national recognition as a quality institution of higher learning. In April, Rend Lake College was recognized by the Aspen Institute as one of the top 10 percent of community colleges in the nation. This recognition and distinction validates the quality education and community services that we provide."

- "I am confident Rend Lake College continues to be the best choice for our community members to further their education, improve skill sets and participate in the numerous community-based programs we offer. Our tuition rates continue to be competitive and the cost to complete an Associate Degree at RLC continues to be less than one-third that of attending a regional four-year institution."

★★★ ★★ ★★

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Excerpts of comments from first-year Board Chair Bryan Drew . . .

"I have been privileged to have served as a member of the RLC Board since 2005 and Chairman the past year. Trustees work together with the faculty, staff, administration and Rend Lake College Foundation to be trustworthy stewards of the college and to provide top-quality education to students in our district and beyond.

"This year has been challenging to say the least with an economy that is under-performing and the State of Illinois in a historic financial crisis. Fortunately, Rend Lake College has managed to maintain the highest standards of education while not placing the burden on the district's taxpaying citizens or reducing staff . . ."

"Funds for the construction of an addition to the Art program have been approved by the State of Illinois and plans are moving to make this a reality in the near future . . ."

"We are also on the short list in the capital budget to receive substantial funding to construct a new building to house ever-expanding Nursing

and healthcare-related degrees and courses. We will need the help of the community and the RLC Foundation to raise funds to bring this to fruition."

★★★ ★★ ★★

RECOGNIZING OUR OWN

Each year, RLC pays tribute to staff and faculty members who exemplify excellence on a particular project or over the course of the year, as well as those who reach milestones in their career. The Board-Faculty-Staff ceremony honored numerous individuals with awards such as the Outstanding Staff Award, Assessment Award and President's Recognition Award. Employees also were honored for years of service. Nine retiring faculty and staff members were commemorated for their Rend Lake College careers.

The President's Recognition Award was presented to the Information Technology Department headed by Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness Andrea Witthoft and Director of Information Technology Terry Roedl. Also, Brian Clark, Jeff DeMattei, Brenda Garvin, Kent McKown, Ronald Murray, Krystal Reagan, Walt Steele and Larry Thuilliez.

Larry Williams, Zoology Professor and 2006 "Faculty Excellence" recipient, was saluted with his 30-year service award.

Retirees were Allied Health's Trish Bennett-Minor and Bonnie Tolbert, past "Faculty Excellence" Award-winners; Math/Sciences Division Chair Barbara Davenport; Foundation CEO Pat Kern; Brenda Garvin; Dennis Hamson; Ginger Hogan; Dennis Richards, and Connie Sample.

★★★ ★★ ★★

WORLDWIDE

As we move forward to an online degree program, the need arose for a new website with some upgrades in functionality. A complete re-design of the www.rlc.edu site is underway.

★★★ ★★ ★★

ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING

A SMARTER CAMPUS – In February, the Board of Trustees agreed with the

administration's recommendation of SunGard Higher Education's PowerCAMPUS software solution as the program of choice for the college's primary ERP system. It is a computer system that will integrate many functions of the college and provide streamlined operations.

Five months later, the Board granted approval to issue bonds in the amount of \$1.5 million for purchasing and implementing the new system. At the end of 2011, the Business and Financial Aid departments on campus were being brought online to PowerCAMPUS. The transition to ERP is expected to be complete by 2013. It is arguably the most significant campus-wide technology upgrade in the history of the college.

2011 > Microsoft Dynamics and Business Portal

2012 > Human Resources and Payroll
PowerFacts, Financial Aid
Admissions, Records, Billing
and Advancement

2013 > Self-Service Portal

★★★ ★★★★★

WITH HONORS

There were 791 students who made the President and Vice-Presidents' List in Spring 2011 and Fall 2011 semesters. Of those, 324 made the President's List for earning a perfect 4.0 grade-point average and the remaining 467 made the Vice Presidents' List with GPAs between 3.5 and 3.99.

★★★ ★★★★★

COMMENCEMENT

OUR STUDENTS' SUCCESS – The Class of 2011 was the largest ever at Rend Lake College. Nearly 300 graduates crossed the stage at the 44th RLC Commencement. A total of 926 students who met graduation requirements in the Fall or Spring Semesters or Summer Term took away more than 1,300 degrees and certificates during 2010-11. Of that number, 580 were Associate Degrees and 723 were Occupational Certificates. Guy Alongi, former ICCB Chair, was guest speaker for the ceremony.

The record class also accounted for the largest crowd of family and friends on hand. In anticipation, college officials ordered live video and

audio feeds from the commencement stage to four locations in adjacent buildings. Each overflow venue was full, along with a standing-room-only turnout in Waugh Gymnasium.

With expectation of another record year, administrators will split Commencement 2012 into two ceremonies.

★★★ ★★★★★

STUDENT-ATHLETES

SMART PLAY – Rend Lake College had eight Academic All-Americans and six Academic All-America Teams recognized by the National Junior College Athletic Association in 2011.

All-America Teams:

Women's Tennis (3.42 composite GPA, tied for 8th overall out of 26 teams recognized)
Volleyball (3.29 GPA, 27th-tie / 52)
Softball (3.28 GPA, 17th-tie / 71)
Women's Golf (3.18 GPA, 9th / 12)
Men's Soccer (3.12 GPA, 2nd / 5)
Baseball (3.07 GPA, 15th-tie / 26)

CHARACTER-BUILDING COMPETITION

– Rend Lake College competes in the Great Rivers Athletic Conference and the National Junior College Athletic Association Region XXIV. Teams: Men/Women's Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Volleyball, Women's Tennis, Wrestling, Men/Women's Cross-Country, Men/Women's Track and Field (Indoor/Outdoor), Men/Women's Golf, Cheerleading and Dance.

Student-athletes continue to be the key resource of diversity on the RLC campus. This year, 46 percent of 179 total student-athletes came to Rend Lake College from outside Southern Illinois, whether it be nationally, internationally or another area of our state. Over the course of 2011, 25 student-athletes received scholarships to play at the four-year level.

This past year we boasted four NJCAA National Champions, 27 All-Americans, eight All-Region XXIV honorees and seven All-Conference selections. Our Wrestling program finished third in the nation with two National Champs – Tyler Holloway (133 Pounds) and Isaiah Williams (165) – and four All-Americans. The Men's Track and Field squad finished fifth both indoors and outdoors and had two National Champions – Zach Riley in the Outdoor High Jump and the Outdoor 4 x 800-Meter Relay

Team, 21 All-Americans and an Outdoor "Athlete of the Meet" in Riley with his leap of 7 feet 5 inches.

Cheerleading took second and Dance third at the Cheer Ltd. Open College Nationals; Women's Golf won the Region Tournament and placed fifth at Nationals; Women's Tennis won a Region XXIV Championship, and Freshman Golfer Zach Holland broke the Men's Golf record-low 18-hole score that had stood for more than a decade with his round of 65.

★★★ ★★★★★

AWARDS AND ACCREDITATIONS

Rend Lake College continues to improve the quality of service and education it has provided for more than 40 years.

In 2011, the college was named a 2012 Military Friendly School by *G.I. Jobs Magazine*. The list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools doing the most to embrace America's military service members and veterans as students, according to the premier publication for military personnel transitioning into civilian life.

Also this past year, the college's Radiologic Technology program received maximum accreditation from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. JRCERT is the only agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for the accreditation of traditional and distance delivery educational programs in Radiology, Radiation Therapy, MRI and Medical Dosimetry.

In April, RLC was one of five Illinois community colleges to make the Aspen Institute's list of the Top 120 Community Colleges in the Nation with the best graduation rates.

On November 1, the college received word that its Career Technical Education (CTE) Assessment Focus Report had been accepted by the Higher Learning Commission, with no further report required; it was the only action requested by the 2008 reaccreditation visit and Self-Study.

★★★ ★★★★★

GREEN

THINKING GREEN – Rend Lake College faculty and students set

their sights on raising environmental awareness across the campus this year. Our Greening the Campus Committee held several events to provide education and promote action toward sustainability.

In September, the college learned it gets part of a \$19.37 million U.S. Department of Labor grant to deliver green design and management programming to students across the state and right here at home. As one of 17 community colleges serving as "hubs" in the Illinois Green Economy Network Career Pathways Consortium, RLC will deliver the online architectural programming.

In early December, the college was awarded another \$45,000 through IGEN. This grant will go toward establishing a sustainability center at RLC and furthering green initiatives at the college and in the community.

EARTH WEEK – RLC's Greening the Campus Committee held a week-long series of events celebrating the 41st Earth Day April 22. Earth Week at RLC included hosting grade school students with a retreat to Camp Manitowa in Benton, handing out eco-friendly water bottles on campus, auctioning off rain barrels, displaying recycled student art, unveiling the committee's new logo and more.

★★★ ★★ ★★

NEW CONSTRUCTION

It was a great year for growth to facilities at Rend Lake College. The college broke ground March 30 on a \$560,000 Science and Computer Center addition at the RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus and it was ready for students at the start of Fall Semester. This expansion, funded by the RLC Foundation, allows students to complete every class toward a Baccalaureate-Transfer degree from that satellite campus.

A three-phase, \$278,439 renovation to the Welding Lab that spanned two years was completed in time for Fall classes as well.

In December, college officials learned an expansion to double the square-footage of the Art program, projected at a cost of \$661,500, has been funded by Gov. Pat Quinn's Il-

linois Jobs Now! program. A date to break ground on this project is yet to be determined.

Other enhancements to RLC facilities included replacements of roofs on the Science Building and Learning Resource Center and several Health and Safety projects like sidewalks, lighting and improved accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

NAMED FOR INFLUENTIAL LEADERS –
Marvin W. Scott Executive Board Room
Pat Kern Private Dining Room
Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus Addition -
Robert J. Crawford Science Lab
Dr. Gene Stotlar Computer Classroom
RLC Foundation Computer Center

★★★ ★★ ★★

RESEARCH AND FUNDING

INVESTING IN INNOVATION – State and federal awards for student support, professional development and research opportunities reached \$5.76 million in FY2011. While a number of those grants were a continuation of programs already in place, many are new to RLC and are helping us advance in areas like green energy, sustainability and biofuels; teaching computer skills to area residents, and meeting emerging workforce demand by local industry. The largest grants were in student support services, child care resources, the student AmeriCorps program and coal mining training. A handful of new grants have been awarded for FY2012.

THOUGHT-FUEL – A USDA Rural Technology grant of \$60,835 is being used to develop online courses and a site lab in the field of biofuels. The funding has allowed RLC to launch an in-depth study of the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of creating fuel from marginal crops at Southern Illinois farms. The two-year project employs student interns for the study.

★★★ ★★ ★★

DUAL CREDIT

Dual Credit – a program put in place at Rend Lake College just more than a decade ago – has racked up savings of roughly \$5,000,000 for area high school students and their families. From July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, more than 3,000 local high

school students took almost 9,000 RLC dual credit hours for a savings of roughly \$923,000. The program is 25 times the size it started at in 2001. Since then, 25,000 local students have taken 60,000 credit hours toward that \$5 million figure.

"Rend Lake College waives all the tuition and fees for the high school student. It is quite a deal. You can not get a college education at a better price than that!" according to RLC President Charley D. Holstein.

★★★ ★★ ★★

THE MISSION

Rend Lake College provides educational opportunities across cultural and economic boundaries to the diverse student population that we serve. In addition to our commitment to fulfill all our education and community-focused program objectives, we are committed to every degree-completing student demonstrating the fundamental skills of effective critical thinking, problem-solving, oral communication and written communication. In fulfilling its mission, Rend Lake College will be an active leader in our region's development.

★★★ ★★ ★★

FY2011 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial information is from the Fiscal Year 2011 College Audit and includes the Education Fund, Operations and Maintenance Fund and Auxiliary Fund. Funds not included are restricted in purpose.

REVENUE – State Government, \$8,701,200 [34.0%]; Local Tax Revenue, \$2,518,870 [9.9%]; Tuition and Fees (students, course lab fees and technology fees), \$10,618,009 [41.5%], and Other (sales and services fees, facilities usage fees, investments and any other sources), \$3,727,290 [14.6%]. Total – \$25,565,369.

The State Government figure illustrates our reliance upon the state for funding of basic operations. A delay in the receipt of funding or reductions in funding makes a great impact.

EXPENSES – Salaries and Benefits, \$12,199,451 [54.3%]; Materials and Supplies, \$3,228,384 [14.4%]; Contractual (represents fees paid for services provided under contract

with RLC, \$975,932 [4.3%]; Other (includes travel, utilities, capital outlay and other fixed charges), \$6,076,788 [27.0%]. Total – \$22,480,555.

★★★ ★★ ★★

2011 IN REVIEW
... MONTH-BY-MONTH

JANUARY – State funding problems lead to tuition increase of \$8 per credit hour. ❖ Board approves resolution of intent to be reimbursed for institutional expenses following the bond issuance for a new Enterprise Resource Planning System. The resolution allows the college to include those expenses in the bond issuance.

FEBRUARY – SunGard Higher Education’s PowerCAMPUS software solution becomes ERP of choice. ❖ Nichole Bressner (Fairbury) and Nick Neff (Smithton) crowned Homecoming Queen and King. ❖ District Site and Construction Master Plan approved. ❖ North Hamilton County Coal Association creates \$10,000 scholarship endowment. ❖ Tyler Holloway and Isaiah Williams RLC’s first Wrestling National Champions.

MARCH – Ground-breaking for Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus Science and Computer Center addition. ❖ Baking/Pastry Arts Occupational Certificate approved. ❖ Studio RLC announces new Evening Cosmetology program. ❖ RLC, Illinois Small Business Development Center, Jefferson County Chamber and WSIL-TV team to host Job Search Party. ❖ Courtney Cox and The Rainmakers hold concert for scholarship funds.

APRIL – RLC named in Top 10 percent of community colleges nationwide by the Aspen Institute. ❖ Adds Culinary Arts Occupational Certificate. ❖ Golfer Zach Holland (Maryville / Collinsville High School) shoots a 65 at Benedictine Invitational, breaking the previous Warrior record-low round of 66. ❖ RLC’s Phi Theta Kappa Rho Xi Chapter ushers in more than 60 new members. ❖ Board seats new Student Trustee Caleb Buntin (Thompsonville). ❖ Cailah Brock (Benton) and Brent Hanke (Carlyle) co-recipients of RLC Outstanding Agriculture Student of the Year Award at the program’s 35th Annual Banquet.

MAY – Newly elected RLC Trustees Eric Black (Mt. Vernon), John Kabat (Scheller) and Randy Rubenacker (Dahlgren) are seated. ❖ Illinois Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon visits RLC as part of her Complete College Tour. ❖ Robert Earl Jones Mine Rescue Contest returns to campus for fifth straight year. ❖ More than 900 graduates earn 580 degrees and 723 certificates.

JUNE – College hosts 33rd Annual Southern Illinois Lions Club All-Star Basketball Classic. ❖ Board approves resolution related to the issuance of \$1.5 million in General Obligation Debt Certificates for new ERP system. ❖ Learning Resource Center receives \$26,000 “Eliminate the Digital Divide” grant. ❖ After a 22-year coaching career, Dave Smith heads to the clubhouse, hands reins to former Warrior linkster Lucas Cromeenes.

JULY – RLC dedicates Executive Board Room to longtime Trustee Marvin W. Scott. ❖ Board approves two new Occupational Certificates – Ford MLR (Maintenance and Light Repair) and Agricultural Automation. ❖ New Culinary Arts instructional team hired – Lead Instructor Robert Wilson and Chef Instructors Jeff Fairbanks and Brad Stout.

AUGUST – RLCF helps Rend Lake Aquatic Youth Otters swim team purchase state-of-art electronic scoreboard and touch pads timing system.

SEPTEMBER – College receives notice it will receive a portion of a \$19.37 million Department of Labor grant to deliver Green Design and Management Programming to students. ❖ *G.I. Jobs* Magazine awards Rend Lake College the designation of Military Friendly School. ❖ Lisa Price appointed Vice President of Student Services. ❖ Andrea Witthoft appointed Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness. ❖ Kim Rogers becomes full-time Human Resources Specialist.

OCTOBER – Longtime RLC Foundation CEO Pat Kern announces retirement at end of 2011. Assistant Director Shawna Hall assumes position in January 2012. ❖ RLC Foundation hosts 22nd Annual Scholarship Dinner. ❖ Board submits three capi-

tal improvement projects to Illinois Community College Board – Science Laboratory Upgrades, Aquatic Center Upgrades and Student Center Low-Slope Roof Replacement.

NOVEMBER – College receives word from Higher Learning Commission the Career-Technical Assessment Focus Report had been accepted and no further reports are required until the next comprehensive visit in 2018-19. ❖ Ron Smith, Men’s Basketball Associate Head Coach at SIUC, becomes 2011 Alumnus of the Year. ❖ New MRI Occupational Certificate approved, sent to ICCB for action. ❖ State funding cuts prompt RLC to terminate vendor contracts with Illinois Department of Corrections for educational programming at Big Muddy River and Pinckneyville correctional centers.

DECEMBER – Patriot Coal donates shuttle car, estimated at \$65,000-\$75,000, to RLC Mining Technology program. ❖ College receives notice more than \$450,000 in funding is released through Governor Pat Quinn’s Illinois Jobs Now! initiative to construct an addition for the Art program. ❖ RLC President Charley D. Holstein announces he will not seek to renew contract when it expires at the end of the 2012 fiscal year.

★★★ ★★ ★★

QUICK FACTS

■ STUDENT HEAD COUNT / FY 2011	
Summer 2010	3,346
Fall 2010	7,512
Spring 2011	7,826
Total	18,684
Total Unduplicated	14,698
■ CREDIT HOURS 2011	
Summer 2010	11,175
Fall 2010	43,635
Spring 2011	43,699
Total	98,509
■ FULL-TIME EQUIVALENCY	3,166
■ TOTAL EMPLOYEES (FACULTY)	
Full-Time (70)	191
Part-Time (214)	264
Total (284)	455
■ AVERAGE STUDENT AGE	32.08
■ DEGREES AWARDED 2011	580
■ CERTIFICATES AWARDED	723
■ TUITION (Per Credit Hour)	\$93.00

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2012 REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

Wilkerson: 'This is your community college ... take a look'

PUBLISHED SPRING 2013

In the President's Message in his first official **Report to Our Community** since being appointed to the position in May 2012, Rend Lake College Alumnus (Class of 1992) and former Agriculture Professor / Division Chair Terry Wilkerson informs readers:

"You will see a focus on students and service from your community college. As an institution, our job is to supply the education and training our district was created to provide. Economically, our state is in tough times, but that isn't going to stop us from serving you . . ."

". . . We believe we are the best choice for higher education and career training for our community, in terms of both quality and price," he concludes. "You're more than welcome to come for a visit, whether you want to learn more about a certain program or just to have a look at the campus. This is your community college, so come out and take a look."

Featured elsewhere in this book are stories regarding RLC's fifth-in-the-nation status in terms of graduation rate (50.3 percent) among all public community colleges, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education's Almanac of Higher Education, and 2012 "Alumnus of the Year" Peter Johnson, who used his degree from Rend Lake College in 1985 as a literal launchpad to transform himself from a Janitor to a NASA Instrumentation Systems Engineer and then Technical Lead for the Space Shuttle Orbiter Instrumentation Section.

★★★★★★★★

NEW ROOMS FOR NURSING

Rend Lake College's nurse training facilities enjoyed a major upgrade in Summer 2012. The lab and lecture rooms moved to a renovated area on the second floor of the Learning Resource Center, effectively doubling the amount of classroom space and expanding from one open lab to three separate labs.

The move enabled Fall 2012 enrollment to increase by 33 percent

and helped the college avoid turning away applicants to this high-demand program.

To put things into context: The original Nursing Lab was designed 30 years ago to teach about 45 students in the Practical Nursing program. Since then, the LPN capacity has doubled and the Associate Degree Nursing added. Those programs now have 160 available slots and are full every year.

It was a good fiscal move as well. Because RLC's Physical Plant staff was responsible for 95 percent of the work, nearly 6,000 square feet was renovated for less than \$50,000.

★★★★★★★★

ENHANCING SOUND OF MUSIC ... WITH HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

A crescendo of support from music and education enthusiasts in the area made it possible for the RLC Foundation to more than double its funding goal for "The Music Project."

The project is aimed at upgrading the Rend Lake College Music program's facilities and equipment. Its initial goal was set at \$50,000. More than \$100,000 has been raised.

In addition to the upgrades, the RLC Community Orchestra has been revived after 25 years.

Naming opportunities were an intricate part of the fund-raising plan. That would include:

- Henry Leeck and Cindy Leeck Practice Room
- Hunt Bonan Classroom
- Mary B. Pericolosi Practice Room
- Mary Ellen and John D. Aiken Classroom
- Rubenacker Family Practice Room
- Spears Practice Suite
- Sweeten Corridor

★★★★★★★★

NEW DEMAND, NEW PROGRAMS

In 2012, the college approved nine new Occupational Certificates, as well as 41 new classes.

Two new certificates stem from the Illinois Green Economy Network – Green Facilities Management and Sustainable Design. In Applied Sci-

ence and Technology, a new Manufacturing Technology Certificate was created, and the AAS Degree of the same name was revived.

The Allied Health Division created two new certificates – Phlebotomy and Medical Coding.

Extending from the popular training program offered by the Center for Community and Corporate Education, the college now offers Certificates in Truck Driver Training and Heavy Equipment Transportation. Also, the CCCE has added to its Cosmetology program by crafting a new Nail Technology Certificate.

We will continue to gauge the demand for new programs and in our area and create training programs to meet those needs.

★★★★★★★★

DEPT. OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS VISIT

U.S. Department of Education officials met with Rend Lake College students, administrators and staff on campus in September as part of the department's cross-country Back-to-School Bus Tour.

Sue Liu, Special Assistant for Community Colleges in the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, said her visit to RLC was an enriching stop in the USDE's "Education Drives America" campaign to learn about best practices and needs at community colleges across the United States.

The meetings on the Ina campus were followed by a discussion at Continental Tire the Americas in Mt. Vernon, at which the group was joined by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education Tony Miller.

★★★★★★★★

CAREER TRACTION

The ultimate goal of higher education for most students is to find a great career. Through a unique partnership, Continental Tire the Americas in Mt. Vernon guarantees a job interview for students who complete RLC's new Manufacturing Employment Skills course with a "B" or better.

"An opportunity like this doesn't

come along very often," said Chris Nielsen, Dean of Applied Science and Technology. "It's a great chance to join a terrific team. Continental is the largest employer in our area and its commitment to this demonstrates their faith in Rend Lake College as a training partner."

Class topics include history and types of manufacturing, safety in the workplace, work ethics, work environment, shift work and schedules and human resources.

★★★★★★★★

FY2012 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial information is from the Fiscal Year 2012 College Audit and includes the Education Fund, Operations and Maintenance Fund and Auxiliary Fund. Funds not included are restricted in purpose.

REVENUE – State Grants and Contracts, \$12.5M [37%]; Federal Grants and Contracts, \$8.9M [26%]; Local Property Tax Revenue, \$4.9M [14%]; Net Tuition and Fees (generated from students, course lab fees and technology fees), \$2.5M [7%], and Other (represents sales and services fees, facilities usage fees, investments and any other sources of revenue), \$5.6M [16%]. Total – \$34.4M.

The State Government figure illustrates our reliance upon the state for funding of basic operations. A delay in the receipt of funding or reductions in funding have a greater impact on our college because of this.

EXPENSES – Salaries and Benefits, \$18.8M [60%]; Supplies and Materials, \$6.3M [20%]; Financial Aid and Scholarships, \$2.2M [7%]; Other (includes travel, utilities, capital outlay and other fixed charges), \$4.4M [13%]. Total – \$31.7M.

★★★★★★★★

ACHIEVEMENT AND HONOR

More than 800 graduates earned degrees and certificates in 2012. Because of the increasing number of graduates crossing the stage at Commencement and the large number of spectators, the college moved the event to a Saturday and split it into two ceremonies. Overall, the RLC Class of 2012 featured 830 graduates being conferred 702 Associate De-

grees and 683 certificates.

Also in 2012, 779 students received academic honors – 331 on the President's List with perfect 4.0 GPAs, and 448 on the Vice Presidents' List with GPAs between 3.50 and 3.99.

★★★★★★★★

CAMPUS NEWSPAPER RETURNS

Last fall, Rend Lake College returned to the newspaper business. Named by students, the *Clocktower Chronicle* is published each Thursday and distributed on-campus. It is printed in partnership with the *Morning Sentinel* and is edited by Nathan Wheeler, Assistant Director of Marketing and Public Information. The content is generated primarily by a staff of student writers, who receive college credit for their work.

★★★★★★★★

NEW LOOK: REVAMPED WEBSITE

In Summer 2012, the college launched its updated website. It features a modernized look and better navigation for a smoother user experience. In addition, a content management system is being deployed which will allow multiple faculty and staff to update their respective web pages with new information as needed.

★★★★★★★★

MOVING TOWARD ONLINE DEGREE

Rend Lake College has been working toward the goal of an online degree, and this April (2013) the Higher Learning Commission will visit us to evaluate our request to offer one.

The objective is to offer an online Associate Degree in Business using classes which can be offered entirely or primarily online. Once this degree is available, we will be able to expand our future online degree offerings.

★★★★★★★★

INTRODUCING SMARTER CAMPUS

On February 5, 2013, the new PowerCAMPUS ERP system went live. This new system, arguably the most significant tech upgrade the campus has ever seen, will integrate many functions of the college and provide more efficient operations. There will be adjustments to make as we go, but years of effort are now paying off as the system is rolled out.

★★★★★★★★

TEN YEARS IN PINCKNEYVILLE...

The RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus has now been serving the community for more than a decade. In October 2012, an Open House was held, during which area residents were invited to tour the facility and enjoy refreshments.

The MWPC has changed considerably since its creation. It has grown in size and capability thanks to the generosity of the citizens of Pinckneyville, who successfully completed a fundraising effort to create the Science and Computer Center on campus.

Now, it is possible for students to earn a complete Associate Degree in some disciplines without ever having to travel to the main campus in Ina.

The RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon also has been serving its community for a decade, and we are planning an Open House to celebrate that one-of-a-kind facility this spring.

★★★★★★★★

SMART PLAY

In 2011-12, Rend Lake College had seven National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Academic Student-Athlete Award winners (formerly known as Academic All-Americans) and four All-Academic Teams.

The four teams recognized for having composite grade-point averages of 3.0 and above (on a 4.0-point scale) – Volleyball, 3.42 GPA (tied for 12th in the nation among 76 Volleyball teams honored); Women's Tennis, 3.31 GPA (13th / 29 teams); Softball, 3.26 GPA (37th-tie / 90 teams), and Women's Golf, 3.18 GPA (9th / nine teams).

Warrior / Lady Warrior competitors saluted for their individual academic accomplishments – Hannah Gill (Carterville), Women's Golf, and Greg Guest (Nashville), Baseball, both Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence honors with perfect 4.0 GPAs; Kylie Pickel (Mt. Vernon), Women's Tennis, 3.88 GPA, and Ashley Slack (Sesser / Sesser-Valier H.S.), Volleyball, 3.86 GPA, both for Superior Academic Achievement; Exemplary Academic Achievement honorees Megan Wren (Harrisburg), Volleyball,

3.77, Chelsea Steele (McLeansboro / Hamilton County Sr. H.S.), Softball, 3.71 GPA, and Joshua Harp (Benton), Men's Golf, 3.61 GPA.

In addition, over the course of 2012, 16 RLC student-athletes received athletic grant-in-aids to play at the four-year level. RLC athletes won five National Championships and earned 16 All-America distinctions, eight All-Region XXIV and eight All-GRAC honors.

★★★ ★★ ★★

**2012 IN REVIEW
... MONTH-BY-MONTH**

JANUARY – Shawna Manion takes over as RLC Foundation CEO. ❖ RLCF Children's Center Director Brooke Pulke receives Gateways to Opportunity ECE Credential Level 5, Infant Toddler Credential Level 5 and Illinois Director Credential Level II.

FEBRUARY – RLC Board determines no tuition increase for 2012. ❖ Rend Lake College partners with Continental Tire the Americas to provide training with Festo Valves for CTA employees. ❖ Intergovernmental agreement establishes the Illinois Green Economy Network; Matthew Jackson hired as IGEN Curriculum Coordinator. ❖ Approved three new courses for the IT Systems Specialist curriculum. ❖ Greg Guest (Lebanon) and Stacy Bohn (Nashville) named RLC Homecoming King and Queen.

MARCH – Kelsey Allen (Bonnie) elected as Student Representative on the RLC Board of Trustees for 2012-13. ❖ More than 250 area high school students attend the CTE Career Day at RLC. ❖ Krista Brouwer (Carterville) and Lexi Karcher (McLeansboro) selected as Phi Theta Kappa All-USA nominees for local Rho Xi Chapter. ❖ Raffle to raise scholarship funding for Practical Nursing students generates more than \$2,700.

APRIL – Terry Wilkerson, RLC Professor and Administrator of 15 years, named seventh President. ❖ For second straight year, RLC named in Top 10 Percent of Community Colleges nationwide by the Aspen Institute. ❖ Six new certificates approved and submitted to ICCB. ❖ RLC Community Orchestra revived

after 25-year hiatus.

MAY – College unveils redesigned website. ❖ Architectural Technology Professor Kevin Weston receives RLCF "Faculty Excellence" Award. ❖ Brian Clark, Programmer/Analyst, and Kristina Shelton, Perkins and Community Ed Coordinator, receive RLCF "Outstanding Staff" Awards. ❖ Robert Earl Jones Mine Rescue Contest returns to Ina campus for sixth year in a row. ❖ Total of 830 graduates earn 702 Associate Degrees and 683 Occupational Certificates. ❖ President and Vice Presidents' Lists boast combined 404 students for Spring Semester.

JUNE – Rend Lake College rates No. 1 in the state on a Student Success List featured on CNN Money; success rate of 68 percent based on students graduating within three years or transferring to four-year universities. ❖ College saves an estimated \$733,000 with general obligation refunding bond issuance. ❖ Upward Bound program awarded \$262,500 for first year of an anticipated five-year grant renewal from Department of Education. ❖ RLC partners with Missouri Baptist University to bring a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice to campus.

JULY – Admissions and Enrollment Management Department created in order to streamline and strengthen the college's recruitment, marketing, enrollment and retention efforts. ❖ RLC Architecture Student Ethan Brammeier (Hoyleton) takes third-place in the Architectural Drafting/CAD category of the largest SkillsUSA national competition in history. ❖ A Manufacturing Summit on the RLC campus brings together leaders from industry, education and government to share ideas on how to encourage high school students of today into becoming the manufacturing innovators of tomorrow.

AUGUST – Marvin Scott receives his fifth Trustee Education Award from the Illinois Community College Trustees Association.

SEPTEMBER – RLC hosts 10th Annual Illinois College Expo. ❖ Illinois Lt. Governor Sheila Simon is guest

at the Illinois Workforce Investment Board Meeting conducted at Rend Lake College. ❖ RLC receives \$73,293 Brookwood-Sago Grant through the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration.

OCTOBER – RLC Foundation hosts 23rd Annual Scholarship Dinner. ❖ First Criminal Justice Round-Up for Scholarships fund-raising event held. ❖ Longtime Foundation Director Millie Caldwell is named an Emeritus Member of the RLCF Board.

NOVEMBER – All 25 sophomores in RLC Radiologic Technology program join Lambda Nu, the National Honor Society for Radiologic and Imaging Sciences.

DECEMBER – Total of 375 students make Fall 2012 President and Vice Presidents' Lists for academic achievements. ❖ New Fitness Center opens at RLC MarketPlace. ❖ Board approves Medical Coding and Nail Technology Occupational Certificates.

★★★ ★★ ★★

QUICK FACTS

■ STUDENT HEAD COUNT	
<i>FISCAL YEAR 2012</i>	
Summer 2011	3,438
Fall 2011	7,335
Spring 2012	8,337
Total	19,110
Total Unduplicated.....	14,470
■ CREDIT HOURS 2012	
Summer 2011	9,346
Fall 2011	36,105
Spring 2012	37,664
Total	83,115
■ FULL-TIME EQUIVALENCY (FTE) 2,459
■ TOTAL EMPLOYEES (Inc. FACULTY)	
Full-Time.....	189
Part-Time.....	253
Total	442
■ FACULTY HEAD COUNT	
Full-Time.....	69
Part-Time.....	65
Total	134
■ DEGREES AWARDED 636
■ CERTIFICATES AWARDED 904
■ TUITION (Per Credit Hour) \$93.00 + \$3.00 Tech Fee

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2013 REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

No matter who, where, what ... Your journey starts at RLC

PUBLISHED SPRING 2014

President Terry Wilkerson called his second year in office a "productive one" while reaching milestones and implementing new education and training programs. Perhaps more importantly, Rend Lake College "continued to help our students reach their goals."

"The Higher Learning Commission has given us the green light to begin offering a distance-delivered Associate in Science in Business degree, which we plan to roll out this fall. The majority of classes are offered online, with the remainder being offered in a hybrid format, consisting of online instruction with some face-to-face meetings," noted Wilkerson.

"We enjoyed some positive publicity over the past year. Many of you followed the championship run of the Warrior basketball team as it claimed the D-II title in Danville, the first basketball championship in RLC history. You also may have noticed a slick new commercial for Rend Lake College on the air and on the web, and we heard plenty of good things about that."

A glimpse of some of those accomplishments in 2013 . . .

★★★★★★★★

DISTANCE-DELIVERED DEGREE

A college degree will be more accessible than ever for many residents as Rend Lake College prepares to roll out a distance-delivered Associate in Science Degree this fall.

The Higher Learning Commission has approved RLC's request to begin offering this business-focused degree, which will be delivered almost entirely online.

This new offering is an attempt to make a college Education more accessible to our constituents, particularly those who may have difficulty attending college in the traditional face-to-face setting. This format allows most class work to be completed at the student's convenience, making it well-suited to working adults, stay-at-home parents and more.

Registration will begin this spring

(2014), and students enrolling in it will pay in-district tuition regardless of residency. The curriculum includes General Education core classes in subjects such as English, mathematics, computer science, psychology and health, in addition to business classes.

★★★★★★★★

\$2.25M GRANT BOOSTS ALLIED HEALTH DIVISION

A grant worth up to \$2.25 million over five years is leading to new developments in the Allied Health Division at Rend Lake College.

The Title III Pathways to Success in Health Careers Grant, awarded under the Strengthening Institutions Program, will help increase educational prospects for RLC students. By the end of the grant period, Rend Lake College should see an increase in the number of Health Studies degrees and certificates awarded, as well as an increase in overall enrollment and enrollment-based revenue.

"The Allied Health Division is extremely excited to be awarded such a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, and we look forward to utilizing it to help our students in a number of ways," said Kim Robert, Dean of Allied Health. "We are looking into starting some new programs, purchasing equipment and starting an Allied Health Student Success Center to help our students be successful in their field of choice."

Other plans include the establishment of a new Anatomy and Physiology Lab and revision of A&P I and II curricula; revisions to Practical Nursing program curricula to incorporate educational simulation and web-based interactive instructional modules; development of new Health Studies advising and tutoring systems, and establishment of a new Health Studies Success Center.

★★★★★★★★

A.H.E.C. AIMS TO RECRUIT, RETAIN ALLIED HEALTH STUDENTS, PROS

Rend Lake College is now home to an Illinois Area Health Education Center (AHEC), joining forces with

the University of Illinois College of Medicine

The center offers elementary and high school students the chance to get a first-hand look at the medical field of their choice through the classroom, volunteer programs, science and career fairs, camps, job-shadowing, internships and more.

Another goal of the AHEC is to instruct students in an Allied Health field, be it medicine, nursing, dentistry or others, and offers opportunities and incentives to keep the graduates in our area to provide better health care.

Kelli Stover has been hired as Director of the South Central AHEC, as the center on RLC's campus is known.

AHEC is funded by a federal grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. The on-campus program will serve 22 counties in Southern Illinois.

★★★★★★★★

COMMERCIAL UPGRADE

Last fall, the college launched a new video spot on the airwaves and on various social media outlets, including Facebook and YouTube.

Filmed and produced by the Arthur Agency, the fast-paced spot features a young prospective student in a myriad of different environments and occupations, any one of which could begin at Rend Lake College.

The college received plenty of positive feedback from students and the public, and we believe it has enhanced the positive image of the college.

Like the commercial says . . .

"No matter who you are, where you want to go or what you want to be, your journey starts at Rend Lake College."

★★★★★★★★

MARKETPLACE CELEBRATES 12 YEARS IN MT. VERNON

In September last year, the Rend Lake College MarketPlace celebrated 12 years of service to the Mt. Vernon area with an Open House.

Representatives of the RLC programs housed at the MarketPlace were on hand to meet potential students and members of the public, and retailers such as Shoe Stop and the college-owned RLC Golf Outlet held promos and specials.

Last year was a busy one at the MarketPlace. The college opened a Fitness Center, adjacent to the Golf Outlet, which has been popular with the community, and the Automotive Tech program hosted its first Car Show.

In addition to the classroom space, computer facilities and the Cosmetology program, the MarketPlace now houses the Certified Nurse Assistant Training Center, EMT-Paramedic Training Center, American Heart Association Training Center, several retail stores and Lone★Star Steakhouse.

Partnerships with four-year institutions also allow students to pursue Bachelor and Master's degrees and certifications on-site.

★★★★ ★★★★★

FY2013 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial information is from the Fiscal Year 2013 College Audit and includes the Education Fund, Operations and Maintenance Fund and Auxiliary Fund. Funds not included are restricted in purpose.

REVENUE – State Grants and Contracts, \$13.5M [39%]; Federal Grants and Contracts, \$8.2M [24%]; Local Property Tax Revenue, \$5.3M [15%]; Net Tuition and Fees (generated from students, course lab fees and technology fees), \$2.0M [6%], and Other (represents sales and services fees, facilities usage fees, investments and any other sources of revenue), \$5.5M [15%]. Total – \$34.5M.

The State Government figure illustrates our reliance upon the state for funding of basic operations. A delay in the receipt of funding or reductions in funding have a greater impact on our college because of this.

EXPENSES – Salaries and Benefits, \$19.7M [63%]; Supplies and Materials, \$5.1M [16%]; Financial Aid and Scholarships, \$2.3M [7%]; Other (includes travel, utilities, capital outlay and other fixed charges), \$4.0M [14%]. Total – \$31.1M.

★★★★ ★★★★★

ACHIEVEMENT AND HONOR

Approximately 860 graduates earned degrees and certificates in 2013. For the second year in a row, Commencement was split into morning and afternoon ceremonies to accommodate the increasing number of graduates and attendees.

Overall, the Class of 2013 earned 773 Associate Degrees and 651 Occupational Certificates. Also, 803 students received academic honors. Of those, 398 made the President's List for earning perfect 4.0 Grade-Point Averages, and 405 earned spots on the Vice President's List with GPAs between 3.50 and 3.99.

★★★★ ★★★★★

TRISH REED: ALUMNA OF YEAR

Trish Reed, President/General Manager of UpTime Parts LLC, is the 2013 Rend Lake College Foundation "Alumna of the Year."

The Scheller native attended school in Waltonville before enrolling Fall 1985 at Rend Lake College, where she also played basketball. She earned an Associate in Science Degree from RLC in 1987 and then a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance with a minor in Economics from Southern Illinois University.

In her first 20 years with Navistar, she worked with Navistar Financial Corp., providing financing to help dealers and customers purchase Navistar products. She then became President of UpTime Parts, an after-market parts supplier for light-duty trucks.

In her four years in this role, she has successfully reinvigorated a culture of teamwork and performance that has resulted in improved customer satisfaction, nearly double-digit growth in sales and a 90 percent increase in profitability.

"When I think about my time at Rend Lake College, I look back and see what a key influence it was for me," said Reed. "Between school and basketball, I learned a very important life lesson: a good team is one that works well together."

Reed's extended family and many close friends still reside in Southern

Illinois, and she is a frequent visitor. She recently became involved at Rend Lake College with a scholarship endowment through the RLC Foundation.

★★★★ ★★★★★

NEW DEMAND, NEW PROGRAMS

Five new Occupational Certificates were added to Rend Lake College's offerings in the past year. These include . . .

- Health Care Coach – An Allied Health certificate designed to prepare students to work in this growing medical field.

- Medical Coding – Another Allied Health certificate which prepares students to sit for licensing in this discipline.

- Linux Networking – Teaches students to configure and install Linux-based desktops and servers; offered through the Applied Science and Technology Division.

- Manufacturing Technology – Applied Science and Technology program designed to prepare graduates for supervisory or technical positions in manufacturing.

- Nail Technology – a new certificate offered in conjunction with the Cosmetology program (awaiting final ICCB approval).

In addition to these new programs, RLC created 50 new courses during the past year and an Oil and Natural Gas Technician Associate Degree is in the works as well.

★★★★ ★★★★★

NATIONAL CHAMPION WARRIORS

The Rend Lake College Warriors became National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II Men's Basketball National Champions with an 87-69 win over Moraine Valley Community College in an all-Illinois finale in March. It is the first national basketball championship in RLC history.

The victory came on the heels of an amazing comeback win over South Suburban College in the quarterfinals. Down at one point by 22 points, the Warriors refused to go quietly against the Bulldogs and eventually secured a two-point triumph in overtime, 85-83.

RLC defeated Cecil College (MD)

in its opener, 98-75, and had to rally – from “only” nine down this time – a second game in a row to overcome Owens C.C. (OH) in the semis, 80-75.

Brothers Bronson and Dawson Verhines, both of Woodlawn, took away Tournament MVP and Sportsmanship awards, respectively. Jeril Taylor and Cortez Macklin joined Bronson on the All-Tournament Team.

The team was welcomed home with a championship celebration in Waugh Gymnasium, where the NJCAA D-II championship banner is now proudly displayed.

Coach Randy House & Co. finished 30-3 – claiming a hard-earned Great Rivers Athletic Conference title as well over eight Division I downstate rivals – and merited a No. 1 ranking in the 2013-14 Preseason Poll.

★★★ ★★ ★★

WARRIORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Rend Lake College student-athletes compete both on- and off-the-court. For 2012-13, the Warriors and Lady Warriors boasted 15 NJCAA Academic Student-Athlete Award-winners and five All-Academic Teams.

• PINNACLE AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Emily Cripps	4.0	Softball
Jennifer Moeller	4.0	VB / WB

• SUPERIOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Bronson Verhines	3.96	Basketball
Dennis Froemling	3.95	Basketball
Molly Whaley	3.91	Softball
Jesse Smith	3.89	Basketball
Megan Wren	3.85	Volleyball
Taylor Cheek	3.83	Softball
Jason O'Brien	3.83	Baseball

• EXEMPLARY ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Taylor Cicardi	3.76	Softball
Cheyenne Morgan	3.76	Softball
Jeff Stewart	3.71	Track/Field
Lindsey Winter	3.68	Volleyball
Travis Waninger	3.66	Golf
Chandra Weddle	3.60	Golf

• ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

Softball	3.55 (2nd / 96)
[2nd in nation among 96 teams honored]	
Volleyball	3.24 (44th / 69)
Women's Tennis	3.12 (23rd / 30)
Women's Golf	3.11 (14th / 15)
Baseball	3.02 (43rd-tie / 45)

★★★ ★★ ★★

R.L.C. BOARD SEES CHANGES

The Rend Lake College Board of Trustees said goodbye to three members in 2013, including a 35-year veteran.

Marvin Scott, a Belle Rive business owner and farmer, served on RLC's Board longer than any member in history. He is among the Top Ten of Illinois' longest-serving community college Trustees, and represented RLC on the Illinois Community College Trustees Association Executive Board for more than a decade. He chose not to run for re-election.

Taking his seat on the Board in April was Larry Manning, another Belle Rive farmer.

Also leaving the Board were Ed Cunningham and Bryan Drew.

Cunningham is the former CEO of Crossroads Community Hospital. He stepped down from the Board, as well as the RLC Foundation Board, last summer after accepting a CEO position at a hospital in Granite City. Appointed to replace him was Mt. Vernon Physician Dr. David Asbery.

Drew, a Benton Attorney, stepped down in November to devote more time to family and work obligations. He was Board Chair at the time and had been a Trustee for eight years. Randall Crocker, a Sesser resident who had served on the RLC Board in the past, was appointed to take Drew's seat.

★★★ ★★ ★★

OUR MISSION

Rend Lake College provides educational opportunities across cultural and economic boundaries to the diverse student population that we serve. In addition to our commitment to fulfill all our education and community-focused program objectives, we are committed to every degree-completing student demonstrating the fundamental skills of effective critical thinking, problem-solving, oral communication and written communication. In fulfilling its mission, Rend Lake College will be an active leader in our region's development. Our students' success is our own success.

★★★ ★★ ★★

2013 IN REVIEW ... MONTH-BY-MONTH

JANUARY – Southern Illinois Healthcare delivers new communications equipment to upgrade the Simulation and Learning Lab at Benton Consolidated High School. The college was able to obtain the equipment through a partnership with Connect SI and SIH. ❖ Four new hires include two additional full-time Police Officers. ❖ Bids are accepted for a new Computer Numerical Control routing table and CNC milling machine, aimed at building the sustainable design curriculum using Illinois Green Economy Network – Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant funds.

FEBRUARY – Juanita Jones (Mt. Vernon) and Alex Heathcoat (Benton) are crowned 2013 Homecoming Queen and King. ❖ Tuition set at \$95 per credit hour for in-district students. ❖ Four instructors receive tenure – Sarah Draper, Sociology; Mark Jornd, Business; Ron Meek, Criminal Justice, and Zach Vahlkamp, Heavy Equipment Technology. ❖ Rend Lake College withdraws from the Federal Direct Student Loan program. Alternative student loans will continue to be processed. This was done to decrease the college's default rate, which measures the number of students who default on their student loans after graduation. RLC's default rate increased when the calculation moved to a three-year cohort instead of two.

MARCH – Haden Smith (Wayne City) is elected as the Student Representative on the RLC Board of Trustees for 2013-14. ❖ Angie Kistner is appointed Vice President of Finance and Administration after longtime CFO Bob Carlock retires, effective June 30. ❖ Spring musical is “Into the Woods.”

APRIL – The RLC MarketPlace hosts a Car Show / Community Safety event. ❖ Medical Coding, Graphic Web Design and Evening Massage Therapy programs are announced, beginning Fall 2013. ❖

President Terry Wilkerson's contract is renewed. ❖ Academic Honors – 162 individuals named to President's List (perfect 4.0-point grade-point average) and 236 others to the Vice President's List. ❖ Ewing Northern Fire Protection District donates a working fire truck to RLC's Mining Technology program.

MAY – A total of 860 graduates are conferred 773 Associate Degrees and 651 Occupational Certificates. ❖ Tina Grounds, Early Childhood Education Professor, is named RLCF "Faculty Excellence" Award recipient. ❖ Larry Manning (Belle Rive) takes a spot on the RLC Board, replacing 35-year veteran Marvin Scott (Belle Rive). ❖ Interdistrict agreements with Southeastern Illinois College allow the institutions to cooperate on Oil and Natural Gas Industry training.

JUNE – American dreams come true! Naturalization ceremony at RLC ushers in 57 new U.S. citizens. ❖ Ed Cunningham (Mt. Vernon), who was serving as Board Chair, says farewell after a job change and move; Dr. David Asbery (Mt. Vernon) takes his seat. ❖ Indiana Wesleyan University and RLC forge a transfer agreement for a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing program. ❖ Student Services implements the First-Year Experience program as part of orientation.

JULY – In-district students save around \$1 million in RLC's Dual Credit program. ❖ Students become eligible to use surplus financial aid for public transportation via South Central Transit. ❖ Physicians Filing Service of Mt. Vernon and RLC partner to provide on-job-training as well as tuition assistance to Medical Coding students. ❖ The "Scholarships for Pinckneyville" campaign conducted by the RLC Foundation results in 13 new scholarships for Perry County students. ❖ RLC offers a new Trucking Certificate, now eligible for financial aid.

AUGUST – Finny Mathew, CEO of Crossroads Community Hospital in Mt. Vernon, and Nelson Wood, President of Wood Energy Inc. in Mt. Vernon, are appointed to the RLCF Board

of Directors. ❖ Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan visits campus. ❖ Rend Lake College welcomes the Area Health Education Center to its Ina campus, increasing opportunities in the health care field for students. ❖ The RLC Golf Outlet, located at the MarketPlace, opens the Cherry Creek Driving Range in Mt. Vernon.

SEPTEMBER – Rend Lake College is named a 2014 Military Friendly School by *G.I. Jobs* magazine. ❖ A Concealed Carry certification class is developed. ❖ The RLC MarketPlace celebrates 12 years with an Open House. ❖ A Writing Center and Communications Lab open in the North Oasis; a Math Lab follows.

OCTOBER – The RLC Foundation hosts the 24th Scholarship Dinner which unites donors and recipients. ❖ The first Fall Car Show is held on the Ina campus. ❖ A Title III Grant will award Rend Lake College up to \$2.25 million from the U.S. Department of Education to expand and enhance Allied Health programs. ❖ Cyber Forensics Specialist and Health Care Coach Occupational Certificates receive approval from Trustees.

NOVEMBER – Bryan Drew (Benton) steps down from the RLC Board of Trustees; he was serving as Board Chair at the time. Former member Randall Crocker (Sesser) was appointed to replace him. ❖ RLC Foundation names Trish Reed (Class of 1985) as 2013 "Alumna of the Year." ❖ Phil Gustafson (Mt. Vernon) joins the RLC Foundation Board of Directors. ❖ "Treasure Island" comes alive on the RLC Theatre stage.

DECEMBER – In honor of their son, the Chamness family establishes the Timothy Keith Chamness Memorial Scholarship to benefit students in Mining Technology. ❖ The Ancient Free and Accepted Masons Polk Lodge No. 137 of McLeansboro establishes a scholarship endowment. ❖ Eighteen new courses approved as part of a revision to the Associate Degree Nursing program.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

QUICK FACTS

- **STUDENT HEAD COUNT**
FISCAL YEAR 2013
 - Summer 2012 3,407
 - Fall 2012 7,105
 - Spring 2013 7,734
 - Total 18,246
- **CREDIT HOURS 2013**
 - Summer 2012 7,906
 - Fall 2012 34,076
 - Spring 2013 36,707
 - Total 78,689
- **FULL-TIME EQUIVALENCY (FTE)**
..... 2,359
- **TOTAL EMPLOYEES (Inc. FACULTY)**
 - Full-Time 205
 - Part-Time 311
 - Total 516
- **FACULTY HEAD COUNT**
 - Full-Time 71
 - Part-Time 169
 - Total 240
- **DEGREES AWARDED**
..... 773
- **CERTIFICATES AWARDED**
..... 651
- **TUITION (Per Credit Hour)**
.... \$95.00 + \$3.00 Tech Fee

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2014 REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

Creative thinking helps weather tough economic climate

PUBLISHED SPRING 2015

This year the college has continued its forward progress. New, in-demand education and training programs have been created with more on the horizon, and we continue to weather a tough economic climate through common sense and creative thinking.

A new Economic Impact Study, conducted by Northern Illinois University in partnership with the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Department of Employment Security, sheds some light on the impact your college generates in the region. Rend Lake College graduates earn better salaries, contribute more to local economies and tax bases and tend to remain and work in the state. You can find more interesting information about the study inside.

Also notable is the RLC Foundation's Pathways to Success project, to which many employees and friends of the college contributed. Their efforts not only helped improve and beautify the entrance to the Dr. Allen Y. Baker Administration Building, but more importantly created a large scholarship endowment, matched dollar-for-dollar by the Foundation, to provide numerous valuable student scholarships.

We will continue to monitor the needs of our community and provide the training and services it needs. We welcome your input any time, just drop a line, send us an email or come in for a visit. This is your community college, after all.

Sincerely,
Terry Wilkerson, President

A brief look at some of our accomplishments in 2014 . . .

★★★ ★★ ★★

MAKING AN IMPACT: COLLEGE HELPS DRIVE LOCAL ECONOMY

Odds are you or someone you know has been affected by Rend Lake College's economic impact in the last decade.

A study conducted by the Center

for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University in partnership with the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Department of Employment Security, investigated the many economic contributions RLC makes in the region, in what the study calls "the least measured and understood" strength of the college.

This Economic Impact Study (EIS) examined student enrollment and completion over a 12-year period and matched earnings data with students who graduated or otherwise left the college for two full, consecutive semesters.

Of RLC's strengths, the EIS states that the college, "adds skills for the local workforce; boosts the competitiveness of area businesses; graduates individuals who generate millions of dollars in local, state and federal tax revenues, and increases earnings for workers who have graduated."

The college is among the largest employers in the district and continues to generate additional economic benefits for local communities through expenditures and employment impacts. In 2012, almost 420 faculty and staff members lived in the district, with a total payroll of almost \$13.2 million.

Study Highlights:

\$602,000

Total lifetime earnings gain for a 25-year-old RLC program graduate

81%

Percentage of 2011 graduates employed in Illinois one year after completion

Nearly

\$13.2 million

Total payroll of about 420 faculty and staff living in RLC's District in 2012

★★★ ★★ ★★

THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

For the third time since competition began in 2011, Rend Lake College was recognized on the Aspen Insti-

tute's list of the Top 150 Community Colleges in the nation for its student success rates.

The \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence is awarded every two years.

"We're proud to be on the Aspen list again," said RLC President Terry Wilkerson. "We've consistently been on this list, and I think that's a testament to the solid work of our faculty and staff, who every day help our students keep focused on making forward progress."

RLC's three-year graduation and retention rate - 70 percent - far exceeds the national average of 39.8 percent for all community and technical colleges, according to information provided by the Aspen Institute.

"It is rewarding to see the impact of RLC's continuous effort to serve and support students," said Chris Kuberski, Vice President of Academic Instruction. "While the national recognition is welcome, we hope it will be recognized locally that Rend Lake College offers a quality education and the support services students need to be successful."

★★★ ★★ ★★

CHILDREN'S CTR. STAR SUPPORTER MARJORIE FARRAR STEPS UP AGAIN

Nearly two decades after her lead donation got the ball rolling on the RLC Foundation Children's Center, Marjorie Farrar has done it again, donating another \$100,000 to help the center expand and grow to meet the needs of the college and community.

The announcement was made by Farrar's son, Fletcher Farrar, during the RLCF Annual Dinner last December.

Marjorie is considered the catalyst for the Children's Center as she made the initial lead donation to the project in 1995. She then encouraged her friends to do the same. Her donation was matched by local businessman Coyn Mateer, and the center opened in 1998.

"Marjorie is with us in heart and spirit every day on-campus," said

RLC Foundation CEO Shawna Bul-lard. "She makes this whole 'Path-way to Success' possible through her financial support of our littlest RLC Warriors."

The center has continued to im-prove over the years since its incep-tion. It is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and received the Gold Circle of Quality award from ExceleRate Illinois.

★★★★ ★★★★★

\$792,110

**WHAT DUAL CREDIT SAVED FAMILIES
in 2014**

In the 2013-14 academic year, nearly 1,600 local high school students saw the value of enrolling in RLC's Dual Credit Program by saving \$792,110 in tuition.

This program, now in its 14th year, offers tuition-free courses through RLC with a reduced rate for textbook rental for in-district high school students. All 13 public high schools in RLC's district are registered with the program, of which 12 participated last year.

A total of 1,581 students in 12 area high schools earned 8,338 credit hours in the Spring and Fall Semesters toward degrees at RLC.

Mt. Vernon Township High School had the most participants with 981 (duplicated) for a total of 3,077 total credit hours earned in two semesters. Altogether, MVTHS students saved \$292,315 in tuition.

Benton Consolidated High School also had a high number of partici-pants at 601 (duplicated) students for 1,821 credit hours earned. Students saved their families \$172,995 this year. Kelly Stewart, BCHS Superintendent, said the program is a "winner," no matter how you look at it.

★★★★ ★★★★★

NEW YEAR, NEW PROGRAMS

Last year saw the continued addi-tion of new programs and certificates across campus in response to industry needs.

One of the biggest additions is the new distance-delivered option for students interested in a degree in

Business. The Associate in Science Degree program consists mainly of online classes, allowing students to complete work at their convenience, and also contains some hybrid classes made up of online coursework and a small number of face-to-face meet-ings.

In the realm of health care, several new additions gave RLC students more options. The Health Informa-tion Technology, Home Health Aide, Personal Care Aide and Certified Medical Assistant programs were jump-started by interest from local businesses looking for employees with those qualifications.

At Studio RLC in the MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon, the Nail Technology program started in April and the Bar-ber program is pending approval at the state level, offering more options for students interested in Cosmetol-ogy. Also introduced last year was Cyber Forensics, a part of the Crimi-nal Justice program.

★★★★ ★★★★★

FY2014 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial information is from the Fiscal Year 2014 College Audit and includes the Education Fund, Op-erations and Maintenance Fund and Auxiliary Fund. Funds not included are restricted in purpose.

REVENUE – State Grants and Con-tracts, \$13.9M [41%]; Federal Grants and Contracts, \$7.5M [22%]; Local Property Tax Revenue, \$5.3M [16%]; Net Tuition and Fees (generated from students, course lab fees and tech-nology fees), \$2.9M [8%], and Other (represents sales and services fees, facilities usage fees, investments and any other sources of revenue), \$4.6M [13%]. Total – \$34.2M.

The State Government figure illus-trates our reliance upon the state for funding of basic operations. A delay in the receipt of funding or reductions in funding have a greater impact on our college because of this.

EXPENSES – Salaries and Benefits, \$20.9M [64%]; Supplies and Materi-als, \$5.2M [16%]; Financial Aid and Scholarships, \$1.4M [4%]; Other (includes travel, utilities, capital out-lay and other fixed charges), \$5.1M [16%]. Total – \$32.6M.

★★★★ ★★★★★

**SINGLETON: TOAST OF THE OPEN
[THE 143RD BRITISH OPEN IN '14]**

John Singleton (Rend Lake College 2003-05) lived a dream, playing in The 143rd British Open in 2014. Although he missed the weekend cut at Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake, by a mere two strokes, the former War-rior's life changed for the better.

Singleton was a 2005 All-American for the Men's Golf Team coached by Dave Smith (Second Team, seventh overall individually).

His story is like a great script. The Merseyside local became an in-ternational storyline . . . working on the factory floor by day, working on his game at night. Media outlets like the BBC, Golf Channel, ESPN, FOX Sports, *New York Times* and *Boston Globe* ran features on the Cinderella-man in golf spikes.

His can't-quit commitment to do-ing what he loves, and the way he qualified for golf's oldest major in a four-way playoff with borrowed clubs, was the feel-good hit of Hoylake.

After The Open, Singleton began working on his golf game full-time.

★★★★ ★★★★★

**VARIED PROJECTS / PROGRAMS
MAKE AWARD-WINNING WAVES**

Whether it was for incoming fresh-men, faculty and staff or youngsters in the RLC Foundation Children's Cen-ter, Rend Lake College was honored with several awards and accolades throughout the year.

The college named the First-Year Experience (FYE) orientation course as its Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Quality Initiative Project for 2014. HLC is the organization which accredits Rend Lake College, and the FYE orientation project was one piece of an action project to help RLC maintain accreditation.

The RLC Foundation Children's Center received the Gold Circle of Quality designation from ExceleRate Illinois, a statewide rating system. It was the first and only program to receive the distinction within the RLC District. The center also was awarded a \$4,500 stipend to continue its excel-lent work.

RLC's Worksite Wellness program earned the highest recognition – Gold – for the Illinois Department of Public Health's Illinois Healthy Worksite Designation. At RLC, the Worksite Wellness Committee was formed to improve the health and happiness of employees by helping them reach wellness goals through motivation, encouragement and informational activities,

RLC made the list of top Military-Friendly Schools for the third year in a row. The list, published by veteran-owned business Victory media, is comprised of 1,877 colleges, universities and trade schools which received the highest ranking on a survey completed by student veterans and prospective military students.

★★★ ★★ ★★

RLCF OPENS PATHWAY TO SUCCESS, CREATES STUDENT ENDOWMENT

Continental Tire pledges \$25K as lead donor

The entry to Rend Lake College saw a massive improvement over the past year, in more than one sense.

The RLC Foundation completed a campaign to raise funds to beautify and improve the entryway to the Dr. Allen Y. Baker Administration Building, while at the same time creating a huge endowment for scholarships.

Continuing its strong support of RLC students, Continental Tire the Americas LLC stepped up as the lead donor in the "Pathway to Success" campaign with a \$25,000 contribution.

The campaign focused on renovating and upgrading the walkways and front façade of the Administration Building, a location visited by nearly every student for needs such as admissions, advisement, financial aid, student records and more.

Employees and friends of RLC were able to contribute to the campaign by purchasing pavers of various sizes. The Foundation matched every dollar raised to establish scholarships for future RLC students.

★★★ ★★ ★★

GRANTS AID MINING, HEALTH CARE

Big changes are in the works for the Coal Mining and Health Care programs on the RLC campus, thanks to two grants received in 2014.

For the third time, the RLC Coal Mine Training Center received a Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety Grant to increase training options for coal miners and firefighters. The grant of \$92,247 is the largest of the three RLC has received.

The "Mine Emergency, Prevention and Preparedness Project" will restructure and expand on current mine training curriculum and create a new teaching environment using weather-tight sea containers. These two additions will challenge miners and rescue teams with skills including patient extraction, advanced firefighting skills, rope rescue, smoke exploration and confined space training. Additionally, the grant will help RLC expand on the Coal Firefighting Training Center by adding a multi-level mine facility north of the current fire tunnel at the Coal Mine Training Center.

RLC also was granted a Community Engagement Award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine Greater Midwest Region to start preparations for the first Health and Wellness Fair in Spring 2015. The \$4,500 grant will be used to help educate community members on a number of health care issues by using exhibits, presentations, children's activities and more. The fair is set for Friday, April 17, 2015.

★★★ ★★ ★★

WARRIORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Rend Lake College student-athletes compete on- and off-the-playing field. The Lady Warriors and Warriors were credited with four NJCAA Academic Student-Athlete Award-winners and five All-Academic Teams for 2013-14.

- SUPERIOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Abbie Lehman	3.96	Softball
Fallon Clayton	3.81	Softball
- EXEMPLARY ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Haley Miller	3.76	Softball
Travis Waninger	3.69	Golf
- ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

Softball	3.31 (28th-t / 120)
[28th in nation; 120 Softball teams honored]	

Women's Tennis	3.20 (20th / 27)
Men's Golf	3.19 (16th-t / 35)
Volleyball	3.12 (72nd-t / 93)
Women's Golf	3.07 (15th / 18)

★★★ ★★ ★★

MERRILL LYNCH'S JIM MOUNIER FOUNDATION ALUMNUS OF YEAR

Jim Mounier, a 1972 graduate and current Senior Vice President at Merrill Lynch in Rockford, was named the Rend Lake College Foundation Alumnus of the Year for 2014. He was recognized during the Foundation Annual Dinner December 4.

Mounier, a native of Linton, IN, relocated to Southern Illinois his senior year of high school. After graduating from Mt. Vernon Township High School in 1970, he decided to attend Rend Lake College with a focus on mathematics. With that degree as a stepping-stone, Mounier has worked his way up at Merrill Lynch to help well-off families with their finances.

Now living in Caledonia, a small village northeast of Rockford, Mounier and wife Carole regularly give back to a number of communities, including Rockford; Illinois State University, where Mounier graduated in 1974, and others.

After graduating from RLC with an Associate of Arts Degree and ISU with a Bachelor of Science Degree, he ventured from banking to real estate, purchasing apartment buildings in Rochelle as Snoozy Properties LLC.

More recently, Mounier published his first book, entitled **The 50 Questions You Need to Ask – To Achieve the Financial Advisor Relationship You Deserve**. He finished it in 2004 and was self-published in 2006.

When they have time between their careers, donating and giving back, managing property and writing books, Mounier and his wife enjoy golfing and volunteering at a number of organizations and businesses, such as the OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford, the Rockford Boys/Girls Club and Illinois Grow Enterprise. He is a member of the ISU Foundation and serves on the Executive Committee and Chairs the Development Committee, also at ISU.

★★★ ★★ ★★

OUR MISSION

Rend Lake College provides educational opportunities across cultural and economic boundaries to the diverse student population that we serve. In addition to our commitment to fulfill all our education and community-focused program objectives, we are committed to every degree-completing student demonstrating the fundamental skills of effective critical thinking, problem-solving, oral communication and written communication. In fulfilling its mission, Rend Lake College will be an active leader in our region's development. Our students' success is our own success.



**2014 IN REVIEW
... MONTH-BY-MONTH**

JANUARY – Rend Lake College repeats on Aspen Institute's list of "America's Best Community Colleges" for third consecutive time. ❖ Academic Honors: 146 students named to President's List and 259 to Vice Presidents' List for Fall 2013.

FEBRUARY – Tuition holds steady at \$95 per credit hour. ❖ Ashley Clarry (DuQuoin) and Adam Carter (Marion) are crowned Rend Lake College Homecoming Queen and King. ❖ Five Instructors receive tenure – Melissa Berendsen and Nicole Haney, Nursing; Jeff Fairbanks and Robert Wilson, Culinary Arts; Ashley Marthaler, Certified Nurse Assisting.

MARCH – Studio RLC's Nail Technology program receives approval. ❖ Elijah Liske (Sesser) is elected as the Student Representative on the RLC Board of Trustees for 2014-15. ❖ First-Year Experience, RLC's reimagined and improved orientation course, is named the 2014 Higher Learning Commission Quality Initiative Project.

APRIL – Spring Musical, "Little Shop of Horrors" features custom-built/operational Audrey, the carnivorous plant. ❖ Cyber Forensics program begins enrollment. ❖ RLC students take First Place in three categories at Illinois SkillsUSA competition – Jacob Petty (Mt. Vernon) in Architectural CAD Drafting, Donna Krahn (Woodlawn) in Early Childhood Education and Chris Miles (Mt.

Vernon) in Technical CAD Drafting.

MAY – A total of 670 graduates are conferred 679 Associate Degrees and 479 Occupational Certificates. ❖ Registration begins for RLC's new distance-delivered Associate in Science Degree, focusing on Business. ❖ Transfer agreements with SIU in Business, Business and Administration and Engineering are approved.

JUNE – Work begins on the "Pathway to Success," a project of the RLC Foundation aimed at raising student scholarship funds and renovating the entryway to the Administration Building. Continental Tire pledges \$25,000 as lead sponsor. ❖ Academic Honors – 140 individuals named to President's List (perfect 4.0-point grade-point average) and 226 others to the Vice Presidents' List for Spring 2014. ❖ RLC and SIU-Edwardsville approve Transfer Agreement for Nursing students. ❖ Report: Local high school students and parents save nearly \$800,000 in tuition through Dual Credit program.

JULY – RLC, SIU-Carbondale implement Industrial Technology transfer agreement. ❖ RLC Foundation Children's Center becomes first and only program in Rend Lake College District to earn the Gold Circle of Quality from ExceleRate Illinois, a statewide rating system. ❖ Truck Driver Training trailer gets new "wrap" depicting RLC students in a variety of vocations.

AUGUST – RLC begins offering the Health Information Technology program in-house. ❖ Art program addition and renovated Anatomy and Physiology Labs open for student use. ❖ Hitting Zone renamed as the RLC Recreational Center; Alum Tyler O'Daniel hired as Director.

SEPTEMBER – RLC Theatre lighting system receives LED update. ❖ College hosts the Illinois Regional College Fair. ❖ RLC Foundation hosts 34th Annual RLCF Open Golf Outing fund-raiser and friend-raiser.

OCTOBER – RLC receives \$92,247 Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety Grant, the third and largest such grant awarded to the college. ❖ RLC Foundation hosts 25th Annual Scholarship

Dinner. ❖ College holds first Warrior Fest, including the annual Car Show as well as a flea market, food, children's activities and more. ❖ RLC earns Gold recognition for the Illinois Department of Public Health's Illinois Healthy Worksite Designation.

NOVEMBER – Foundation names Jim Mounier the 2014 Alumnus of the Year. ❖ RLC hosts the Turkey Leg 5K, donates proceeds to Benton/West City Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry and the Lifeboat Alliance in Mt. Vernon. ❖ Economic Impact Study indicates a 25-year-old program graduate of RLC can expect a total lifetime earnings gain of \$602,000 – a 46 percent increase over those not completing a community college program.

DECEMBER – Certified Medical Assistant program begins enrollment for general classes. ❖ Forty-eight new American citizens take oath at Naturalization Ceremony hosted on-campus. ❖ Board approves Instructor Sharing Agreements with Shawnee and South-eastern Illinois colleges.



QUICK FACTS

- **STUDENT HEAD COUNT**
FISCAL YEAR 2014

Summer 2013.....	3,178
Fall 2013.....	7,682
Spring 2014.....	8,243
Total	19,103

- **CREDIT HOURS 2014**

Summer 2013.....	7,496
Fall 2013.....	32,851
Spring 2014.....	33,882
Total	74,229

- **FULL-TIME EQUIVALENCY (FTE)**
..... 2,419
- **TOTAL EMPLOYEES (Inc. FACULTY)**

Full-Time.....	198
Part-Time.....	359
Total	557

- **FACULTY HEAD COUNT**

Full-Time.....	67
Part-Time.....	159
Total	226

- **DEGREES AWARDED**
..... 559
- **CERTIFICATES AWARDED**
..... 694
- **TUITION (Per Credit Hour)**
.... \$95.00 + \$5.00 Tech Fee

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2015 REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

Mounier Legacy brings 'generosity' meaning to new level

PUBLISHED SPRING 2016

Rend Lake College is celebrating another year of constant focus on higher education and dedication to our students and community. Taking a look back on 2015 in this report, RLC has made many changes as we continue to find new and innovative ways to support our students through our mission and expand in response to the demands in our community, despite a tough economic climate.

This year we made room for six new Associate Degree and Certificate programs, including Barbering, two in Cosmetology, Pharmacy Technology, Production Technology and Unmanned Aircraft Systems. We also collaborated with other colleges and universities across the country to form Articulation Agreements, which provide more options for our students and graduates to pursue. The college itself has grown thanks to three grants used to expand on student resources and improve existing technology on all three of our campuses.

Also notable is the RLC Foundation's physical expansion with the announcement of a new addition to the RLCF Children's Center in the form of a Gross Motor Room and Children's Library. The Foundation also is expanding economically with a generous bequest: the Jim and Carole Mounier Legacy Society, a seven-figure donation to support the college and our students.

As we move forward into another year, we are always watching for more opportunities to serve our students and our community. Please, come by and visit your community college, or give us a call or send us an email with any input at any time. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Terry Wilkerson, President

★★★★ ★★★★★

NEW PROGRAMS

Six new programs and certificates arrived on RLC's campus last year to give graduates the skills they need to

work in a number of growing industries.

At Studio RLC in the Rend Lake College MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon, the Barber Certificate program enrolled students for the first time in February, followed quickly by enrollment opportunities for the Associate Degree program in March. Both programs give students knowledge of the latest trends, styles and technique skills with hands-on experience. The Cosmetology program also expanded to include a new degree option for students to take skills to the next level.

A new Occupational Certificate was approved by the Illinois Community College Board for the UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) Certificate. UAS, commonly referred to as drones, is an evening program that will give graduates the skills to use their personal UAS in a number of different industries that continue to grow with the new technology.

The Pharmacy Technician Certificate program began enrolling students for Fall Semester 2015. The short, one-semester program allows graduates to begin working under a Registered Pharmacist in hospitals and pharmacies. As with many health care fields, job opportunities for Pharmacy Technicians are expected to grow 20 percent in upcoming years.

Certified Production Technician – another one-semester training program – started in July with the goal to help locals get into entry- or mid-level Production Technician jobs in the manufacturing field. This certificate is composed of four modules in safety, maintenance awareness, manufacturing processes and quality practices.

A 19-credit-hour Cyber Security Specialist program also formed out of demand from Criminal Justice and Information Technology students interested in working in the ever-growing world of virtual safety. This program gives students the skills to detect and mitigate cyber-attacks, investigate intrusions and much more.

★★★★ ★★★★★

ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

Rend Lake College continued to provide opportunities for graduates in the past year with the signing of six Articulation Agreements with four-year colleges and universities, providing RLC graduates of 14 different programs many new options to continue their higher education.

In January, RLC partnered with Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis to offer graduates the seamless transfer into Psychology, Sociology and Social Work Bachelor's degrees.

Two Graphic Design agreements were made with Stephens College of Graphic Design Communications in Columbia, MO, and with Rocky Mountain College of Arts and Design in Lakewood, CO.

During the Annual Ag Banquet in April, Rend Lake College and Murray State University renewed a five-year Articulation Agreement for graduates of any RLC Agriculture program.

Six degrees – Medical Assistant, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Health Information Technology, Nursing and Radiology – became easy transfers to Central Methodist University in Park Hills, MO, during the June RLC Board of Trustees meeting.

Nursing graduates also can take advantage of a new agreement with Chamberlain College of Nursing in Downers Grove starting in July to complete online degrees.

★★★★ ★★★★★

GRANTS SUPPORTING STUDENTS AND EVENTS

Rend Lake College received three grants last year that helped expand resources for students and improve upon the special events calendar.

In August, RLC's TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Grant was approved for the next five years. The competitive grant is funded by the U.S. Department of Education at \$267,134 each year for a total of \$1,335,670.

The SSS Grant funds RLC's Student Transfer and Retention Support (STARS) program, which has provided outreach and a variety of services for income-eligible, first-generation students and students with disabilities since 1997. The RLC campus also is home to the TRIO Upward Bound program for high school students.

"STARS is an excellent support program for our students and we are lucky to have it on our campus," said Lisa Price, Vice President of Student Services. "Many of our students come to us being first-generation college students, and because they have not had the educational background in their families, they often do not know or understand how to navigate the college waters. Our STARS program assists these students in finding their way through RLC and then on to their next educational step."

RLC hosted the first Health and Wellness Fair on April 17, 2015 thanks to a \$4,500 Community Engagement Award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine Greater Midwest Region. The event brought out hundreds of community members and grade school children to visit with 50 vendors and six speakers to learn about healthy lifestyles and health information.

Thanks to the 2014 Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Project, RLC and three other participants in the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market received portions of a \$439,425 grant to update videoconferencing equipment in February 2015.

Upgrades were made to the Ina and Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville campuses, with additional funds upgrading equipment at Hamilton County, Thompsonville, Waltonville, Wayne City and Webber Township high schools.

"Most of the videoconferencing equipment in the district is approximately 10 years old," said Andrea Witthoft, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness. "Due to the age of the current equipment, technical failures have increased over the past few years and these issues impact the quality of the teaching and learning experiences. We are very grateful to

receive the funding to replace the aging equipment."

★★★★★★★★

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FIND \$812K VALUE IN DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM

In the 2014-15 academic year, RLC wrapped up its 15th year of helping local high school students save in terms of both time and money. Over 2,800 students saved approximately \$812,820 in tuition by enrolling in the Dual Credit program.

The program offers tuition-free courses through RLC with a reduced rate for textbook rental for in-district high school students. Twelve of 13 public, in-district high schools in RLC's district participated last year.

A total of 8,556 credit hours were earned by students in Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 semesters. Students who enroll in both semesters are counted twice for official reports.

▲ 2014-15 (Tuition - \$95/Cr.Hr.)

High School	Students	Cr.Hr.	Savings
Benton Consolidated	526	1,677	\$159,315
Christopher	88	370	\$ 35,150
Hamilton County Sr.	155	482	\$ 45,790
Mt. Vernon Twp.	888	2,415	\$229,425
Pinckneyville Com.	376	1,304	\$123,880
Sesser-Valier	50	98	\$ 9,310
Thompsonville Com.	66	204	\$ 19,380
Waltonville	135	380	\$ 36,100
Wayne City	133	370	\$ 35,150
Webber Twp.	235	639	\$ 60,705
Woodlawn Com.	113	336	\$ 34,770
Zeigler-Royalton	80	251	\$ 23,845
IN-DISTRICT	2,845	8,556	\$812,820

[FOR YEAR-BY-YEAR DUAL-CREDIT SAVINGS, SEE PROGRAMS / DEPARTMENTS, Page 127]

★★★★★★★★

COURTNEY YOUNG

May 2015 was a big month for Courtney Young, a senior at Christopher High School who walked across Rend Lake College's Commencement stage on a Saturday and continued strutting down to graduation at CHS the following week. She joins the ranks of very few students who have obtained a college diploma from RLC before leaving high school.

[FOR COMPLETE STORY ON COURTNEY YOUNG, SEE EXCELLENCE IN STUDENTS, Page 23]

★★★★★★★★

FY2015 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial information is from the Fiscal Year 2015 College Audit and

includes the Education Fund, Operations and Maintenance Fund and Auxiliary Fund. Funds not included are restricted in purpose.

REVENUE – State Government, \$13.8M [47%]; Federal Government, \$20,000 [>1%]; Local Property Tax, \$2.7M [9%]; Net Tuition/Fees (generated from students, course lab and technology fees), \$8.7M [30%], and Other (represents sales and services fees, facilities usage fees, investments and any other sources of revenue), \$3.7M [13%]. Total – \$29.0M.

The State Government figure illustrates our reliance upon the state for funding of basic operations. A delay in the receipt of funding or reductions in funding have a greater impact on our college because of this.

EXPENSES – Salaries and Benefits, \$18.3M [64%]; Supplies and Materials, \$3.7M [12%]; Other (includes travel, utilities, capital outlay and other fixed charges), \$7.1M [24%]. Total – \$29.1M.

★★★★★★★★

EXCELLENT FACULTY AND STAFF

Two members of Rend Lake College's Applied Science and Technology Division were honored last year for their dedication and service to the RLC community and students.

Nominated by their peers, Ricky Robinson and Eric Knapp, both representatives of the Computer Science program, were named RLCF "Outstanding Faculty Award" recipients.

Both individuals joined outstanding instructors from across the state at the Illinois Community College Trustees Association Awards Banquet in June. Prior to that, they were honored at the Annual Board-Faculty-Staff Recognition Banquet in May.

Robinson was the full-time Faculty Excellence Award-winner. A Computer Networking Professor, Robinson came to Rend Lake College in 1998. He helped start and develop the Computer Networking program and has become an integral part of the Criminal Justice program as well.

The part-time winner was Knapp, who is best known on campus as the Introduction to Computers instructor. Knapp graduated from RLC in 2008 and has taught part-time for six years.

- Nathan Wheeler, Marketing Specialist, was presented the RLC Foundation Outstanding Staff Award during the recognition ceremonies.

- RLC said goodbye to two retirees at the end of last year. Curt Mowrer, Executive Director of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), and Aurelia Hudgens, Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) Associate Professor, were honored for their service.

Mowrer retired after 16 years. The longtime Mt. Vernon business owner started at RLC in 1999 with Community Education and the SBDC.

Hudgens retired after five years working both part-time and full-time as a CNA instructor.

★★★ ★★ ★★

DR. BRIAN KERN ALUMNUS OF YEAR

Two decades after he pitched for RLC and was floor general for the Basketball Warriors, Dr. Brian Kern again made headlines at his Juco alma mater.

The 1994 RLC graduate is now a Surgeon at the Orthopedic Institute of Western Kentucky and was named the RLCF Alumnus of the Year. He was recognized at the Annual Dinner December 3, 2015.

[FOR COMPLETE STORY ON DR. BRIAN KERN, SEE EXCELLENCE IN STUDENTS, Page 128]

★★★ ★★ ★★

JIM AND CAROLE MOUNIER START LEGACY WITH R.L.C. FOUNDATION

Leading the way in generosity last year was the 2014 Alumnus of the Year, Jim Mounier, and wife Carole, who after a year of closely following the college decided to give the largest donation the Foundation has ever received.

Already valued at seven-figures and growing, the Jim and Carole Mounier Legacy Society was announced at the Rend Lake College Foundation Annual Dinner in December 2015.

Upon receiving special recognition for the Legacy Society, Mounier (RLC Class of 1972) said he is proud to be able to give back to the place he said helped change everything for him.

“Attending Rend Lake College was one of the best decisions I ever made, and I believe it is probably the hidden jewel of Southern Illinois.

“We don’t invest in things that don’t work, but we think (the college and RLC Foundation) work very well. We are honored and humbled to be able to give this donation,” he said.

Legacy donations, according to CEO Shawna Bullard, can be “very inspirational to other donors. It not only helps educate them on different ways to give, but gives them confidence in the organization’s leadership and mission. Jim and Carole have brought the meaning of ‘generosity’ to a new level for the RLC Foundation.”

[FOR ADDITIONAL STORIES ON THE FOURNIERS, SEE EXCELLENCE IN FOUNDATIONS, Page 70 AND EXCELLENCE IN STUDENTS, Page 127]

★★★ ★★ ★★

AMAZING ATHLETES

Rend Lake College nominated 13 student-athletes and three teams for their high academic achievement in the 2014-15 year.

The three academic teams each earned the No. 1 spot with the highest GPA in Region XXIV and were cited as All-Academic Teams by the NJCAA.

RLC also had five All-Region XXIV nominees during the year – Dedric Byrd (Men’s Basketball), Sara Dixon (Softball), Brianna Hawkins (Women’s Basketball), Lexi Skelton (Softball) and Jordyn Wieland (Softball).

• PINNACLE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Danielle Bruns	4.00	Volleyball
Denise Bruns	4.00	Volleyball
Sara Dixon	4.00	Softball
Evelyn Mendez	4.00	Tennis

• SUPERIOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Emily Green	3.88	Volleyball
Katie Jones	3.93	Softball
Summer Karch	3.94	Softball
Ellie Sigman	3.96	X-Country
Marisa Uhls	3.80	Tennis

• EXEMPLARY ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Sydney Crews	3.78	VB/Tennis
Emily Culbreth	3.66	Tennis
Joseph McDaniel	3.66	Track/Field
Kayla Piersol	3.66	Softball

• ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

Women's Tennis	3.67	(2nd / 120)
		[2nd in nation; 28 Tennis teams honored]
Softball	3.45	(11th / 120)
Volleyball	3.34	(36th-t / 88)

★★★ ★★ ★★

ATHLETIC DEPT. HIGHLIGHTS

- Krystal Gundy, who had been serving as the Assistant Basketball Coach for Women’s Basketball, became the Head Coach in August. Her first team finished 11-16 and averaged 66.8 points per game.

- Gundy selected Shae Nelson of Cordova, TN, as her new Assistant Coach. Nelson is a former basketball and volleyball player. This is her first coaching opportunity.

- Jason Belk, originally from Iowa and now a resident of Cambria, became the new Baseball Assistant Coach under Tony Etnier in August. Belk brings seven years of coaching experience to his role as Pitching Coach and Recruiting Coordinator.

- Softball Coach Dave Ellingsworth reached his 800th win in March when the Lady Warriors swept a doubleheader from Great Rivers Athletic Conference foe Southwestern Illinois.9

- In March, Warrior Alum Nick Andros (RLC ’13) was named Atlantic Sun Conference “Pitcher of the Year.” The Tunnel Hill native then signed with the Kansas City Royals in June.

- The Women’s Golf Team started the Spring season ranked No. 8 in the nation, according to the NJCAA poll. In April, Coach Cindy Corn’s squad won the Region XXIV Tournament and the following month finished ninth at Nationals in Mesa, AZ.

- The Men’s Golf Team sent two athletes to the NJCAA Finals as individuals. Sophomores Matt Greenfield (Hassocks, England) and Blake Swoford (Vandalia) finished third and sixth, respectively, at Regionals to qualify, then 45th and 67th at Goose Pond Colony G.C. in Scottsboro, AL.

- The RLC Sports Hall of Fame inducted its 16th class in April. It included three cagers spanning three decades and a Softball ace. Dean Jackson (MVCC Class of 1967), Jerry Wilson (’79) and Michael Ayers (’86) represented the Men’s Basketball program, along with Lady Warrior Pitcher Jennifer Wren (’99).

Softball’s Lexi Skelton and Sara Dixon ranked in the Top 20 nationally in Batting Average. Second Baseman

Skelton (Henderson, KY) was No. 6 at .533, with Catcher Dixon (Benton) and her .506 average at No. 14.

★★★ ★★ ★★

OUR MISSION

Rend Lake College provides educational opportunities across cultural and economic boundaries to the diverse student population that we serve. In addition to our commitment to fulfill all our education and community-focused program objectives, we are committed to every degree-completing student demonstrating the fundamental skills of effective critical thinking, problem-solving, oral communication and written communication. In fulfilling its mission, Rend Lake College will be an active leader in our region's development. Our students' success is our own success.

★★★ ★★ ★★

**2015 IN REVIEW
... MONTH-BY-MONTH**

JANUARY – Academic Honors: 168 students named to the President's List and 253 to the Vice President's List for Fall 2014. ❖ RLC Thespian Club hosts annual Improv Comedy Night.

FEBRUARY – Future Student Trustee Claire Pytlinski (Waltonville) and current Student Trustee Elijah Liske (Okawville) crowned RLC Homecoming Queen and King. ❖ A new online orientation program called Online Navigation Essentials launches to give students the chance to experience online learning before enrolling in online or hybrid courses.

MARCH – American Heart Association partners with RLC to create the Walking Path on campus. ❖ Project CHILD's Stephanie McKinney is named Illinois Southern Public Citizen of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers. ❖ Phi Theta Kappa inducts 73 students into the Rho Xi Chapter.

APRIL – Spring Musical "Les Miserables" opens with a large cast of 39 actors. ❖ Claire Pytlinski (Waltonville) is elected as the 2015-16 Student Member of the RLC Board of Trustees. ❖ RLC AmeriCorps and Child Psych students raise awareness for Child Abuse Awareness Month.

MAY – Commencement: 610 graduates conferred 692 Associate Degrees, 519 Occupational Certificates. ❖ Fifty-four Associate Degree Nursing students are pinned by faculty and staff at the annual Pinning Ceremony. ❖ The RLC Foundation Children's Center graduates 16 students from Pre-K and Preschool classes. ❖ Dozens of students are honored at 18th Annual STARS Recognition Ceremony.

JUNE – Academic Honors: 174 students named to the President's List and 236 to the Vice President's List for Spring 2015. ❖ Nearly 40 local students participate in RLC's Discovery Camp, getting the chance to explore many different health care careers.

JULY – RLC goes smoke-free, thanks to a nationwide initiative aimed at addressing smoking and tobacco use on community college campuses. ❖ Locals recycle 2.5 tons of technology at RLC's eCycling Event, including TVs, printers, coffee makers, computers and much more.

AUGUST – RLC Coordinator of Technical Services and Collection Management Sandy West is elected Treasurer of the Illinois Heartland Library System. ❖ The RLC Board of Trustees approves a Joint Agreement for Educational Cooperation between Rend Lake College, Southeastern Illinois College and Shawnee Community College for the Health Information Technology program.

SEPTEMBER – RLC hosts the Annual Illinois Regional College Fair in James "Hummer" Waugh Gymnasium. ❖ RLC Foundation hosts 35th Annual Golf Outing to raise money for the Warrior Golf teams and RLCF scholarships. ❖ WalletHub: RLC ranks ninth in the state for Best Community College based on 17 performance metrics. ❖ Thirty students are recognized at the Annual Upward Bound Banquet.

OCTOBER – RLC Foundation hosts 26th Annual Scholarship Dinner celebrating 146 student recipients of 59 different scholarships. ❖ Local CNAs Valerie Leyva and winner Becky Schach are nominated for the "Outstanding Certified Nurse Assistant of the Year" Award at RLC's annual con-

ference. ❖ Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner visits RLC and tours campus with President Terry Wilkerson and other college officials.

NOVEMBER – Fall play, "The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus," opens, bringing to life the youth and upbringing of the holiday character. ❖ For the fourth year in a row, RLC is on the Military Friendly Schools list published by Victory Media. ❖ Architectural Technology Professor Kevin Weston is named the R. Tim Phillips "Teacher of the Year" by the Illinois Drafting Educators Assn.

DECEMBER – Phi Theta Kappa nominees Katie Jones (Thompsonville) and Jacqueline Kellerman (Oakdale) as All-USA nominees to represent the Rho Xi Chapter. ❖ Amanda Hutchinson (Mt. Vernon) wins "Send Me to RLC Contest." ❖ The American Academy of Professional Coders donates a \$750 scholarship to the RLC Foundation.

★★★ ★★ ★★

QUICK FACTS

■ STUDENT HEAD COUNT	
<i>FISCAL YEAR 2015</i>	
Summer 2014	3,764
Fall 2014	7,597
Spring 2015	8,324
Total	19,685
■ CREDIT HOURS 2015	
Summer 2014	7,571
Fall 2014	33,776
Spring 2015	33,784
Total	75,131
■ FULL-TIME EQUIVALENCY (FTE)	2,252
■ TOTAL EMPLOYEES (Inc. FACULTY)	
Full-Time	198
Part-Time	359
Total	557
■ FACULTY HEAD COUNT	
Full-Time	67
Part-Time	195
Total	292
■ DEGREES AWARDED	658
■ CERTIFICATES AWARDED	732
■ TUITION (Per Credit Hour)	\$95.00
+ \$10.00 Tech Fee / Cr. Hr.	
+ \$ 5.00 Facilities Fee / Cr. Hr.	

SPECIAL EVENTS INVOLVING REND LAKE COLLEGE

Openings, Exhibits, Concerts, Visitors and More, 1967 - 2016

1967-68

■ PARAPSYCHOLOGIST RETURNS

Parapsychologist Russ Burgess appeared in convocation at Rend Lake College, just as the nationally known entertainer had done the year before at what was then Mt. Vernon Community College. Parapsychology is the study of extra-sensory perception, or ESP. / April '68

1968-69

■ AMERICAN BREED IN CONCERT

The American Breed, a nationally recognized musical quartet from the Chicago area, came to the Mt. Vernon Armory on Thursday evening, February 6, for a performance sponsored by Phi Beta Lambda, the Business Club, and Rend Lake College.

A canceled flight due to inclement weather in the Windy City almost forced a cancelation of the much-anticipated event. But it merely led to a hectic day of alternative travel leading up to their appearance, right on schedule.

Three of the four members are college graduates. In discussions after the concert/dance with organizers Tom Anderson and Jim Helleney, the good-natured individuals said they were impressed by the size of the crowd, especially on a weekday night at a junior college event, and the friendliness of everyone they met.

American Breed members Alan Ciner, Gary Loizzo, Lee Graziano and Charles Colbert briefly visited three RLC classes Friday morning before departing.

The popular local group, the Sting Rays, which includes Rend Lake College students, took the stage first before a large audience. / February '69

■ S.I.U. STAGE BAND

The Southern Illinois University Stage Band will present a convocation concert Tuesday, February 25, at 12:35 p.m. in the Auditorium.

The convo is one of several scheduled by RLC Instructor William Hazelbauer to give music students an opportunity to see the efforts of various musical schools as well as to provide a musical program for the enjoyment of the entire student body. / February '69

■ BLOOD DRIVE NETS 172 DONORS

A two-day Blood Drive at Rend Lake College February 27-28 resulted in 172 successful donors. / February '69

■ GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES

Conducted Thursday, March 27, at the site of the Ina campus-to-be. [See Sidebar story, this section, Page 4.] / March '69

1970-71

■ GYMNASIUM OPENING

The new Gymnasium on the Ina campus is scheduled to open October 1. It will have a seating capacity of 1,500, with standing room only capabilities for another 200-300, if necessary.

The most attractive part of the new facility? Athletic Director/Men's Basketball Coach Jim Waugh replied, "It's ours." / October '70

■ REND LAKE COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE

Crowd of 3,500 . . . / December '70

■ STAN KENTON AND ORCHESTRA

The Big Band sounds of Hall of Fame legend Stan Kenton and Orchestra came to Southern Illinois February 18, thanks to Rend Lake College. Long considered a musical innovator and a favorite among college audiences everywhere, Kenton & Co. performed before a full house in the RLC Gymnasium.

Kenton was the third member elected to *Downbeat Magazine's* Jazz Hall of Fame, following in the musical notes of Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington. He has won seven consecutive *Playboy* Jazz Poll Awards as a fan favorite. / February '71

1971-72

■ REND LAKE COLLEGE DEDICATION

NASA Scientist-Astronaut William Lenoir and U.S. Congressman The Hon. Kenneth J. Gray keynote speakers for Dedication-Open House Sunday afternoon, September 26, for Phase I buildings - Academic, Science, (South) Oasis and Gymnasium. [See Sidebar story, this section, Page 18.] / September '71

■ REND LAKE DEDICATION

The Official Dedication of Rend Lake was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 27. The 90-minute program was conducted just east of the Rend Lake Dam area.

As part of the 9th Annual Rend Lake Days, the week-long celebration included the Miss Rend Lake Beauty Pageant May 23-25 at Benton Consolidated High School; the Rend Lake Ball at the Top of First Bank and Trust in Mt. Vernon Friday night; the 150-unit-plus "largest parade in the history of Southern Illinois," headed by Parade Marshal Gov. Richard B. Ogilvie, Saturday morning in Benton, and Annual Sesser Homecoming festivities following the ceremonies. / May '72

1972-73

■ GOV. DAN WALKER

Gov. Dan Walker was on campus to attend graduation ceremonies for South-

ern Illinois law enforcement officers in Criminal Justice Training. The graduates represented about 20 percent of the law enforcement officers from 27 southern counties. Walker presented the Governor's Award for Academic Excellence in Law Enforcement Training. / March '73

■ CAMPUS VISITOR FROM CAMEROON

Rend Lake College played host to Professor Leopold Prosper Begne II, a native citizen of the United Republic of Cameroon, West Africa, and currently teaching in the Humanities Department at Loop College in Chicago.

The visit was sponsored by the RLC Student Senate and the Anthropology and Sociology program. / Spring '73

1973-74

■ STATE LEADERS MEET ON-CAMPUS

The Illinois Junior College Board will meet on the RLC campus October 19, preceded on the 18th by a meeting of Illinois Junior College Presidents. / October '73

■ NAVY BAND IN CONCERT

The Commodores, the official Navy Band, presented concerts for the college community (1:30 p.m.) and the general public (8 p.m.) in the Rend Lake College Gymnasium on October 24.

Among those featured was Charnissa Butts, one of seven women in the entire Navy music program, as its lead female singer. / October '73

■ MITCHELL ART EXHIBIT

Rend Lake College is joining hands with the Mitchell Art Museum to present an outstanding informal lecture and a month's exhibition of paintings (February 2-28) on the topic of "New Concepts in Color and Harmony."

The guest artist for the museum event will be Winston McGee, Associate Professor of art at Cleveland State University. McGee toured the RLC campus on January 31 to discuss his views on art with college students.

McGee's recent research has centered around the spatial affects of form displacement and surface shifts. The direction of the paint has moved from use of color transparency and glaze techniques to incorporating low relief into the works. A new form of textural light is introduced, and a new concept of suspension composition is developed. / February '74

■ COMMUNAL POETRY SEMINAR

Rend Lake College held a Communal Poetry Seminar, consisting of three sessions, conducted by well-known contem-

porary Poet Dan Jaffee. Jaffee is an English Professor at University of Missouri.

The first session included a limited number of students writing a poem with Jaffee's help. The second session, open to all interested students, was a Poetry Concert, where certain poems were read aloud and discussed. The third session was held specifically for college instructors.

The seminar was intended to increase the appreciation of poetry as a means of communicating. / Spring '74

1974-75

■ CHEERLEADING CLINIC

A Cheerleading Clinic conducted by the Rend Lake College Athletic Department attracted over 500 participants. Represented were six in-district high school squads and 36 junior highs, nine of which feed into district schools.

The college likewise will play host to All-State Music Auditions October 28, at which time between 900 and 1,200 participants are expected. / October '74

■ LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AT R.L.C.

In conjunction with the Association of Illinois Student Government, Rend Lake College will sponsor a Community College Leadership Conference on Saturday, February 15, in the Student Center.

Scheduled topics of discussion are "How to Develop a Strong Student Government" and "Resources Available to the Student Editor."

Invitations have been sent to student body presidents, newspaper editors, student Trustees and activity directors, but any interested student who could benefit is invited to attend. / February '75

■ SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUILT EXHIBIT

"Quilts of Southern Illinois" will be on display in the RLC Fine Arts Building from April 14-19. A "Quilt Social" is planned Tuesday, April 15, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. / April '75

■ HYPNOTIST LARRY GARRETT

The RLC Student Senate recently sponsored a convocation featuring Hypnotist Larry Garrett. He put on a "very entertaining and informative show," according to the *Pressing Times*, but "he was helped greatly by the capable if unknowing assistance of (student) Greta Garbo, who proved to be a first-class subject."

Hypnotism makes for good entertainment, Garrett noted, but "the real value of hypnotism is in the help it can give to people by helping them overcome their weaknesses." / April '75

1975-76

■ BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The community of Ina and Rend Lake

College collaborated the weekend of September 26-27 to help America celebrate its Bicentennial.

Despite chilly weather, crowds estimated between 1,000-1,500 attended events held both on-campus and in downtown Ina. The college also held a first-ever Homecoming in conjunction with other activities. Instructor Richard Doherty coordinated campus events.

Copies of a 50-page History of Ina-Spring Garden-Rend Lake College were free and "sold-out."

An appearance by the Illinois Bicentennial wagon train, part of a nationwide pilgrimage scheduled to arrive in Valley Forge by July 4, 1976, highlighted festivities, along with a dance, musical performances and art exhibit. The Army Corps of Engineers promoted National Hunting and Fishing Day activities, while slide presentations focused on the American Revolution.

Activities included demonstrations of soap-making, horse-shoeing, weaving, quilting, cow-milking and preparation of cream and butter. There also were rides in pony-drawn carts, an antique car display, a flea market and a "grandmother's pantry" full of home remedies. / September '75

■ BETA CLUB LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Outstanding students representing 32 schools will convene on the Rend Lake College campus Saturday (September 27) for the Illinois High School Beta Club Leadership Conference.

The Beta Club is a national organization of high school honor students.

Rend Lake College faculty and staff will conduct workshop sessions on a variety of topics for more than 100 participants. President W. Travis Martin also will speak to the Beta Club leaders and the RLC Collegiate Choir will provide entertainment.

In-district schools to be represented include Enfield, McLeansboro, Wayne City and Webber Township (Bluford).

/ September '75

■ 'CRAZY QUILTS,' SALES AND MORE

Art Instructor Susan Kolojeski, who learned last spring a lot of Southern Illinoisans share her interest in the art of quilting, has announced plans for a month-long exhibition at Rend Lake College during October. The exhibit will be sponsored by the Fine Arts Department.

The month will center around a week of special activities October 6-10, including daily quilting and piecing demonstrations, a slide lecture (shown twice daily), pattern exchanges during which quilt makers may trace and trade patterns and a quilt sale.

Throughout the month, "crazy quilts"

from Southern Illinois – 14 of the unique quilts each day – will be on display in the lobby of the Fine Arts Building between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

"Crazy quilts," she explained, are "a remnant of what the American character used to be. They exemplify the tradition of being thrifty." These quilts were made using all sorts of patterns and fabrics, and most of the pieces used were scraps of favorite material. Nothing was wasted, as pieces as small as a quarter of an inch in width were employed.

"A crazy quilt is a haphazard, intuitive combination of pieces," Kolojeski continued. "The embroidery ranged from simple to elaborate, and the material ran from cotton and calico to silk, velvet and satin."

The quilt sale will be Thursday, when there will be an open market. Anyone with a top, pillow or quilt may bring it to sell. Friday will be Quilt Show Day, when anyone may bring a favorite quilt and explain its construction and history.

All activities are free and open to the public. / September '75

■ BICENTENNIAL CONCERT

The Rend Lake College Collegiate Choir and the Rend Lake College Community Chorus will be featured Monday, October 13, in a special Bicentennial Choral Concert at 8:15 p.m. in the RLC Theatre.

Twelve of the 15 songs to be presented were made available through a grant from JCPenney Company, according to Larry D. Phifer, Chairman of the Rend Lake College Fine Arts Department and Conductor of both groups.

Phifer said JCPenney sent the Bicentennial selections to all schools in the country requesting the set. A committee of nationally known musicians was appointed to select the music, much of which has never been published or has long been out of print.

Soloists will be Mitch Fulford, Dan Reynolds, Glenda Troutt, Sara Partridge, Hyla Farthing and Mark Craig. Lesa Rhodes and Gary Arnold will provide accompaniment.

The Monday night concert is the first of four choral concerts planned for the year on-campus. This is the sixth year two groups have been under Phifer's direction. / October '75

■ SOHIO, OLD BEN VISITS

Rend Lake College's Old Ben Training Program was the object of attention during an hour tour by A.B. Whitehouse, President of Standard Oil of Ohio, and Chicago officials of the Old Ben Coal Company, a subsidiary of SOHIO on Thursday afternoon, October 16.

Other Old Ben Coal officials visiting the mining facilities on the Ina campus were DeWitt Buchanan, President; Ray Exum, Executive Vice President; Gene Morini, Vice President of Operations, and Wayne Haney, General Manager of Mines.

Local officials on hand included Cecil Bailie, Engineer of Mines for the Southern Illinois Branch of Old Ben, and Jack Webster, Superintendent of Mines at Benton's Old Ben facility.

The tour was conducted by College Dean Philip G. Ward; Ardell Kimmel, head of the Vocational-Technical program, and Brad Evilsizer, Mining Technology Instructor. / October '75

■ I.B.H.E. CITIZENS COMMITTEE

The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Illinois Board of Higher Education will hold its regular monthly meeting on the campus of Rend Lake College Thursday, October 16.

The committee's afternoon meeting, to be held in the Seminar Room of the Learning Resource Center, is open to the public. The major topic on the agenda is the discussion of master plan issues and, in particular, of the committee's staff recommendations to the IBHE for Master Plan - Phase IV.

Some members of the Citizens Advisory Committee plan to remain in the area Friday for a tour of Inland Steel's coal mine in Jefferson County near Sesser.

The 18-member committee includes four individuals representing communities south of Champaign - RLC Trustee Dr. Allen Y. Baker of Pinckneyville, Centralia Attorney John P. Wham, Carbondale's Charles J. Lerner and Maurice Clark of Metropolis.

Other notables include Committee Chair Nancy Froelich of Gridley, Chicagoan Robert Beckwith, Education Department Manager for the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, and Peoria's Charles A. Williams, College Relations Coordinator with Caterpillar Tractor Company.

/ October '75

■ COUNTRY AND WESTERN SHOW

Country-western fans will want to be at Rend Lake College Saturday, November 7, to see G. Richards Country and Western Show, featuring a five-piece band and five vocalists.

Sharing the stage will be the Rend Lake Jiggers, an area square dance group that has gained acclaim all over Southern Illinois. To add a bit of country humor, Sorry the Comedian, will appear throughout the show.

The G. Richards Country and Western Show appeared on Nashville's Grand Ole Opry in September. / November '75

■ U. of I. HARPISIT IN CHORAL CONCERT

Valerie Cribbs, harpist, will be the featured performer of the Rend Lake College Christmas Choral Concert Monday, December 8, at 8:15 p.m. in the RLC Theatre.

Cribbs will accompany the RLC Collegiate Choir in the "Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten, a composition of medieval carols in a modern setting. She is a senior harp performance major at University of Illinois. / December '75

■ MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATION

A joint meeting of the Southern Illinois Library Association and the Southern Illinois Media Roundtable at Rend Lake College will provide the setting for a unique multi-media demonstration Tuesday, January 27.

The program, entitled "Using Multi-Media Instruction in Understanding Attitudes Toward Social Issues," will be presented by Dr. Doyne Horsley, an Environmental Psychologist at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

College faculty members and area media personnel are invited to join SILA and SIMR participants. The session marks the first joint venture involving both the library and media groups. / January '76

■ ASSASSINATION CRITIC MARK LANE

Mark Lane, America's foremost critic of the Warren Commission and most knowledgeable investigator into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, will be a guest of Rend Lake College and the Student Senate Wednesday, January 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the RLC Theatre.

Lane, lawyer and author of the best-selling book, **Rush to Judgment**, and co-author of the film, "Executive Action," will present a lecture on his conspiracy theory concerning the JFK murder. His two-hour, highly acclaimed documentary film will be shown at the conclusion of his presentation.

The lone dissenter from the government's report 11 years ago on the assassination and facts surrounding the death of the President has become one of the most popular speakers in the country.

He will attempt to answer three controversial questions: 1) Why did eyewitnesses believe shots came from the front when Oswald was positioned behind the motorcade? 2) Why does the Zapruder film show the President being shot from a direction inconsistent with Oswald's position? 3) Why is material concerning the assassination being held in the Archives until Year 2039?

Many people feel the answers to these questions provide the key to finding out the truth behind "who really killed JFK."

Lane presently is head of the Citizen's

Committee of Inquiry and the Electoral Process, based in Washington, D.C., to investigate the alleged roles of the CIA and FBI in covering up assassination facts. / January '76

■ HIGH SCHOOL "PRESS DAY"

Eighty-five high school students attended the February 6 RLC "Press Day." Journalists represented area high schools in Mt. Vernon, Christopher, Woodlawn, Wayne City, Sesser and Woodward Township.

The journalism workshop offered by the *Pressing Times* college newspaper staff was designed to provide participants with information which should be helpful to them in producing their school publications.

English Instructor/PT Advisor Dr. Evelyn Claxton coordinated the event. Hour-long workshops covered "Feature Writing" (Claxton), "News Writing" (former PT staffer and current *Mt. Vernon Register-News* Reporter Steve Korris) and "Photojournalism" (RLC Public Information Officer Scott Mones, who worked previously for the *Christopher Progress*.

/ February '76

■ HISTORY OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

The history of Southern Illinois, told by the people who have lived through and played an important role in events of the past, is the subject of a special slide presentation created by students at Rend Lake College.

Students in a Sociology class taught by Eleanor Hall are producing sound-slide show, entitled "Southern Illinois - Its Past Through the Eyes of Those Who Lived it."

The group has spent many hours interviewing people about the history of the region, its customs, ethnic groups, controversies, industrial background and everyday life. / February '76

■ 'QUILTS OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS'

"Quilts of Southern Illinois" will be the topic of a slide program to be presented by RLC Art Instructor Susan Kolojeski in the Recreation Hall at First Baptist Church in Eldorado on Sunday, February 22. The public is invited.

Kolojeski is researching a quilt book to be published by SIU Press. She received her MFA Degree from the Art Institute of Chicago and has been invited to lecture at her alma mater in May regarding her research of quilts from Southern Illinois.

She lives in Carbondale with her husband, Paul, a doctoral candidate at Southern Illinois University. / February '76

■ MRS. DAN WALKER

Mrs. Dan Walker visited with RLC students on campus while campaigning

for her husband and his bid to become Governor. / March '76

■ ILLINOIS STATE U. CONCERT CHOIR

The Concert Choir of Illinois State University will make an appearance Tuesday, March 23, at Rend Lake College. The concert, sponsored by the RLC Fine Arts Department marks the return of Carol Dilley (Mt. Vernon), to the Ina campus. Dilley is a member of the 45-person choir. Cost for the 8 p.m. performance will be 75 cents for students, \$1.50 for general admission. / March '76

■ ASTRONOMY EXPERT SPEAKS

The "Origin of the Solar System" and "Stellar Evolution" will be the topics of two lectures presented by Dr. Raymond Grenchik, Associate Professor of Astronomy at Louisiana State University, when he visits the Rend Lake College campus April 6-7.

The lectures are being sponsored by the RLC Student Senate and Richard Heaton, Physics Instructor.

Grenchik, a native of Indiana, is considered by many to be one of the country's foremost experts in the field of astronomy and he currently serves as supervisor of the LSU planetarium program. He is a Shapley Foundation Lecturer in Astronomy and has visited many campuses with his lecture and slide presentation on how the solar system originated.

The guest speaker's Ph.D. was in Astrophysics from Indiana University. He also has taught at University of Chicago, University of New Mexico, Michigan Tech and Vanderbilt University. / April '76

■ PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Individuals interested in learning more about a new photography process will want to attend a workshop being conducted by Charles and Elizabeth Swedlund, part of Rend Lake College's Spring Fling '76: A Celebration of the Arts.

The workshop will deal with a contemporary process called "Kwik-Proof," which allows the user to expose photographic images on a variety of materials. By using a photo-sensitive coating, pictures can be produced on various surfaces, including glass, metal, fabric or wood.

Charles Swedlund, a Photo Instructor at Southern Illinois University, and his wife are residents of Cobden and are well known for their innovative work in photography. / April '76

■ 'A SURVEY OF AMERICAN SONG'

On Sunday, April 25, the RLC Fine Arts Department will present two members of the Music faculty from Eastern Illinois University in a concert of American songs.

Faculty Soprano June Johnson, Pro-

fessor of Voice and Director of Opera Workshop, and Faculty Pianist Alan Aulabaugh, Professor of Music, will present the concert at 7 p.m. in the college's Little Theatre. / April '76

■ READER'S THEATRE

Sophomore Tom Nance (Mt. Vernon) will be directing a Reader's Theatre production in conjunction with the '76 Fine Arts Festival. Show dates are Tuesday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, April 28, at noon in the Rend Lake College Little Theatre.

Nance has written one of the scripts for the show, called "Death by Darkness." The script, which utilizes nine players and the RLC Choir, deals with the takeover of the country by television; ultimately, the big plug is pulled and America dies.

The second script is James Thurber's "The Last Clock." Especially adapted for the Reader's Theatre medium, it is the hilarious story of an ogre who eats all the clocks in the world. / April '76

■ SPRING FLING PERFORMANCES

The first Fine Arts Spring Fling at Rend Lake College will conclude with three outstanding organizations on the RLC Theatre stage.

The Central Illinois Bach Society, a group of musicians from the Bloomington and Peoria areas, will perform two comic operas: Mozart's "The Impresario" and Menotti's "The Telephone." Both are relatively brief and done in English for easier understanding. They are scheduled Friday, April 30, in the Little Theatre.

On Monday, May 3, the RLC Civic Symphony, under the direction of Keith Drayton, and the RLC Collegiate Choir and Community Chorus, under the direction of Larry Phifer, will present their final concerts of the Spring season. / April '76

■ SENIOR CITIZENS 'GOLD DAY'

The first "Gold Day" especially for area senior citizens - who comprise nearly 20 percent of the district population - was sponsored May 18 by RLC Community Services. Attendance was reported at 535 (603 for the meal), with every school district but one (Enfield) represented.

/ May '76

■ VOLLEYBALL MARATHON FUND-RAISER

Students in a Rend Lake College Recreation and Program Planning class recently raised \$688 in donations for the Special Olympics by hosting a Volleyball Marathon. Friendly "rivals" from throughout Southern Illinois came to the Ina campus between Friday evening and early Sunday morning to "challenge" members of the class taught by Wayne Arnold.

RLC student participants included

Nelson Adams, Gene Bennett, Kim Blades, Jill Brewer, George Bryant, Jim Chamness, Susan Cochran, Darren Cockrum, Herb Fenton, Liz Files, Jane Henschen, Jennifer Hoffman, Susan Johnson, Judy Mestel, Keith Simmons, Dennis Toth, Mark Trail, Chris Valentine, Doug Webb and Dick Young. / May '76

1976-77

■ OLD WEST DANCE HALL SHOW

On Saturday, July 31, Accent! Productions, Ltd. of Quincy will present the Golden Plume Opera Company in an evening of entertainment in the best tradition of the opera houses of the old west. The show is planned for 8 p.m. in the Rend Lake College Theatre.

The main feature of the production will be the comic operetta, Sweet Betsy from Pike, which depicts the hilarious misadventures of Sweet Betsy and her lover, Ike, as they cross the western prairie in a search for gold in California.

The entire show will consist of songs, dances, skits and other features representing the humor and liveliness of an age gone by. Song-and-dance teams, can-can girls and comic recitations of the day complete the bill. / July '76

■ FITZGERRELL PARK DEDICATION

Gov. Dan Walker dedicated the 3,300-acre Wayne Fitzgerald State Park, located on Rend Lake south of Rend Lake College, on October 27.

Wayne Fitzgerald State Park, named after the late state legislator from Sesser, is the first new state park opened in Illinois during the Walker administration.

Developed by the state at a cost of \$3.8 million on lands leased from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the park is bounded by Rend Lake on nearly 2,500 acres, making the area ideally suited for fishing, boating and water-skiing.

Mrs. Wayne (Mildred) Fitzgerald assisted Gov. Walker in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The park has been opened to the public on a limited basis for picnicking, hunting, fishing and hiking to allow the largest use before the camping facilities and road work are completed. Approximately one-third of the park will be used for hunting and field dog competition. The park offers excellent opportunities for hunting game, including duck, pheasant, quail, rabbit, deer and other small game animals.

"More and more people are discovering Southern Illinois," said Gov. Walker, "its beauty, its people and its recreational opportunities. In years to come, millions of people from all over Illinois and our neighboring states will come to know and enjoy them." / October '76

■ CHEERLEADING CLINICS

Eight Warrior Cheerleaders and Director Wayne Arnold played host to over 500 young cheerleaders. The session for fifth- and sixth-graders attracted 20 schools and a total of 159 participants. Another session for those in seventh and eighth grades added up to 45 schools represented and 408 individuals. / October '76

■ RICH MARKOW / CARTOON ORCHESTRA

Dressed in tuxedo and white gloves, Rich Markow and the Living Cartoon Orchestra spent the evening of October 30 poking fun at old radio announcers, Elvis, Carmen Miranda, movies, Hawaiian music and Top 40 tear-jerkers. His appearance was sponsored by the RLC Collegiate Choir. / October '76

■ FINANCIAL AID CHECKS STOLEN

Checks totaling approximately \$7,900 were stolen from the Financial Aid Office in November. The checks for Basic Educational Opportunity Grants (BEOG) and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) were to be dispersed to eligible Rend Lake College financial aid recipients within a day or two after they turned up missing. Payments on the stolen checks were stopped and new checks issued. / November '76

■ CUNA INDIAN ART ON DISPLAY

The RLC Arts and Communications Department is sponsoring an art exhibit throughout the month of February which features 19 handmade blouses – known as “Molas” – made by the Cuna Indian women of the San Blas Islands in the Caribbean Sea.

Each blouse contains intricate designs representing the thoughts, customs, traditions and history of the Cuna culture, said Susan Kolojeski, RLC Art Instructor and organizer of the exhibit. The pieces are on loan to the college by private collectors from Southern Illinois, in particular major contributors Cy and Marlene Webb of Ewing. / February '77

■ ANCIENT LIFESTYLE IN ILLINOIS

The Koster Archeological site, located about 50 miles north of St. Louis across the river from Kampsville, IL, is one of the best known and oldest ruins of prehistoric man ever discovered in North America. Dr. Irvin Rovner, a member of Northwestern University's archeological staff, will present a lecture about the findings at the Koster site on Wednesday, February 2, at Rend Lake College beginning at 7 p.m.

The treasures scientists have discovered there are not like the gold of Egyptian tombs or the marble ruins of Greece. However, they are a human treasure providing modern man with knowledge of

how ancient people lived – literally the first families of Illinois.

The site is named for the man who owns the farm on which it is located. Half-a-million artifacts have been found on the three-acre site. Scientific analysis has given clues to the peoples' food supply and how it was obtained, weather conditions that existed while the glaciers were still melting away and the lifestyle of prehistoric Indians in Illinois around 2500 B.C.

Dr. Rovner is considered by many to be one of the top experts on the archeological work at the Koster site, which has been underway since 1969. / February '77

■ GALE SAYERS

Former Chicago Bear great and National Football League (NFL) Hall of Fame Running Back Gale Sayers was on the RLC campus recently for the Southern Illinois Fertilizer and Herbicide Conference.

Sayers, now Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Athletic Director, talked about Saluki athletics. He was welcomed to Rend Lake College by Ag Business Instructor Leavell Swink. / February '77

■ COUNTRY MUSIC SALUTE

Many of the area's finest performers were part of “A Southern Illinois Salute to Country Music” on the RLC Theatre stage April 8-9. The show was sponsored by the RLC Alumni Association as a fund-raiser for student scholarships.

Included were country and bluegrass bands and singers, plus square-dancers.

The lineup of talent: “The Terrapin Hill Ramblers,” a bluegrass band from Salem; “Bob Reed and The Classics,” from Benton; “Country Sunshine and Co. and the The Sidekickers,” from Carbondale; “Dale Mason and Friends,” West Frankfort; “Universal Sound,” Carterville; “The Country Kin,” from Mt. Vernon, and Bill “Bucky” Walters and Square Dancers, Mt. Vernon.

Also, Gene Ralph, Mt. Vernon; Willard Davis, Benton; Randy Garner, Wayne City; Steve Lipe, Christopher; Roger Karlish, Carterville; Jack Martin, Marion, and Terry and Bob Priebe, Campbell Hill.

Well-known radio announcer and singer/entertainer Ron Head of Benton served as Master of Ceremonies. / April '77

■ POET-LAUREATE BROOKS

A standing-room only crowd was on hand to welcome Gwendolyn Brooks, Poet-Laureate of Illinois. / May '77

■ SENIOR CITIZENS “GOLD DAY”

About 350 senior citizens enjoyed Second Annual “Gold Day” activities sponsored on campus May 26 by RLC Community Services. Illinois Poet-Lau-

reate Gwendolyn Brooks made a special appearance.

Nellie Stewart, 94, of Mt. Vernon was the oldest participant to take advantage of free health checks and a noon luncheon, in addition to kitchen band performances, baking contests, story-telling contests and checker-playing contests. / May '77

■ ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PICNIC

The Rend Lake College Alumni Association is sponsoring a potluck picnic to be held in Wayne Fitzgerald State Park Sunday, July 17 at 2 p.m. The picnic is open to any former student of the college and members of the alumni group.

Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Persons attending are asked to bring one dish.

Bob Graham, Dean of Student Services, said a good turnout of former students is expected, including many members of this year's graduating class.

The Alumni Association is headed by President Larry Stonecipher and Vice President Donna Smith. / July '77

1977-78

■ TWO IN VOCAL RECITAL

John McGhee of Mt. Vernon and Susan Somerville of Peoria will present a free vocal recital Sunday, August 14, at 3 p.m. in the RLC Theatre. Both McGhee, a senior, and Somerville, a junior, are voice majors at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington.

The couple will sing compositions by Quilter, Mozart, Handel, Wolf, Debussy, Hahn, Finzi and Gershwin, accompanied by Brett Gibbs (Mt. Vernon) and Kirby Gosnell (Peoria). / August '77

■ BOARD OF HIGHER ED AT R.L.C.

Members of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) discussed a proposal for a statewide Educational Television (ETV) system at their regular monthly meeting conducted on the Rend Lake College campus in September. They approved the establishment of stations in Edwardsville, Moline, Bluffs and Chicago, giving the state full ETV coverage.

The IBHE also directed staff to look into the possibility of providing financial aid for costs other than tuition and fees. / September '77

■ U. of I. SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The University of Illinois Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Paul Vermel, will perform on the campus of Rend Lake College in conjunction with the Community and Educational Arts Association Convention on Saturday, October 15.

The convention is open to anyone interested in the development of community arts activities in Southern Illinois and will

provide information for the development of such programs.

Also featured on this year's program will be The Vocal Minority of Rend Lake College, a Pop singing group under the direction of Larry D. Phifer.

The U. of I. Symphony is a student group acknowledged to be the equal or superior to many professional groups of its kind. It has established a reputation for polished performances throughout the U.S. and Western Hemisphere. / October '77

■ N.C.A. VISIT RESCHEDULED

The North Central Association accreditation visit was rescheduled for November 2-4. Dr. Eugene Estes was primarily responsible for the Self-Study. NCA evaluators on-campus were Dr. Richard Brown, Dr. Gaylon Dahn, Dr. Russell Graham and John Broderick. / November '77

■ YOUNG MUSICIANS ON-CAMPUS

Approximately 800 students were on the Rend Lake College campus for the Southern Illinois Regional Auditions program sponsored by the Illinois State Music Educators Association for Junior and Senior High. / November '77

■ 'ALUMNI NIGHT' RECEPTION

The Rend Lake College Alumni Association is sponsoring an "Alumni Night" January 7. The reception will be held at The Winners Circle Restaurant, located about two miles north of Benton on State Route 37.

Several former students are planning to attend. The event is free to all former students. Music and refreshments will be provided. / January '78

■ SENIOR CITIZENS "GOLD DAY"

The Third Annual Senior Citizens "Gold Day" was held June 1 on the Rend Lake College campus. / June '78

1978-79

■ BANKING FACILITY OPEN

A banking facility on the Ina campus is operational as of August 15. / August '78

■ DAVID HOY

"In the 1970s," according to the current Miracle Factory website, "the U.S. public was fascinated with ESP - extrasensory perception - and famed mentalist David Hoy was part of that popular wave, traveling the country lecturing on mind power." One of those stops was in Ina

Hoy boasted a commanding, hypnotic voice which helped guide his audiences "through the world of thought power" - including the subconscious, dreams, awareness, telepathy, meditation and precognition.

His bold predictions, his uncanny expertise on the mysteries of the mind and

how he routinely handled questions from the audience all added to his mass appeal.

According to the Tarn '79 Yearbook, "as he talked to a Theatre full of students, you could gaze around at the faces and see wonder, awe, curiosity and doubt. As he began answering questions, more and more hands were raised. Students seemed to enjoy his lecture very much." / Fall '78

■ OPERA DON PASQUALE

The opera Don Pasquale will be presented Friday evening, March 9, in the RLC Theatre. The production is by the nationally renown Marjorie Lawrence Opera Theatre and features singers from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. / March '79

■ FOUNDERS DAY

Key members of "The Birth of Rend Lake College" were honored during a Founders Day Dinner Program the evening of April 6, 1979. Reflections from nationally known Mt. Vernon Educator Dr. J.L. Buford, longtime RLC College Dean Dr. Howard Rawlinson and Founding Trustees Melvin Farlow and Dr. Curtis Parker. / April '79

■ TWO-PERSON N.C.A. VISIT

A two-person evaluation visit by North Central Association representatives will be conducted on the Ina campus April 9-10. Previously, Board members had been told college administrators would treat the visit as if it were a comprehensive self-study. / April '79

■ NURSING ACCREDITATION VISIT

A National League of Nursing Accreditation Visit will be conducted April 23-25. / April '79

■ R.L.C. FINE ARTS WEEK

Fine arts are being honored at Rend Lake College during the week of April 23-28 with an interesting series of activities. Major events are planned Wednesday through Saturday evenings in the College Theatre.

The movie, "Red Badge of Courage," will be shown Wednesday. This rather short classic is an inspiring example of film making as an art form.

The College Symphony Concert will take center stage Thursday. Tickets are \$2.50 for adults, \$1 for students.

Friday evening, the newly formed RLC drama group, "The Company," will provide a free demonstration of its collective talents.

The nationally known Hubbard Street Dance Company from Chicago will make an appearance Saturday night, followed by a Sunday afternoon piano workshop conducted by Terry Martin.

The week also will feature a College Choir concert at noon Thursday, a slide lecture on "Women in the Visual Arts" (Monday at 10 a.m.); a demonstration of painting portraits with pastels and a poetry reading, both Tuesday morning; a workshop in watercolor materials and techniques on Thursday, and a poetry workshop Tuesday afternoon with Michael Anania, sponsored by the Illinois arts Council. / April '79

■ REP. PAUL SIMON

Representative Paul Simon talked to students and faculty at Rend Lake College Friday, April 28. Simon made a few opening remarks about the importance of studying history, government and geography and then answered questions from the students.

Student questions generally related to the problems of coal production and use, solar and nuclear energy.

In answering questions regarding coal production and use, Simon talked about the construction of high BTU coal-gasification plants as a method of using America's vast coal resources. He mentioned that such plants cost about \$1 billion and before power corporations will commit that much money, they needed some assurance gas prices would not suddenly drop and make their investments useless. Simon has introduced a bill in Congress to provide a type of insured income for the builders of such huge plants.

Simon indicated the Union of South Africa is building its second high BTU coal-gasification plant. However, the United States, with the greatest coal reserves in the world, has not started building any such plants. One of the first two plants is now being planned for construction in Perry County, but it is still in the talking stages.

Simon's visit was arranged by Vince Cain, an instructor who teaches several courses in Government, Geography and Western Civilization.

Simon had lunch in the Student Center with RLC President Dr. Harry J. Braun and selected members from faculty, staff and students. / April '79

1979-80

■ EQUALIZATION INCREASE

The Illinois Community College Equalization Grant for Rend Lake College will jump from \$4.83 per semester credit hour in Fiscal Year 1979 to \$7.15 for FY80.

/ August '79

■ MARK TWAIN REVISITED

Mark Twain will visit the Ina campus of Rend Lake College Wednesday evening, February 27.

Rather, the ghost of "Mark Twain

Revisited," in the person of 24-year-old character actor Parker Drew, will bring the wit and wisdom of the old philosopher/humorist to life again for one performance only in the RLC Theatre.

Drew spends three hours in make-up prior to each show before emerging in Twain's customary white suit, with cigar in hand. The accomplished musician and actor has spent the past 10 years perfecting the role. About 90 percent of Drew's performance is taken directly from Twain's books and speeches. / February '80

■ CONDUCTOR/COMPOSER FEATURED

Dr. Wallis Braman, retired faculty member from Indiana University of Pennsylvania who has composed numerous religious pieces for choral groups, will be a featured guest Friday evening, May 2, when the RLC Community Chorus and Concert Band combine efforts in concert.

A talented cellist and renowned lecturer on music theory, Braman has written a new piano duet accompaniment especially for this performance to go along with one of his numbers, "The Lord Reigneth," which the chorus will perform under his direction.

RLC Instructors Bob and Norma Jean Luckey studied under Braman while doing undergraduate work at IU-Pennsylvania. / April '80

1980-81

■ R.L.C. FOUNDATION DINNER

The first Rend Lake College Foundation Dinner was held on-campus in the Student Center September 8, 1980. A total of 56 individuals attended. / September '80

■ CLASSICAL MUSIC PIANO RECITAL

Classical music at its finest will come to Southern Illinois Friday evening, September 26, when RLC Piano and Voice Instructor Terry Martin presents a piano recital on the Ina campus. Works by Poulenc, Bach, Beethoven, Granados and Chopin will be performed. Martin also will play a major hymn transcription of his own.

Martin studied at Ecole Normale de Musique, a prestigious music school in France where he specialized in teaching the young. He has traveled extensively judging piano and teaches private lessons in the Carbondale area.

Martin is in his sixth year as a part-time instructor at Rend Lake College and plays the piano for the Rend Lake Civic Symphony orchestra. / September '80

■ CHEERLEADING CLINIC

A Cheerleading Clinic for 7th- and 8th-graders in the RLC Gymnasium attracted 285 participants and 42 sponsors representing 36 Southern Illinois schools. / October '80

■ SPECIAL OLYMPICS VOLLEYBALL

Competitors from Benton, Brownsville, Anna-Jonesboro, Hurst-Bush, Mt. Vernon and Jackson County will take part in volleyball competition conducted by the Southern Illinois Special Olympians, Inc., at Rend Lake College on Thursday, October 30.

Six matches are scheduled featuring senior-level boys, senior co-ed teams and junior co-ed squads, according to Director Amos Black Jr.

Sponsored nationally through the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, the Special Olympics meet locally will be co-sponsored by the Southern Illinois University Recreation Department and the Carbondale Park District.

RLC instructor Wayne Arnold will coordinate activities, with Rend Lake College students also lending a hand. / October '80

■ S.I. PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

Dr. David Kenney, Director of the Illinois Department of Conservation, will be the keynote speaker Saturday, October 25, when people from throughout Southern Illinois will gather on the Ina campus of Rend Lake College to share knowledge about the natural history of the region and to make plans for protecting what remains of this unique heritage.

"Our Natural Legacy," sponsored by the Southern Illinois Natural Heritage Conference, promises to bring together an impressive group of scientists, government officials, landowners, historians and conservationists to increase public awareness of the natural heritage of the southern one-third of Illinois.

Current efforts to preserve some of the area's heritage sites, ranging from Cahokia Mounds, a state-owned National Historic Landmark, to the struggle by a group of local landowners and sportsmen to protect the lower Cache River in Johnson and Pulaski counties, will be discussed as part of the day-long event.

Also featured along with Dr. Kenney will be Dr. John Voight, Southern Illinois University Professor and a frequent contributor to *Illinois* magazine. The program also will include special dedication ceremonies honoring the late Dan Malkovich of Benton. / October '80

■ ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE TO PLAY VIOLIN

Two free concerts have been scheduled during the month of January by the RLC Arts and Communications Department.

The first concert, planned for noon January 19, will feature violinist Gail Lilja, artist-in-residence in the Mt. Vernon city schools. She will perform a varied program, including works by Schubert and Brahms.

Her accompanist, Ken Volkers, also will play a solo piece by Chopin. He is a teaching assistant at Northern Illinois University.

Lilja has been in the area for a three-month grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Illinois Arts Council and the Mitchell Museum Foundation. She served as concert mistress for the newly formed Rend Lake Civic Symphony.

A concert the following day, also at noon in the RLC Theatre, will feature Aeterna Brass, a quartet from the Chicago area brought to the Ina campus through the efforts of Lilja. / January '81

■ S.I.U. PUBLIC HEARING AT R.L.C.

One of five public hearings concerning the service functions of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale will be conducted Monday, April 13, at Rend Lake College. The hearings are sponsored by the SIU Task Force on Service, appointed recently by President Albert Somit.

Moderator for the April 13 hearing from 2-5 p.m. will be John Gilbert. Dr. Harry J. Braun, RLC President, and RLC Dean of Community Services Cheryl Foley will serve as co-hosts in the Private Dining Area of the Student Center. / March '81

1981-82

■ MIME PERFORMERS IN FREE SHOW

"Mainly Mime," featuring the innovative interpretations of Kate Bentley and Jacqueline Wildau, will be performed Monday, October 19, at 10 a.m. in the RLC Theatre.

The Bentley-Wildau lecture performance is an exploration of language and movement that includes excerpts from their mainstage show, audience participation and a funny and fascinating look at the dynamics of verbal and non-verbal communication. Their performance, entitled "Language and Motion," promises to be a witty and intriguing study of the movement, sound and silence upon which is based not only the art of mime but communication itself. / October '81

■ AETERNA BRASS IN FREE CONCERT

The Chicago-based quintet Aeterna Brass is returning to Rend Lake College for a free concert Friday, February 19, in the RLC Theatre.

Open to the public, the performance will feature a variety of music styles. Aeterna Brass involves the audience in an informal introduction to brass music.

The group is comprised of professional musicians from Northern Illinois University and Northwestern University, including trombonist Karl Androes, this year's musician-in-residence in Mt. Vernon.

/ February '82

■ CHICAGO CHAMBER BRASS QUINTET

The Chicago Chamber Brass, a quintet of such quality "it could be the heart of the brass section of a major symphonic group" in the opinion of one noted reviewer, will be on the RLC Campus Friday, March 5, to present a free concert at noon and brass workshop at 2 p.m. in the RLC Theatre.

The concert is open to the public. The workshop will be open to selected high school and college performers.

Their visit is part of a tour in Southern Illinois sponsored by CEAA, the regional arts consortium of which Rend Lake College is an active member, and the Illinois Arts Council. / March '82

■ BLOODMOBILE CHALLENGE

Members of the Rend Lake College Student Senate have accepted the challenge from their counterparts at Kaskaskia College to see which institution can donate the most blood Wednesday, March 31, when the American Red Cross Bloodmobile pays a visit to both campuses.

RLC Nurse Judy Skelton is hoping her student donors that day will exceed 100 between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. for the annual spring visit. / March '82

■ R.L.C. FOUNDATION AUCTION

The first Rend Lake College Foundation Auction conducted on-campus Saturday, April 17, promises to be so much more than that.

For starters, it will feature former U.S. Congressman Kenneth Gray as the auctioneer for numerous collector and gift items, appliances, pieces of art and services donated by area merchants and friends of the college.

Entertainment in addition to silent and live auctions will include hot air balloonist Crile Doscher and former RLC student-turned teacher-turned skydiver Marty Cox scheduled to arrive around 9:30 a.m. to avoid warmer air later in the day and an appearance by the new A-Star helicopter owned by Irv Langa and piloted by local Realtor and political hopeful Larry Hicks; the French-made copter will be on display near the gym.

A performance by the Goshen Trail Longrifles will be included. The Rend Lake Civic Symphony will be in concert, area artist Sue Stotlar will be doing portraits for sale and the American Association of Retired People (AARP) will assist in selling baked goods.

Among the variety of items up for bid between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the RLC Gymnasium . . .

- Dinner for two prepared by Alna Braun at the home of President Harry J. Braun and his wife.

- A 31-carat blue topaz, brilliant cut

with 119 facets, and valued at over \$600. It was donated by two Rend Lake College students, John and Paul Shannon, who are rare gem collectors and sellers.

- A strawberry pattern baby quilt donated by Leotris Webb of Benton. The Webb sisters are well-known locally and nationally for their quilting, but they normally do not sell their work.

- A set of six wildlife prints from the Mt. Vernon Art Guild, oil paintings by Marlene Webb and Pauline Stewart and a watercolor by Instructor Sarah Capps.

- Also, rounds of golf and equipment . . . three bottles of premium California wine with a wooden wine rack . . . a handcrafted walnut stool . . . a Ricoh 500ME camera . . . dwarf Jonathan apple and peach trees . . . passes to the Muny Opera, transportation included . . . and, would you believe, a baby goat.

Gray is returning to Southern Illinois as a favor to the college he helped make possible while a member of the legislation. The former West Frankfort resident and auctioneer is now retired and lives in Florida. / April '82

■ FRENCH MUSIC LECTURE, RECITAL

RLC Instructor Terry Martin will present a unique recital-lecture on French music Tuesday, April 27.

The only performing concert pianist in the college district, Martin will perform works by Poulenc, Rameau, Couperin, Debussy and Ravel while lecturing to his audience in the French language. He will translate, also, for those who do not understand French.

"My goal is to give area French students another experience in the language," noted Martin, who teaches both music and the foreign language at Rend Lake College.

The 10 a.m. performance in the RLC Theatre was made possible by a migrant Martin received to put together this innovative one-man show. / April '82

1982-83

■ ATTORNEY GENERAL DEBATE

Illinois Attorney General Ty Fahner (R, Chicago) and his Democratic challenger, Neil Hartigan, will appear on the Rend Lake College campus Monday, September 13, for the second of three statewide debates leading up to the November elections.

The debate is scheduled for 1:15 p.m. in the RLC Theatre. It is open to the public as well as area media representatives.

Two faculty members from RLC, selected by debate organizers from a list of instructors, and two representatives of area chambers of commerce will comprise the panel of interviewers.

Instructors chosen to participate are Eleanor Hall (Sociology and Anthropology) and Ed Heischmidt (Law Enforcement).

Chamber reps will be Mt. Vernon Attorney Terry Sharp and Eunice Steffens, Real Estate partner and former Executive Assistant to the Greater Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Executive Vice President.

RLC Dean of Administrative and Student Services Robert H. Spuhler will serve as the moderator. / September '82

■ HARPSICHORDIST IN TWO CONCERTS

Harpichordist R. Bedford Watkins will present two free concerts Friday, October 1, at Rend Lake College in the Theatre.

His first performance will feature a concert/lecture at noon. A 7:30 p.m. program will be highlighted by Watkins' own composition, "Canciones de Calpe." / September '82

■ FOLKTALES OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Many of the folktales of Southern Illinois will be passed on by master storyteller Tom Doman Friday, November 5, at 1 p.m. on the RLC campus.

"Trouble is a One-Eyed Mule: Tales Between the Rivers" is open to the public at no charge through the Community and Educational Arts Association. The show is funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

People of all ages can expect to be captivated by the tall tales, ballads, strange beliefs, signs and sayings Doman will relate in the RLC Theatre. The script provides everyone with a better understanding of Southern Illinoisans, including their roots, traditions, surroundings, parents, education and religious beliefs.

The area "has a rich heritage of stories about ghosts, witches, tall tales, legends and folktales . . . some fanciful, some preposterous, some true," says CEAA Project Director Jean Shisler. / November '82

■ PIANO STUDENT, TEACHER WORKSHOP

Frank Schindler, a renowned teacher and performer in Europe as well as the United States, will present a free workshop on "Piano Practice Techniques" for both piano students and teachers Tuesday, November 9, at 11 a.m. on the Rend Lake College campus.

"Mr. Schindler practices a restraint and elegance of line not usual among young pianists. His technique is quite advanced. A polished young artist," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Critic Frank Peters noted recently.

Schindler entered the famous Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris in 1971 and earned the Licence de Concert.

He returned to the St. Louis area in Fall

1980 and has served as a Graduate Assistant at Washington University, where he received a Master of Music Degree while majoring in Piano Performance.

He currently teaches piano at the Clayton Academy of Music, where he is a member of the faculty, and at his home studio in South St. Louis. / November '82

■ HUSBAND-WIFE DUO FEATURED

The husband-wife team of Renato and Rita Butturi will present a free recital at noon Friday, February 4, in the RLC Theatre. Renato, a native of Italy, plays the guitar and teaches at the University of Evansville (IN). Rita will be featured on the flute; she plays flute and piccolo with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and teaches privately. / January '83

■ PIANO, INSTRUMENTAL RECITAL

Multi-instrumentalist Bill Archer and pianist John Philips, both of whom are associated with the music department at Fontbonne College in St. Louis, will present a recital Thursday, March 3, at p.m. in the Rend Lake College Theatre.

Archer is a conductor, arranger and composer who is a member of the Fontbonne faculty. Among his 1,500 stage productions throughout the U.S. and Western Europe are appearances with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, Gladys Knight and the Pips, Big Band USA and Barry White and the Love Unlimited Orchestra.

Philips has been Fontbonne's pianist-in-residence since 1971. He obtained the Licene de Concert at the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris, where he spent 13 years as a free-lance pianist. His schedule last year included concerts in St. Louis, Baltimore, New York City, Valdosta and Lethbridge, Canada. / February '83

1983-84

■ RUSSIAN PIANIST DMITRY PAPERNO

Concert pianist Dmitry Paperno, a Russian emigrant who has been a faculty member of DePaul University's School of Music since 1977, will present a free program in the RLC Theatre at noon on Monday, October 3.

Paperno is a former prize winner in the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw and the International Enescu Competition in Bucharest. / September '83

■ SPECIAL OLYMPICS VOLLEYBALL

Approximately 200 participants and 45 student volunteers from host Rend Lake College took part Friday, October 14, in the Special Olympics Volleyball Tournament for South Central Illinois, Area 23.

The players represented educable mentally handicapped (EMH) and trainable mentally handicapped (TMH) students

from nine schools – Anna-Jonesboro High School, Benton Consolidated H.S., Benton Middle Schools, Brownsville, Christopher H.S., Hoyleton Childrens Home, Mt. Vernon Casey Junior High, Mt. Vernon Township H.S. and Sesser-Valier.

College students assisting in the day-long activities included members of the Introduction to Recreation and Introduction to Physical Education classes taught by Wayne Arnold, the coordinator for the volleyball tournament, plus other volunteers. / October '83

■ CHICAGO ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Members of the Chicago Ensemble will present a free concert in the RLC Theatre during the noon hour Monday, October 31. The group which features the violin, viola, cello, flute and piano offers a program of familiar masterpieces, lesser known works from the past and contemporary music by American composers. / October '83

■ TRIO CASSATT PERFORMANCE

Trio Cassatt, comprised of representatives of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, will present a free concert Monday, March 19, at noon on the RLC campus. It will feature music by Bach and Mozart.

The chamber group, formed in 1980 and named in honor of the 19th century American artist, made an East Coast tour last winter, including stops at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and Merkin Concert Hall in New York City.

"The trio plays with unity and cohesion . . . a palpable vigor," according to a *New York Times* review. / March '84

■ BUSINESS LEADER ON CAMPUS

James Rippy, Plant Manager at General Tire and Rubber Company, was on campus April 18 to address about 150 business students and others regarding the free enterprise system and business operations in general. Other speakers are scheduled to follow. / April '84

1984-85

■ FARM AND GARDEN SHOW

Enthusiasm promises to be sky-high for at least one of the participants in this weekend's first "Farm and Garden Show" to be conducted on the campus of Rend Lake College near Ina.

A drawing to be conducted Saturday afternoon for those present and registered will have the lucky winner floating on Cloud Nine – or somewhere in that vicinity – because it will be worth a free ride in a hot air balloon. The winner will be able to choose an area destination of his or her choice, within reason / August '84

■ S.I.U.C. CELLIST IN CONCERT

A free noon concert Monday, October 1, at Rend Lake College will feature cellist Daniel Mellado and his violinist/wife, Fiarya Mellado.

Dr. Mellado is a member of the faculty at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, where he also conducts the University Orchestra. He and his wife frequently join forces in order to present works from the extensive repertoire for violin and cello duos. / September '84

■ R.L.C. FOUNDATION AUCTION

The RLC Foundation raffled off a 1984 Dodge Daytona Turbo automobile as the highlight of its Second Annual Auction. / Fall '84

■ JAPAN-AMERICA WEEK CELEBRATED

Japan-America Friendship Week will be celebrated on the Rend Lake College campus with Christine Akre and Anne Prescott performing on the koto in a free, noon-hour concert Monday, October 15, in the RLC Theatre. Their appearance is sponsored by the RLC Foundation and supported by a grant from Southern Illinois Arts.

A koto is a Japanese musical instrument similar to a zither, consisting of an oblong box with 13 silk strings stretched over it. / October '84

■ PIANIST, OPERA SINGER TEAM UP

Pianist Benjamin Wechsler and opera singer Rhonda McAfee will perform Monday, November 5, at Rend Lake College in a free noon concert sponsored by the RLC Foundation and Southern Illinois Arts.

Wechsler is a Mt. Vernon native and taught three years at Casey Jr. High. He is working on a second Master's Degree, this one with a Music major in Opera Theatre from SIU-Carbondale.

McAfee, a mezzo soprano, maintains studios in both Mt. Vernon and Carbondale and teaches a voice class at SIUC. / October '84

■ ENGLISH ENSEMBLE IN CONCERT

The Ondine Ensemble from England will present a free concert at noon on Monday, December 3, in the RLC Theatre. The public is invited.

Comprised of a flute, string trio and harp, the Ondine Ensemble was inspired by a famous Paris ensemble, the Quintte Instrumental, which performed in the early part of this century. Their appearance was co-sponsored by the Mitchell Museum of Mt. Vernon and the RLC Foundation. / December '84

■ A BASEBALL GRAND SLAM

An evening originally intended to honor four former Warriors who are professional baseball players – Jeff Barton (Cardinals),

Bill Clossen (Braves), Rick Daily (Tigers) and Todd Herrenbruck (Phillies) – turned into a fund-raising bonanza (\$3,000-plus) for the RLC program and a major hit for the baseball community in general.

“A Night with Tommy Lasorda” at the Ramada Hotel in Mt. Vernon not only featured the personable Los Angeles Dodger Manager as featured speaker but also the likes of St. Louis Cardinals all-time great Stan “The Man” Musial, George Vukovich (Cleveland Indians) and Bob Dernier (Chicago Cubs).

The ultrasuccessful event January 24, 1985 that attracted 600 area fans and truly turned out to be “A Night to Remember” was the brainchild of RLC Baseball Coach Kirk Champion, a former roommate and teammate of Vukovich at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and Rend Lake College Alumnus/Organizer Mitch Fulford, who served as Master of Ceremonies.

Media coverage included five television stations, plus area newspapers and radio stations. / January '85

1985-86

■ MARTIN LUTHER KING PROGRAM

Rend Lake College will observe Martin Luther King's birthday Monday, January 20, with a special program featuring excerpts from his life and contemporary gospel music. On-campus classes will be conducted as usual.

The program in Dr. King's honor is scheduled from 11:15 a.m. to noon in the RLC Theatre and will be repeated from 12:15-1 p.m.

Bob Brown, a Counselor at Mt. Vernon Township High School and former RLC “Alumnus of the Year” award-winner, will make the presentation. He will be joined by Joyce Brooks and Company, a musical group from Mt. Vernon. / January '86

■ CHICAGO CITY BALLET

The Chicago City Ballet, founded by the celebrated Maria Tallchief and directed by highly acclaimed Paul Mejia, will return to Rend Lake College for a command performance Saturday, February 1. The dance troupe appeared on the RLC Theatre stage previously in March 1985.

Both Tallchief and Mejia are graduates of the late, great Choreographer George Balanchine's New York City Ballet and were particularly close to him at key points in their dancing careers.

In addition to performing as the resident ballet company of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Chicago City Ballet has been a staple attraction at the famous Grant Park Summer Music Festival, performs with the Chicago Symphony and dances in programs at the Art Institute of Chicago. It also has established an an-

nual residency at the Newport (RI) Music Festival and has toured France, Italy and Tunisia recently. / February '86

■ LEGISLATORS INVITED TO CAMPUS

In recognition of National Community College Month during February and Illinois Community College Week the 17-21, Rend Lake College leaders invited area legislators to the Ina campus for a luncheon Friday, February 21, with RLC Trustees, administrators, Foundation members and Student Senate representatives. / February '86

■ SOUTHERN ILLINOIS FARM SHOW

The Southern Illinois Farm Materials Handling Show hosted by Rend Lake College brought 63 exhibitors and an estimated 4,000 attendees to the Ina campus for the three-day event. / March '86

■ GERMAN PIANIST WOLFRAM LORENZEN

German pianist Wolfram Lorenzen, a prize-winner in international competition throughout Europe and regarded as one of the “greats” among the younger generation of performers, will present a mini-concert at noon Monday, March 31, in the RLC Theatre. There is no charge for the performance and the public is invited.

Lorenzen's appearance is sponsored by Southern Illinois Arts and the RLC Foundation.

Lorenzen has played to rave reviews on all continents, including most of the major music centres of Europe, the Far East, Australia, North and South America and has played over 40 different piano concertos with various orchestras.

His first major triumph came at the third International Piano Competition in Finale Ligure, Italy, in 1976. He followed that with firsts at the International Piano Competitions in Senigallia, Italy, the next year and in Montevideo/Uruguay in 1982. His style has been described as “intense romanticism.” / March '86

1986-87

■ ADVISORY COUNCILS DINE

Prior to the October 21 Board meeting, Trustees had dinner with members of all Advisory Councils of Rend Lake College Vocational-Technical programs. / October '86

1987-88

■ KOREAN DANCE PERFORMANCE

Sang Mi Kim, a staff member from Illinois State University, will demonstrate and perform Korean dance in the RLC Theatre Friday, October 23, from 10-11 a.m. as part of the annual World Affairs Forum.

In addition, photographic book and art displays, as well as dress costumes of Korea, are on exhibit in the RLC Learning Resource Center. / October '87

■ SOUTHERN ILLINOIS FARM SHOW

The Southern Illinois Farm Show hosted by Rend Lake College attracted an estimated 4,200 on the Ina campus. / March '88

■ SOUTHERN ILLINOIS HISTORY FAIR

Approximately 400 students in grades 6-12 and their sponsors were on the RLC campus March 19 for the Southern Illinois History Fair sponsored by the Illinois State Historical Preservation Society. / March '88

■ I.C.C.B. RECOGNITION VISIT

An Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) Recognition Visit to Rend Lake College is scheduled March 23. / March '88

1988-89

■ SOUTHERN ILLINOIS FARM SHOW

An estimated 3,500-3,800 people attended the annual Southern Illinois Farm Show March 9-11 on the Rend Lake College Ina campus. That total includes 56 exhibitors. Featured activities included seminars on a wide variety of farm-related subjects, a Computer Contest for Agriculture students and High School Guest Day. / March '89

■ UNITED KINGDOM VISITORS

Two visitors from the United Kingdom are spending the week of April 10-14 at Rend Lake College as part of an exchange program with the Illinois Consortium for International Studies.

Dr. Keith Atkinson, an Assistant Principal at the Camborne School of Mines, and Kenneth Porter, a County Development Officer for the Hereford-Worcester Education Department, are among 28 guests involved in the short-term exchange of administrators at community colleges statewide.

They arrived in Chicago last weekend and will tour St. Louis this coming weekend before departing. In between, the two educators are spending time with RLC faculty and staff in an effort to learn as much as possible about the community college system in the United States.

Special events on campus during their stay included the annual Agriculture Banquet, the Southern region History Fair and the 11th annual Career Day, which attracts high school students from throughout the district. A varied agenda also included a tour of an area longwall mining operation and a Warrior baseball game.

American counterparts are tentatively scheduled for a return visit to England in October. / April '89

1989-90

■ GREEK WORLD AFFAIRS LECTURES

Two lectures pertaining to Ancient Greece will be offered on the RLC campus this month in conjunction with the annual World Affairs Forum.

On Friday, October 13, Dr. Avra Liakos, a native of Greece, and her husband, Dr. Dimitri Liakos, will present a 10 a.m. program on the "Archaeology of Ancient Greece: Opening the Windows of History." Both are part of the Art History Department at Northern Illinois University.

"Mycenaean Culture and Homer: Sex, Violence and Community in the Iliad" will be the topic for discussion when Dr. Joan O'Brien visits the Ina campus for a noon lecture Wednesday, October 25. O'Brien is a Foreign Language Professor at SIU-Carbondale. / October '89

■ **MOTIVATIONAL PRO BEVERLY HICKMAN**

Motivational expert Beverly Hickman, who joined the lecture circuit on a full-time basis after 20 years with St. John's Hospital in Springfield, will help the RLC Adult Literacy Project kick off its year by addressing students and tutors Thursday, October 26, at 7 p.m. in the Student Center.

Her presentation will focus on "Self-Esteem and Motivation." The public is invited. / October '89

■ **R.L.C. DAY AT THE MALL**

The Seventh Annual Rend Lake College Day at the Mall - Times Square Mall, variety - attracted the largest crowd in its history February 15, according to Bob Carlock, Director of both the Center for Business and Community Services and the sponsoring Rend Lake College Foundation. / February '90

■ **BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONFERENCE**

A Black History Month Conference hosted by RLC's "Project First Class" brought inspirational leaders from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and other colleges to the Ina campus Saturday, February 24.

"The New Generation: Where Do We Go from Here?" a day-long event coordinated by PFC's Camille Jones, put the focus on "our historical past, career for the future and the technologies of tomorrow."

Topics: "African American Leadership," "Career Development for Minorities," "Blacks in Theatre and the Arts," "Black Manhood in the 1990s" and "Modern Black Women Writers." Also, "Reporting the News," "The Interview: Live and On Camera," "Oral and Written Communication," "Computer Knowledge in the 21st Century," "Do the Right Thing," "Dream the Impossible Dream" and "Getting it Together."

"Project First Class" is funded by the Higher Education Cooperation Act (HECA) for prospective students who have the potential to do college-level work but who may be performing below grade-level standards in grades 7-10 in the Mt. Vernon City Schools system. / February '90

■ **STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXHIBIT**

"The Great Migration: Transportation and Settlement in Illinois 1800-1850," a traveling exhibit sponsored by the Illinois State Historical Society, will be on display at Rend Lake College February 28 through March 30. The stop will be the fourth on a nine-city tour across the state.

Reproductions of rare and original maps, broadsides, photographs and other images from the collections of the Illinois State Historical Library are included.

In conjunction with the exhibit opening, local Historian Lucy Baker will present a lecture at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 4, entitled, "Settlers and Settlements of Franklin and Jefferson Counties." The Jefferson County Historical Society will host a reception following her talk. / February '90

■ **MERIDIAN ARTS ENSEMBLE TO APPEAR**

An award-winning product of the prestigious Juilliard School, the Meridian Arts Ensemble featuring Southern Illinois native Tom Stewart, will perform in concert Thursday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rend Lake College Theatre.

Earlier in the day, the group will play for area high school students. The performances are sponsored by the RLC Foundation, with support from the Cedarhurst Chamber Music, Mitchell Museum.

Stewart is a former Carbondale resident who is regarded as one of the top tuba players in the United States. The 27-year-old Stewart, whose family is from the Benton-Ewing area, has not performed in Southern Illinois in over 15 years.

Dedicated to the performance of major works, the ensemble was founded in 1987 at Juilliard and already has established itself as one of New York's finest brass chamber groups. Last season the ensemble took first prize at the New York Brass Conference Quintet Competition, the Chicago Chamber Music Discovery Competition and Artists International, Inc., Auditions. / March '90

■ **BRITISH GUEST PITCHER VISITS**

Tony Pitcher, Principal of Southend College of Technology in Southend, England, will be a guest of RLC April 26 through May 8 as part of the International Studies Administrative Exchange program.

College representatives hosted two visitors a year ago, and Dr. Keith Lape, RLC Vice President, reversed roles in a visit to British counterparts in the fall.

Dr. Jon Astroth, RLC President, will welcome first-time visitor Pitcher to the United States at Starved Rock, WI, April 26-27. From there, the agenda is tentative, with trips to Chicago, Springfield (May 3), St. Louis and Southern Illinois sites of interest, including SIUC, planned.

On-campus activities will include the President's Council, the monthly RLC Foundation Board meeting and the Annual Board-Faculty-Staff Dinner. Off-campus, he will take in an Illinois Farmers Union meeting, Illinois Council of Public Community College Presidents meeting and a tour of Walgreens Distribution Center in Mt. Vernon. / April '90

■ **PIANO DUO GOES 'FIRST CLASS'**

The piano duo of Delphin and Romain will appear at Rend Lake College on Thursday, May 10, before an audience of "Project First Class" participants and their guests. The general public also is welcome for the free, 8:30 p.m. performance.

Wilfred Delphin and Edwin Romain are both full-time faculty members at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Arrangements for this special concert were a result of their friendship with RLC "Project First Class" Coordinator Camille Jones, an SIUC graduate student.

Delphin and Romain began their partnership in 1968 as students at Xavier University in New Orleans. They made their professional debut in 1977 as soloists with the Symphony of the New World in New York's Carnegie Hall. Their debut as a duo came at Carnegie Hall in 1982.

Their Kennedy Center debut recital, as part of the National Black Music Colloquium, was extolled by critics as "nothing short of sensational." / May '90

■ **WOODY HERMAN ORCHESTRA**

Big-band fans will be in for a treat Monday, May 28, when the world renowned Woody Herman Orchestra, directed by Frank Tiberi, presents a concert at the Rend Lake Golf Course Restaurant in Whittington. The RLC Foundation is sponsoring the appearance in conjunction with the host Rend Lake Conservancy District.

The 15-piece orchestra, otherwise referred to as The Woody Herman Thundering Hood, displays the same qualities that made the name of the late clarinetist and conductor synonymous with energy and swing for more than half a century. It is on the road 42 weeks a year. / May '90

1990-91

■ **BRITISH GUEST MARY HAWKINS**

The Assistant Principal at Southend College of Technology in England arrived in the United States last Thursday (March 7) and will spend the week visiting at Rend Lake College and three other area colleges.

Hawkins is staying with Dean Pam Smith and is especially interested in learning about student services operations in the United States. A campus-wide

reception in her honor will be held Friday afternoon, March 15. / March '91

1991-92

■ INTERNATIONAL GUESTS

Various meetings around campus have taken on an international favor in recent days and may continue to do so in the weeks ahead.

One guest from England and three visitors from Thailand participated in the President's Cabinet meeting Tuesday (September 24). This coming week, the Department Chairmen's meeting is expected to include the trio of vocational supervisors from Thailand.

Michael Kempen, Senior Lecturer in Engineering for Southend College of Technology in England, spent the past week with Instructor William Dill and friends in the Industrial Technology area. He is the third representative from Southend to participate in a faculty-staff exchange program with RLC counterparts. The Southend-on-Sea, England, campus and Kempen welcomed Dill during 10 days this past May.

Prayoon Rungsub, Amorn Chaiprasongsuk and Chinawong Sringam, all of whom work for the Thai government, have spent the past year at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale; they will return home in December.

As part of their internships, they are spending four Tuesdays on the RLC campus learning as much as possible about Vocational-Technical programs.

/ September '91

■ BUS SERVICE

Bus service from Mt. Vernon to the RLC campus and back now includes a stop each trip at Warrior Village in Ina. Departure times from Warrior Village would be approximately five minutes before the previously announced arrival times on the RLC campus: 8 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. (Monday through Thursday). Questions regarding bus service may be directed to Jefferson County Transit, Inc.

/ September '91

■ MEDICARE DIXIELAND JAZZ BAND

As part of the year-long Silver Anniversary party, Rend Lake College founders, RLC Foundation contributors, current staff and the public were treated to a free concert by the University of Illinois-based Medicare 7, 8 or 9 (Depending on Who Shows Up!) Dixieland Jazz Band and a reception which followed. / October '91

■ FREE PERFORMANCES OF 'PINOCCHIO'

More than 1,740 elementary students (and prospective Rend Lake College students, Classes of 2000 to 2005) are expected to be on-campus next week to join

in the 25th Anniversary celebration and enjoy the no-strings attached (free) performances of "Pinocchio" by professional puppeteers from the National Marionette Theatre.

They represent RSVP replies for complimentary tickets from 19 schools within the college district.

Thanks in large part to a donation from the RLC Foundation, the 367-seat Theatre should be filled by the youngsters and their chaperones for five shows.

Performances are scheduled at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Monday, November 4, with the production returning for two more shows Friday, November 8, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

To bring this story to life, the 30-year-old National Marionette Theatre has created exquisitely carved and costumed marionettes. An exciting script has been written that moves the story rapidly from adventure to adventure through charming storybook sets. / November '91

■ 'NUTCRACKER BALLET'

The holiday family favorite, "Nutcracker Ballet," will be presented in matinee and evening performances Saturday, December 14, in the Rend Lake College Theatre by the Prairie Dance Theatre.

Prairie Dance Theatre was founded in 1990 as Central Illinois' only professional repertory dance company. It is under the artistic direction of Kenneth Bello and his wife, Michelle Holmes-Bello. Laura Tucker is ballet mistress. / December '91

■ POSHARD HOLDS 'TOWN MEETING'

The health care crisis in America is affecting Illinois residents more than most others. That is because the average family in Illinois pays more for health care than families in any other state save for those in the northeast, according to Congressman Glenn Poshard (D-IL). The in-state average ranks sixth overall.

In a "Town Meeting" Tuesday (January 14) on the RLC campus before approximately 50 concerned health care providers, media representatives and those affected most by high costs, Poshard presented possible solutions to the problem and welcomed input from his audience. It was one of 200 such meetings called by Democratic members of the House and one of three conducted in Southern Illinois by Poshard. / January '92

■ ST. LOUIS GATEWAY CITY BAND

Rend Lake College and the RLC Foundation, in cooperation with GTE, will welcome the St. Louis Gateway City Band for a free concert Friday, April 3, at 8 p.m. in the RLC Theatre. Included will be a reception prepared by RLC Culinary Arts students during intermission. / April '92

■ RECEPTION FOR BRITISH GUESTS

A reception is scheduled Tuesday, May 12, in the Student Center Private Dining Area for RLC staff to visit with British guests Graham Bennington of South Cheshire College and Andrew Burgen of West Cheshire College. / May '92

1992-93

■ WORLD AFFAIRS FORUM

Eleven years after its establishment as the World Affairs Forum of Mt. Vernon, in order to honor United Nations Ambassador and Mt. Vernon native Jeane Jordan Kirkpatrick, the WAF will expand into Southern Illinois thanks to support from a consortium including Rend Lake College and four other community colleges - Kaskaskia, John A. Logan, Shawnee and Southeastern Illinois.

The 1992 World Affairs Forum will salute Spain during "¡Celebremos España!" / Fall '92

■ FREE VALENTINE DANCE

Approximately 800 area residents circled the date Saturday, February 6, and received a free "Sweetheart of a Deal" gift from the RLC Foundation by attending the inaugural Valentine Dance at the Benton Civic Center.

Guests decked out in their Sunday finest enjoyed the sounds of the big-time Gateway City Big Band and a scrumptious spread of fancy hors d'oeuvres prepared by RLC Culinary Arts students.

Co-sponsor for the first-class festivities was GTE. / February '93

1993-94

■ 'CAREER DAY'

A record 400 participants from Rend Lake College and every in-district high school but one turned out for the annual "Career Day" activities on the Ina campus sponsored by the Cooperative Education and Job Placement program.

"Career Day" brings potential employers from area business and industry to campus to meet students and promote their products and job opportunities, as well as representatives of four-year colleges and universities. / October '93

■ SCOTLAND'S MARSON FETED

A reception to help welcome RLC's visitor from Scotland, Patricia Marson, will be held Wednesday, October 20, from 3-4 p.m. on the Student Center Balcony.

Marson is a Student Tutor/Lecturer at Fife College of Technology in Kirkcaldy. She will be the guest of Dr. Sue Trammell and Rend Lake College from October 20-31. Her visit to the United States is part of the International Studies Exchange Program. / October '93

■ STATEWIDE 'BRIGHT IDEA' AWARD

Representatives from Rend Lake College will accept one of three statewide Bright Idea Awards at the Annual Illinois Council of Community College Administrators (ICCCA) Conference November 18-19 in Decatur.

Physical Plant Director Dow Smith, Physical Plant Administrative Assistant Phyllis Rice and Dean for Finance and Administration Bob Carlock also will make a 20-minute presentation regarding the award-winning grant project, "Greening the Community College."

Awards will follow a speech by First Lady Hillary Clinton and the ICCCA Annual Business Meeting.

Director of Resource Development Bob Ross, who submitted the grant proposal, was unable to attend. / November '93

■ U.S. SENATOR PAUL SIMON

The United States Senator was on campus Monday, December 13, for a 2 p.m. meeting in the RLC Theatre with interested educators and area business representatives to explain the "School-to-Work Opportunities Act" he has introduced into Congress.

Simon accepted the invitation to share his ideas from Franklin County Regional Tech Prep Director Betty Musgrave.

The meeting was delayed an hour and an 11 a.m. meeting with Rend Lake College Nursing students and noon luncheon with Southern Illinois educational leaders had to be canceled to allow Simon to attend the funeral of a family member of a Senate colleague. / December '93

■ BRASS BULLIT PERFORMS

The versatile Chicago-based musical group, "Brass Bullit," well received in two previous visits to the RLC campus, has scheduled a return engagement Wednesday, February 2.

Two 45-minute performances are scheduled between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the RLC Theatre. The group's appearance is sponsored once again by the Student Senate.

Their non-stop, action-filled show features male and female soloists, versatile instrumentation, creative costuming and professional dance choreography. The repertoire ranges from rock to jazz to rap and will include many of the top hits of today.

"Brass Bullit" last performed at RLC in September 1992. / February '94

■ FREE VALENTINE DANCE

St. Louis television and jazz personality Jim Bolen brought his Gateway City Big Band to the Mt. Vernon Armory for the Second Annual RLC Foundation Free Valentine Dance on Saturday, February 5.

A crowd estimated at 600 attended.

/ February '94

■ CIVIC SYMPHONY FUNDING

RLC Music Instructor Linda Guetersloh learned recently the college's application for assistance under the 1994 "Regranting Program" of the Southern Illinois Cultural Alliance (f.k.a. Southern Illinois Arts Council) will be funded.

That is good news for the Rend Lake Civic Symphony Orchestra, the beneficiary of the grant, which is expected to be funded at just over 90 percent of the original request.

Ten of 18 applicants were funded and will share \$14,479 available for distribution. / March '94

■ CELEBRITY AUCTION

A Celebrity Auction sponsored by RLC Art students for the benefit of The Amy Schulz Center in Mt. Vernon boasted about 235 items which brought in \$7,327 for the program which assists child-abuse victims.

Totals included \$6,337 in bids, \$825 in direct donations to The Amy Schulz Center and \$165 from refreshment sales. / March '94

1994-95

■ SOMETHING OLD, SOME THINGS NEW

- The Sixth Annual Hummer Scramble continues as a fun-raiser and fund-raiser for Lady Warrior athletics. The golf event named for Jim "Hummer" Waugh was started in 1989.

- Rend Lake College will host a booth for the first time at the DuQuoin State Fair. Volunteers will work as teams in four-hour shifts throughout the fair's duration.

- The Internet arrives! Life will never be the same on-campus or anywhere else.

- Bids were approved for equipment for the new Aerobics Fitness Center. / Fall '94

■ GOOD SAM FACILITY OPEN HOUSE

Rend Lake College will introduce Mt. Vernon and residents from surrounding communities to its newest facility at an Open House August 18 from 1-6:30 p.m. in the Sister Joanne Building at Good Samaritan Regional Health Center. The newly renovated facility on the ground floor includes a large aerobics fitness center, a distance learning center and other classrooms. / August '94

■ APPLEBEE'S AND R.L.C. ATHLETICS

Rend Lake College memorabilia, with an emphasis on athletics, will be part of the decor in the new Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar which will be celebrating its "Grand Opening Week" August 23-29 at Potomac Blvd. in Mt. Vernon (just before one gets to the Ramada Hotel).

A \$1 donation from each customer's check the first week will benefit The Amy Center of Mt. Vernon. / August '94

■ MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Rend Lake College received a Meritorious Service Award in recognition of outstanding contributions and distinguished service to Southern Illinois from the Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission. / December '94

■ FREE VALENTINE DANCE

The free RLC Foundation Valentine Dance is returning to the recently remodeled Benton Civic Center for its third annual showcase on February 4. The Gateway City Big Band will be returning for the third time, also, but without a crowd favorite. Its leader, St. Louis celebrity Jim Bolen, died this past fall. Bolen and Bob Carlock Sr., the father of RLC's Dean for Finance and Administration, had been close friends for many years. / February '95

■ WAUGH WINS 500th GAME

Jim Waugh, scheduled to be inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA) Hall of Fame April 29, reached a milestone victory prior to that on February 18, 1995 when his Lady Warrior defeated visiting Parkland, 79-69. The win was No. 500 in the 36-year coaching career of the man affectionately known best as "Hummer."

The RLC women improved to 18-11 and raised Waugh's 14-year record with the program to 249-184. Waugh also spent the 15 seasons prior to that leading the Warrior men, including the first for Mt. Vernon Community College; he is 444-387 in 29 collegiate seasons. Before moving to the college ranks, he won 56 games in seven seasons at Fisher and Marshal high schools in Illinois.

Overall, he is 500-482.

Waugh would retire after that season. His team won one more game and lost one, leaving him with a career mark of 501-483 to take with him into the Hall of Fame. / February '95

■ U.S. REP. DICK DURBIN

The United States Representative (D-20) visited the Rend Lake College campus April 12 to encourage students and staff to write letters voicing their concerns over proposed cuts that would either eliminate or restructure four student aid programs - College Work-Study; Perkins Student Loans; Stafford Interest-Deferred Student Loans, and Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants.

In a roundtable discussion involving RLC students and staff, Durbin characterized impending cuts in the student loan program as "the largest increase in college

costs for middle-class families in history." / April '95

■ U.S. REP. GLENN POSHARD

The United States Representative (D-19) visited the Rend Lake College campus April 20 to present college officials with a \$500,000 check from the Federal Government . . . fulfilling its part of a 2-for-1 Title III Endowment Challenge Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. / April '95

■ PIANIST K.B. DOYLE

Local United Parcel Service (UPS) driver K.B. Doyle, a classical pianist, will be presenting a concert for the third year in a row when he returns to the Rend Lake College Theatre stage April 25.

The RLC Student Senate is again sponsoring the event, which will be offered in the evening for the first time. / April '95

■ SOUTHERN ILLINOIS FISHING SHOW

The first Rend Lake and Southern Illinois Fishing Show is scheduled Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19, on the RLC campus. It is co-sponsored by Rend Lake College and the Illinois Department of Conservation. / May '95

■ CAREER EXPLORATION CAMP

The Nontraditional Student Support Services program at RLC will offer high school-aged students the opportunity to attend a "Career Exploration Camp" June 12-16 on the Ina campus.

Participants will be involved in two hands-on workshops each day – a total of 10 potential vocations in all – with RLC faculty and staff providing the expertise in small-group sessions. / June '95

■ COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE

A campus-wide Open House especially for parents and would-be parents of current and future Rend Lake College students, as well as anyone else who would like to attend, will be held Tuesday evening, June 20. / June '95

1995-96

■ U.S. REP. GLENN POSHARD

For the second time in five months, the Congressman was on-campus Saturday, September 9, to deliver big bucks. Poshard attended an AmeriCorps celebration, bringing with him a \$348,932 check for the renewal of Illinois ChildCorps, a statewide network initiated and administered by Rend Lake College personnel, and funding for the AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois program. / September '95

■ TALES AND SCALES PERFORMANCE

Approximately 1,750 area grade school children (K-4) were on-campus for five shows over two days enjoying Tales and Scales, an Evansville (IN)-based music-

telling ensemble. Older grade school students are scheduled to visit campus for more age-appropriate performances in December.

The President's Office has been offering free educational/entertainment programs for in-district youth since the 1992-93 academic year. / September '95

■ AMERICORPS YEAR 2 CELEBRATION

The Downstate Celebration for Year 2 of AmeriCorps brought around 150 members and other supporters representing 10 ongoing projects from Decatur south to Rend Lake College Thursday, October 12, as part of a National AmeriCorps Recognition Day. A similar gathering was held for Northern Illinois projects at the American Red Cross Offices in Chicago.

Described as the domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps is the national service initiative signed into law in September 1993 by President Clinton.

Rend Lake College personnel administer two AmeriCorps projects and provide on-campus office space for a third. Yet another RLC student is involved with a fourth AmeriCorps program. / October '95

■ 'CAREER DAY'

"Career Day" sponsored by Cooperative Education and Job Placement returns to a fall format October 25. / October '95

■ ILLINOIS C.C. JURIED ART EXHIBIT

The Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition was hosted downstate for the first time by Rend Lake College February 5-29. Entries were received from eight community colleges, including the hosts, Frontier College (Fairfield), John A. Logan College (Carterville) and Kaskaskia (Centralia).

"Our objective in bringing the exhibition to Southern Illinois was to get more schools from this area involved, and I think we have accomplished that," said RLC Art Instructor Sarah Capps.

Sponsors along with Rend Lake College were traditional upstate hosts Joliet Jr. College and Kankakee C.C. Also represented among the 180 works accepted were College of DuPage and Richland.

Southern Illinois University-Carbonale Art Professor L. Brent Kington served as Juror. / February '96

■ FREE VALENTINE DANCE

A new dance floor brought smiles to the faces of participants at the Fourth Annual Valentine Dance February 10 at the Benton Civic Center. The free event sponsored by the RLC Foundation attracted a crowd estimated at between 800-850 to enjoy the Gateway City Big Band for the fourth straight year.

Based on comments he heard, President

Mark S. Kern called it "the best dance we ever had." / February '96

■ PIANIST K.B. DOYLE

The Classical Pianist returned to RLC in concert March 21. / March '96

■ FIBERGLASS OPEN HOUSE

An Open House for the Fiberglass Reinforced Plastics Technology Learning Center in Whittington will be held April 29. The 32-foot by 64-foot building has been leased for two years for the training of fiberglass reinforced plastics technicians for the area boat manufacturing industry. / April '96

■ www.rlc.cc.il.us

Rend Lake College has a Home Page website . . . www.rlc.cc.il.us / June '96

1996-97

■ TIMES SQUARE FACILITY OPENING

The Grand Opening for Rend Lake College's newest facility in Times Square Mall, Mt. Vernon, will be held August 16 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The facility features a 16-station computer lab with Internet connections and a regular classroom which could become a computer lab as well. The 2,020-square-foot "learning store" is in the final stages of remodeling in time for Fall Semester.

RLC's mall facility is the first of its kind in Southern Illinois, according to Community Services Coordinator David Davenport, and one of 80 nationwide located in malls.

RLC Community Services also moved its operation to the Times Square Campus. Davenport and Secretary Melissa Goin will be available to assist the public during regular Times Square Campus office hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Some evening and Saturday hours may also be covered. / August '96

■ SEN. CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN

United States Senator Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL) will be on-campus with representatives of the Department of Labor August 23 to discuss the "Clean Air Act Needs Related Funding" grant process with Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs reps and affected coal miners.

Moseley-Braun also is scheduled to meet with college administrators and Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Client Service Center staff.

Her agenda calls for the Senator to meet with departmental representatives from 1-2 p.m. and then be available between 2 and 4 p.m. in the RLC Theatre to meet with area coal miners in an open forum. Some laid-off miners have been experiencing problems receiving their benefits.

"Our workers are our state's greatest resource," commented Moseley-Braun. "Southern Illinois miners are entitled to an explanation of the grant process."

A press conference will be held following the open forum. / August '96

■ FIBERGLASS BOAT GIVEAWAY

A 16-foot fiberglass fishing boat and trailer, made by students in the Fiberglass Reinforced Plastics Technology program, will be given away at the conclusion of the DuQuoin State Fair to a lucky participant in a free raffle conducted in the Rend Lake College booth. / August '96

■ 'STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS' AUCTION

The first "Students for Students" Art Auction and Fair, the brainchild of student Linda Krutsinger and Instructor Therese Howard, is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, outdoors on the RLC Ina campus.

Highlights included over 100 donated art works for sale by auction, a dozen art demonstrations, local rock group XYLAS, a softball tournament and food sales.

A crowd estimated around 200 helped raise \$4,000. / October '96

■ TRUCK DRIVER JOB FAIR

The Rend Lake College campus in Ina will be the site Saturday, November 2, for a Truck Driver Job Fair.

Career information regarding the truck driving industry will be readily available. Many of the companies represented currently are in the process of hiring drivers.

Participants also will be able to sign up for a \$1,600 drawing to cover tuition for the Rend Lake College Truck Driver Training program. / October '96

■ ONE-ROOM SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Independence School, the one-room schoolhouse originally built in 1917, will celebrate its recent move to the RLC campus and renovation with an old-fashioned Open House Sunday, November 3, from 2-4 p.m. / November '96

■ EDUCATION COMMITTEES TO MEET

The Illinois House Committees on Higher Education and Education Appropriations will hold the first of four joint hearings statewide at Rend Lake College in Ina on Tuesday, November 12.

Witnesses will be encouraged to address any topic related to community colleges they think should be brought to legislators' attention, according to a joint memo from House Higher Education Committee Chair David A. Wirsing and House Education Appropriations Committee Chair Michael L. Weaver.

Committee members, they noted, are "particularly interested in funding and spending at community colleges; student enrollment characteristics and trends,

and curricula, including vocational, work force and adult education and training.

Oral testimony will be limited to no more than five minutes per person so there will be time to hear from the general public as well as from college officials, students, faculty and their representatives. / November '96

■ FREE VALENTINE DANCE

The Fifth Annual Valentine Dance, with music provided once again by the Gateway City Big Band, was offered free of charge at the Benton Civic Center on Saturday, February 8. A crowd estimated between 750 and 800 took advantage of the opportunity. / February '97

■ HYPNOTIST FREDERICK WINTERS

Let's be perfectly honest. This so-called entertainer could very likely put you to sleep. You have to be a willing participant, of course. And chances are, you will enjoy it, too, along with everyone else.

The third appearance on the Rend Lake College campus in the last two years (twice in 1995) by nationally recognized hypnotist Frederick Winters is scheduled Monday, February 10, from noon until 2 p.m. in the RLC Theatre.

When select members of the audience wake up – under the influence of the spellbinding entertainer – the fun begins.

His performance again is sponsored by the RLC Student Senate. / February '97

■ NORTH CENTRAL VISITATION

Self-Study Co-Chairs Barbara Bauernfeind and Ro Hoar are finalizing preparations for an evaluation visit March 22-24 for accreditation purposes from a team representing the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. / March '97

■ I.A.C.R.A.O. SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Featured speaker Rex Duncan was a hit with his entertaining and informative talk on "Customer Service With a College Look." But for that matter, so was the entire Southern District Meeting of the Illinois Association of College Records and Admissions Officers, thanks in large part to the help of a dozen Rend Lake College staff members.

In all, 52 participants representing six community college districts and three four-year institutions attended the IACRAO conference conducted Thursday, April 3, at Rend Lake Resort.

The group was hosted by Rend Lake College IACRAO member Pat Mitchell.

Other RLC representatives who played a part in the event's success were Cindy Jenkins, Cindy Hamilton, Jay Lewis, Jerri Ruemmler, Janice Dillon, Connie Sample, Mary Ann Lewis, Salah Shakir, Doug Carlson and Sherry Summary. / April '97

■ FISHING AND BOAT SHOW

Rend Lake College, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, hosted the Third Annual Rend Lake and Southern Illinois Fishing and Boat Show April 19-20 on the Ina campus. The date was later by more than a month from previous years.

Free carnival rides and horseback rides for children were added to help guarantee a good time for the entire family.

At least seven more boat and/or recreational vehicle suppliers also will be participating, bringing the total to 17. Organizers anticipate well over 100 pleasure and fishing boats, personal watercraft and all-terrain vehicles to be on display and promises to be the single-largest outdoor display in this area, according to Dick Coontz of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, which is responsible for producing the show.

Sponsors along with RLC and the Department of Natural Resources include the Rend Lake Conservancy District and Rend Lake Resort, Mt. Vernon Convention and Visitors Bureau, Bowlin's Foodland of Christopher, Cellular One of Southern Illinois and Lakeview BP. / April '97

■ AIR FORCE MUSICIANS IN CONCERT

The Lincolnland Brass Quintet from Scott Air Force Base is scheduled to perform a noon concert on Monday, April 28, in the RLC Theatre. Admission is free. The public is welcome.

According to RLC Music Coordinator Linda Guetersloh, the AMC Band of Mid-America Lincolnland Brass features six musicians "who are sure to please music lovers of all types." / April '97

■ COMMUNITY CHORUS RETURNS

The first performing group of its kind in about 10 years will be showcased Thursday and Friday, May 1-2, at Rend Lake College when the RLC Community Chorus is featured in concert.

Both performances are free of charge. The public is invited.

Thursday's concert is scheduled at noon in the RLC Theatre. The Friday presentation is scheduled for 7 p.m., also in the RLC Theatre.

Singers will be performing "sets" of songs that encompass a variety of styles, including jazz, pop, folk songs and multicultural. Each of the participants is a Rend Lake College student with impressive credentials and will be featured, either with a solo or as part of an ensemble.

"The Spring '97 Community Chorus is the first student-dominated performing music group that Rend Lake College has had in approximately 10 years," commented Director Julie Wilkerson, in her

first year as a part-time music instructor.

RLC Community Chorus members this spring are Kendra Colwell (Bluford), Mt. Vernon brothers Tony Donoho and Chris Donoho, Alisha Elder (Benton), Melissa Hefner (Opdyke), Andrea McMahan (Mt. Vernon) and Alisha Wilson (Opdyke), along with their director/singer. / April '97

1997-98

■ R.L.C. FOUNTAIN DEDICATION

Dedication for the fountain on the front lawn of the Learning Resource Center, which features a large, molded replica of the official college seal, was held at noon Wednesday, October 1.

The fountain is a gift in memory of Frank Kern, a former educator and farmer from Ewing, from his wife, Juanita Kern, and his son, RLC President Mark S. Kern.

Among those recognized were Rend Lake College graduate Ross Wakefield, who submitted the winning design for the seal, and his Architectural Instructor, Jim McGhee. / October '97

■ HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Mark Twain, who also goes by the "alias" of Loren Taylor, returns to Rend Lake College this week after a 10-year absence.

Taylor's "Depiction of Mark Twain" will be the featured attraction Saturday, October 4, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for Heritage Festival activities sponsored by Rend Lake College at Independence School, the newly renovated one-room schoolhouse on-campus.

The first-time event was co-sponsored by Rend Lake Resort, which will provide several giveaways and discount coupons for those in attendance.

Heritage Festival '97 also will include live demonstrations, carriage rides, tours of the schoolhouse and fresh apple butter. / October '97

■ 'BANK AT SCHOOL' SEMINAR

Six area financial institutions are teaming up with Rend Lake College Community Services and State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka to sponsor the "Bank at School" program for community college students and other local residents.

The free, two-hour seminar is scheduled Thursday, October 16, at noon in the RLC Theatre.

In announcing the expanded program, Topinka indicated "the opportunity to offer a college-level curriculum on financial matters is critical to building a solid foundation for our state."

Co-sponsors include Bank of Illinois in Mt. Vernon, Central Bank, Citizens Bank, First National Bank of Mt. Vernon, Mercantile Bank and The Peoples National Bank.

"In a nutshell, the program teams community colleges with local banks to conduct 'financial literacy' seminars that address proven financial techniques and skills to establish and repair credit, reduce debt more quickly and take control of one's finances. The seminars are full of nuts-and-bolts information that adults need to handle their finances wisely, ranging from routine financial affairs to student loans," explained Lynn Tolle Burger, Director for Occupational Education with the Illinois Community College Board.

All pre-registrants will receive an official credit report so they can see what is published about their own credit rating, according to RLC Community Services Coordinator Dave Davenport. / October '97

■ VALENTINE DANCE

The Sixth Annual "Valentine Evening of Entertainment" sponsored free of charge for the general public by the RLC Foundation was conducted Saturday, February 14, at the Benton Civic Center. Featured was the band, Sessions, from St. Louis. / February '98

■ I.H.S.A. STATE SPEECH CONTEST

Rend Lake College will be the site for the 58th Annual Illinois High School Association (IHSA) State Individual Events Speech Contest Friday and Saturday, February 20-21. It represents the first time the statewide contest will be held south of Bloomington.

The local appearance by hundreds of high school students is the result of a three-year effort by RLC Instructor Joe Rust, Executive Secretary of the Illinois Speech Teachers Association, DuQuoin H.S. Speech Coach Allan Kimball and others. Kimball was last year's State Finals Committee Chair.

Serving as co-hosts along with RLC will be DuQuoin H.S., Mt. Vernon Township H.S., Benton Consolidated H.S. and Carbondale Community H.S.

Rust, who has served as a judge for numerous state finals, took over as Executive Secretary and the Illinois Speech and Theatre Association central office moved to the RLC campus last October.

Qualifying at the regional and sectional levels will narrow the field to approximately 40 state finalists in each of 14 competitive events. The competition is expected to attract 3,500 guests.

"We're talking 'cream of the crop,'" said Rust, a nationally recognized instructor. "College representatives from four-year institutions like Harvard, Yale, Princeton, UCLA, California-Berkeley and Southern Methodist will come in to watch these students perform and recruit them. Most of them have special scholarships that

guarantee full-rides into their law schools.

"This is a great opportunity for exposure for Rend Lake College, the four high schools involved and all of Southern Illinois." / February '98

■ S.I.U.C. CONCERT CHOIR

The Concert Choir from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale will present a free program of sacred and secular music at Rend Lake College Thursday evening, March 26.

Included in the group will be former RLC students Jene Day, Jennifer Garretson and Marinda Phillips, all of Mt. Vernon, along with McLeansboro resident Karen Auxier.

The SIUC Concert Choir, a 28-member ensemble under the direction of Dr. John V. Mochnick, is performing at the invitation of RLC Community Choir Director Julie Wilkerson, a former participant and Assistant Director under Mochnick during her senior year. / March '98

■ CHILDREN'S CTR. GROUNDBREAKING

Groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted Thursday, April 9, for the eagerly anticipated RLC Foundation Children's Center. The new facility will be located just off the West Parking Lot on the north edge of campus, near the one-room Independence Schoolhouse.

Major contributors are Marjorie Farrar and Coyn and Pat Mateer, all of Mt. Vernon. / April '98

1998-99

■ I.C.C.T.A. MEETS IN MT. VERNON

Both the Illinois Community College Trustees Association and the President's Council will conduct meetings in Mt. Vernon September 11-12. / September '98

■ CHILDREN'S CENTER OPEN HOUSE

An Open House for the new RLC Foundation Children's Center will be held 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, October 14. / October '98

■ LAKOTA SIOUX INDIAN DANCE

An overflow crowd took advantage of a free Sunday afternoon performance by the Lakota Sioux Indian Dance/Song Troupe October 18 in the RLC Theatre.

Described as "the real thing" - "They probably represent what most people picture when they think of native Indians" - the performance is their first in Southern Illinois and a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the entire family."

"The opportunity to host a performing group like this is similar to having dignitaries from a foreign country on-campus," said RLC Philosophy Associate Professor Steve Kennett. "This is the best group there is in terms of Lakota Sioux dance, and the Lakota Sioux probably are the

most famous of the Indian groups."

The 12-person dance troupe has appeared at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and the World Music Institute in New York City. / October '98

■ AQUATICS CENTER DEDICATION

Dedication ceremonies for the Jimmy J. Fulks Aquatics Center are scheduled for Friday, October 30, at 11 a.m. on the lawn outside the \$2.6 million facility. / October '98

■ STAFF EMPHASIS ON CORE VALUES

Rend Lake College will be closed January 7 so staff can attend a Core Values Seminar at Kaskaskia College in Centralia. The session emphasizing ethics will be led by Rushworth M. Kidder, founder and President of the Institute for Global Ethics. It marks the first time staff from the two neighboring institutions have partnered for a workshop. / January '99

■ ILLINOIS C.C. JURIED ART EXHIBIT

Rend Lake College will welcome the statewide Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition to the Ina campus for the second time February 2-26. / February '99

■ JOB FAIR WELCOMES 70 EMPLOYERS

The annual Job Fair attracted 70 employers, including 11 for the first time, according to Coordinator Rex Duncan. / March '99

■ ELDERHOSTEL

A second Elderhostel group will be on-campus March 21-26, one-month after the most recent hosting (February 21-26) by RLC Community Services. / March '99

■ NORTH CENTRAL ACCREDITATION

The official North Central Association of Colleges and Schools Accreditation Visit is scheduled March 22-24. / March '99

■ SCIENCE TEACHERS CONFERENCE

More than 100 people have pre-registered for the Science Teachers Conference Friday, April 16, co-sponsored by host Rend Lake College and the Illinois Association of Chemistry Teachers. It is designed for innovative middle school, junior high and senior high school teachers interested in learning the latest techniques in instructional approaches. Participants will leave with hands-on activities ready to use in their classrooms.

Dr. Melvin Webb, Director of the Atlanta Comprehensive Regional Center for Minorities, Office of Naval Research and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Program at Clark Atlanta University, will be the keynote speaker. / April '99

1999-2000

■ FORMER GOV. JIM EDGAR

RLC students and staff, as well as the

general public, had two opportunities to hear former Governor Jim Edgar when he made two appearances on-campus Tuesday, September 7.

At 10 a.m., the education-minded ex-governor visited with Rend Lake College students and anyone else who cared to take part in the question-answer exchange.

Following lunch with members of the college and RLC Foundation boards, President Mark S. Kern and other top-administrators and special donors, Edgar delivered an inspirational message emphasizing the many benefits and positive aspects of Illinois when the RLCF Institute for Learning in Retirement showcases its Fall Preview lineup of 35-plus new classes and activities.

The afternoon session was in conjunction with a statewide initiative and celebration to promote the importance of the International Year of Older Persons. The United Nations has noted one of the greatest accomplishments of the century is the 20-year increase in the average life span. The International Year theme is, "Towards a society for all ages." / September 1999

■ STUDENTS, 'WHERE ART THOU?'

The Liberal Arts Department Cultural Committee is sponsoring a production of "Romeo and Juliet" performed by the National Shakespeare Company on Wednesday, March 22, from noon until 1:30 p.m. in the RLC Theatre.

The performance is being provided free of charge to RLC students and area grade and high school students through the generous support of "Future Focus," STARS, "Upward Bound" and the Illinois Arts Council, Carbondale Community Arts and Southern Illinois Arts Fund.

All seating is reserved, with a limited number of tickets for faculty or staff.

"This is a professional Shakespeare production," by a nationally renowned company, said Rebecca Biggs. "You will not be disappointed." / March 2000

■ TRINKETS AND TREASURES

Stop! Don't throw that away!

You have heard the saying, "One person's trash is another person's treasure."

Save it, and plan on being a participant in the inaugural "Trinkets and Treasures" Community Yard Sale to be sponsored by Rend Lake College Community Services on Saturday, June 10, between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the Ina campus.

"This is an opportunity for you to clean out the garage, attic, basement and closets," said Curt Mowrer, one of the organizers along with fellow Center for Business and Community Services Representatives Lisa Payne and Dawn Gibson.

Vendors throughout the region will be invited to participate.

Booth proceeds will go to support the RLC Foundation. / June 2000

2000-01

■ PINCKNEYVILLE NEWS CONFERENCE

A Press Conference was conducted July 24 at the site of the new Pinckneyville Campus to be constructed. / July '00

2001-02

■ FIRST MANUFACTURER'S FAIR

The Center for Business Services at Rend Lake College is hosting its first Manufacturer's Job Fair on the Ina campus Wednesday, May 2, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Many of the largest employers in Southern Illinois have promised to be on hand to accept résumés and applications for a variety of job openings, according to co-organizers Ed Ruffino and Mark Clark. Some of the small manufacturers will be available, also.

Admission is free and open to the public. Sponsors in addition to Rend Lake College are the Illinois Small Business Development Center Network and IMEC Solutions for Manufacturers.

Position openings will run the gamut from full-time to part-time, entry-level as well as experienced and seasonal. They likewise will cover a variety of duties within the realm of manufacturing, such as supervisory and management, clerical, maintenance, custodial, assembly line and factory work.

"We encourage participants to bring their résumés with them," Ruffino said. They should come dressed appropriately and be prepared in most cases to complete employment applications and, in many instances, interview as well." / May '01

■ BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

Thanks to two flower gardens planted this summer by resident children following completion of a "Landscaping" class taught by Rend Lake College's Vickie Gollither, the Housing Authority of Jefferson County in Mt. Vernon recently received a Neighborhood Beautification Award for a business presented by Mt. Vernon Bright and Beautiful. / Summer '01

■ PIANIST K.B. DOYLE

Classical Concert Pianist K.B. Doyle, a United Parcel Service (UPS) driver by trade, will present two concerts in the Rend Lake College Theatre October 16 (7 p.m.) and 17 (noon). It will be his sixth time to perform on-campus, the first in 1993 and the last time in 1999.

"His rendition of 'Amazing Grace' will bring tears to your eyes," commented Tracey Webb.

Admission is free, but donations of canned goods are encouraged. Donations collected will be given to needy families for Thanksgiving.

Doyle's appearance is sponsored by the RLC Cultural Arts Committee and the RLC Student Senate. / October '01

2002-03

■ GOV. GEORGE H. RYAN

Illinois Governor George H. Ryan will be in Mt. Vernon Monday (August 26) for a brief stop at the Rend Lake College MarketPlace.

Ryan, in Southern Illinois to visit the DuQuoin State Fair, is scheduled around 10:30 a.m. His stay will be brief . . . approximately 30 minutes.

Ryan is expected to praise the partnerships leading to the "One-Stop" Illinois Employee and Training Center, which will house the Department of Human Services, Department of Employment Security, Office of Rehabilitative Services and the Workforce Investment Act, managed by Man-Tra-Con.

Space for all of these facilities under one roof is leased from Rend Lake College in its unique MarketPlace, a recently renovated outdoor mall which combines the state agencies with retail stores and a restaurant, the one-of-a-kind Studio RLC Paul Mitchell Partner School, a college-operated Golf Outlet and Coffee Shop, college classrooms and other programs. / August '02

■ STAFF CLOCK TOWER DEDICATION / CAMPUS-WIDE OPEN HOUSE

Less than a month after opening its doors to a new class of incoming freshmen and returning students, Rend Lake College will host an Open House for the entire Southern Illinois community Sunday, September 15.

The Rend Lake College Open House will be held in conjunction with Staff Clock Tower Dedication ceremonies sponsored the same afternoon by the RLC Foundation.

Featured that day will be a complimentary lunch and activities for the whole family, including tours of campus facilities, demonstrations of many college programs and exhibits of others. Dozens of volunteers representing the RLC administration, faculty and staff will be available to describe their programs and answer any questions the public might have.

According to Dean of Student Services Mary Roe, food will be served for an hour starting at 12:30 p.m. on the Aquatics Center patio. Following a break for dedication activities from 1:30-2 p.m., serving and other Open House festivities will resume

from 2-4:30 p.m. on the Ina campus.

Participants will have the option of going on guided tours, scheduled every 15 minutes, or checking things out on their own. / September '02

■ SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN GOLF EXPO

Swing into Spring at the area's biggest and best golf show. The Rend Lake College Golf Outlet, in association with the founding *Southern Illinoisan* newspaper, will host the Second Annual Golf Expo on the RLC Ina campus.

It is slated for Saturday and Sunday, March 15-16, in Waugh Gymnasium. Saturday hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday hours are noon-5 p.m.

Representatives from several of the major name brands on golf will be on hand to demonstrate and let participants test the latest in golf equipment. Expected are reps from Callaway, Cleveland, TaylorMade, Nike Golf, PowerBilt, Titleist/Cobra, Top-Flite, Ben Hogan, Wilson, Precept and Tour Edge.

Commitments from reps of other companies featuring shoes, other golf accessories and gifts include FootJoy, Datrek and Hornung's.

The latest technology will be available for demonstration at Rend Lake College's new on-campus driving range, located directly behind the Jimmy J. Fulks Aquatics Center.

"This Golf Expo is certain to be a one-of-a-kind event for the region," said Bob Carlock, RLC Dean for Finance and Administration. "The only other show of this magnitude is in St. Louis."

There will be putting contests, access to the driving range, prizes and much more. A Golf Swap will be set up for individual sales of used equipment, and a children's area will be set up in The Hitting Zone.

The Aquatics Center will be open for free swimming both days during the Golf Expo's hours of operation. / March '03

2003-04

■ FRENCH VICTIM, RESEARCHER

Lise Pommois was a very young girl who paid little attention to the American soldiers who liberated her native France during World War II.

But she vividly recalls hiding at the sight of Nazi soldiers, who forced everyone in her occupied French homeland to speak German. She remembers not liking her father - "because I didn't know him" - when the medic in the French army returned after two years as a prisoner of war.

None of that, however, compared to "the most traumatic experience in my life," when the Germans in 1944 uncovered the family secret . . . her mother was

Jewish. Both parents were arrested and sent to prison, along with their infant daughter. Pommois' Catholic father was released, but mother and baby sister were headed for a concentration camp until a family friend intervened and they were allowed to return home. "When she came back, I wouldn't let go of her." Nightmares of the Germans coming to get her were prevalent until the 1980s.

Madame Pommois (pronounced "pom-waugh") has spent much of her adult life researching her country's plight during WWII and sharing what she has learned the past 19 years visiting battlefields, befriending veterans and chronicling the events.

Everyone is invited to hear her speak on "Winter Storm: War in Northern Alsace" Tuesday, September 23, at Rend Lake College. The program is sponsored by the Rend Lake College Foundation Institute for Learning in Retirement but is open free of charge to students, staff and the general public alike from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the RLC Theatre.

"I want to make the French understand what they owe to Americans," Pommois summarizes her research efforts.

/ September '03

■ MANAGER WHITEY HERZOG

If we told you Dorrel Norman Elvert Herzog would be in Ina later this month, it might not mean much, would it?

But what if we said the "White Rat" who revolutionized St. Louis Cardinals baseball with "Whiteyball" in the 1980s was coming to The Hitting Zone at Rend Lake College on Thursday, September 25? We have got your attention now, huh?

One of the most popular men ever to wear the birds-on-bat uniform, former Manager Whitey Herzog, will be signing autographs from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Warrior baseball complex, according to first-year RLC Baseball Head Coach Bob Simpson. Fans will be able to get Herzog's autograph on two items for a fee of \$10.

Warrior coaches will be available to show off the dedicated baseball/softball facility and sign up prospective players ages 8 and older for group instruction sessions evenings and weekends. / September '03

■ 'ALWAYS MUSIC! ALWAYS BOOKS!'

Gifted performer/author/educator Jim Gill will be on the RLC campus Saturday, October 4, to provide the keynote address at the Third Annual Celebrating Children Conference hosted by RLC's Child Care Resource and Referral "Project Child" and co-sponsored by the Southern Illinois Early Childhood Action Team.

Gill will be the center of attention at the morning session when he presents,

"May There Always be Music! May There Always be Books!" from 9-noon. He is widely recognized for his concerts of music and play presented to children and families throughout the country at libraries, schools, theaters and museums. He has produced several CDs and has written a book.

Most of his ideas come from the weekly programs in music play he directs for families of children with special needs in the Chicago area. Gill has a Master's Degree in Child Development from the Erikson Institute of Chicago. / October '03

■ FINLAND, SWITZERLAND GUESTS

Visiting the RLC campus October 14-25 will be Paula Matilla of Finland and Nico Buetler of Switzerland. Both are scheduled to give presentations on their home country.

Matilla, who works in Information Technology, is the guest of Architectural Technology Professor Kevin Weston. Electrical Engineer Buetler is the guest of Rick Marlow, also an Architecture Professor.

Marlow visited Switzerland for two weeks in May. The exchange is part of the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs. / October '03

■ COFFEE SHOP GRAND OPENING

The Rend Lake College MarketPlace Coffee Shop celebrated its Grand Opening. / October '03

■ AUTHOR / POET RODNEY JONES

Rodney Jones, author of seven books of poetry and winner of the 2003 Harper Lee Award, is scheduled to read a selection of his works Tuesday, February 10, at Rend Lake College. The reading, which is free and open to the public, will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the North Oasis pit.

Jones is the author of *The Story They Told Us of Light* (Alabama) and *The Unborn* (Atlantic Monthly), as well as *Transparent Gestures, Apocalyptic Narrative, Things that Happen Once, Elegy for the Southern Drawl and Kingdom of the Instant* (the last five by Houghton Mifflin).

According to the Houghton Mifflin Web site, Jones is "line by line, sound by sound, at the top of his form." He has been published in *Atlantic Monthly*, *Georgia Review* and *Southern Review*, and his work has appeared in five annual editions of *The Best American Poetry*.

Jones is an English Professor at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and is involved in the Creative Writing program. / February '04

■ SOUTHERN ILLINOIS GOLF EXPO

Think it could not get much better than last year's Southern Illinois Golf Expo at Rend Lake College? Think again.

The two-day extravaganza Saturday and Sunday, March 27-28, on the Ina campus promises to be the biggest and best yet, with factory representatives from 16 major golfing manufacturers available to share their wares with the public. More than 40 related vendors all told are expected inside and outside of Waugh Gymnasium.

Here's the gimme. The Southern Illinois Golf Expo 2004 is free.

Free parking and free admittance mean area golf aficionados cannot afford to miss an opportunity to try out the very latest in equipment during Demo Days Saturday (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) and Sunday (noon-5 p.m.), take advantage of discount prices, bid on a wide array of golf memorabilia in a silent auction, qualify to win challenge contests and door prizes, gain insight into many resorts and Midwest courses and enjoy an early spring day (or two) out with friends.

The RLC Coffee Shop will be providing free coffee and cookies.

The third annual exposition is the brainchild of *The Southern Illinoian* newspaper. The Rend Lake College Golf Outlet and RLC MarketPlace joined forces on the Golf Expo's behalf a year ago.

But the company representatives, many of whom are former playing professionals, and factory reps will share the spotlight and their knowledge with the hundreds of local participants expected.

Confirmations have been received from PING and Callaway Golf, as well as Cleveland Golf, TaylorMade, Titleist, Cobra, Tour Edge, PowerBilt, Hogan, Top-Flite, Srixon, Nike Golf, FootJoy, Precept, Datrek and Hornung's.

A special area for younger players will be introduced for the first time. It will feature a variety of children's equipment, plus games and inflatable fun. / March '04

■ KING CITY BARBEQUE

Rend Lake College and the RLC MarketPlace will co-host the Annual King City Barbeque June 11-12 with the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce. / June '04

■ GOOD SAM PARTNERSHIP

Ten businesses statewide were recognized for building successful workforce training alliances with local community colleges at the Illinois Local Community Colleges Trustees Association Awards Banquet.

The following salute was featured in the ICCTA Awards program . . .

Business/Industry Partnership Award GOOD SAMARITAN, INC.

"Since 1987, Good Samaritan, Inc., has supported Rend Lake College through an annual scholarship program. In 2003, a 'Loan Forgiveness Program' was created by the college Foundation and Good

Samaritan to address the dire shortage of nurses in Southern Illinois. This project pays the educational expenses for 20 Rend Lake College students to complete the Practical Nursing or Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) one-year nursing program.

"In turn, students agree to work part-time for Good Samaritan Hospital while attending college, and to work full-time at the hospital for at least two years after passing their state board exams.

"This program is so innovative that the American Medical Association has taken notice," said Good Samaritan President Leo Childers. "We are very proud of our association with Rend Lake College, which has been an invaluable long-term partnership." / June '04

■ R.L.C. PARTNERS WITH K.C., O.S.H.A.

The Small Business Development Centers at Rend Lake College and Kaskaskia College have partnered to sponsor three sessions of Occupational Safety and Health Administration training as a service to Southern Illinois small businesses.

The sessions, developed in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, will be held Tuesday, July 20, and Wednesday, July 21. The training sessions are free and preregistration is required by Wednesday, July 14. OSHA Consultant Tony DeAsuncao will lead the sessions.

On July 20, the Rend Lake College SBDC will offer "OSHA Machinery and Machine Guarding" from 8 a.m. until noon and "OSHA's Knocking . . . Are You Ready?" from 1-4 p.m. at the RLC MarketPlace, located at 327 Potomac Boulevard in Mt. Vernon.

Topics covered in the morning will include hazard recognition, methods of control and OSHA standards. Business owners, plant managers, safety professionals and others will learn how to recognize, manage and control the potential hazards of machinery in the workplace.

The afternoon is designed for business owners, plant managers, safety professionals and supervisors. Participants will learn about the responsibility of OSHA compliance, OSHA coverage and scope, inspections, citations, penalties and sources of help for the business owner.

Kaskaskia College's SBDC will offer "OSHA Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illnesses" from 8 a.m.-noon July 21 at the Crisp Technology Center, located at the corner of Airport Road and Illinois Route 161 East in Centralia. / June '04

2004-05

■ COSMETOLOGIST MACKINDER

Renowned Cosmetologist Vivienne Mackinder, winner of four North American Hairdressing Awards and three Editors Choice Awards, will lead a seminar Tuesday, August 3, at Studio RLC for students in the Rend Lake College Paul Mitchell Partner School.

Subjects to be covered include New Trends; Makeover Transformations; Technical Skills; Professional Image; Dress Work – Editorial and Special Occasions, and Hair Pieces.

Mackinder works with leading fashion designers on their runway collections in Paris, London and New York. / August '04

■ BLOOD DRIVE FOR EX-INSTRUCTOR

Rend Lake College will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive August 11 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to benefit a former employee as well as others in need.

The special drive was organized with the purpose of obtaining blood for former RLC Nursing Instructor Linda Lance-Mobley, who has developed a bone marrow condition which requires regular infusions of blood products.

A recent blood drive in Salem resulted in 212 donors, 48 of them first-time donors. A drive likewise is planned for Hamilton Memorial Hospital in McLeansboro.

Lance-Mobley taught full-time in the Associate Degree Nursing program between 1987 and '92. She left to become CEO at Salem Township Hospital, only to return to RLC on a part-time basis upon her retirement as a hospital administrator. Her husband, Mike, is a former Illinois State Police Trooper who teaches part-time in the RLC Criminal Justice program.

/ August '04

■ STATE REP. KURT GRANBERG

Illinois State Representative Kurt Granberg (D-107) commended the efforts of Rend Lake College to meet the needs of its students after taking a tour of the Ina campus on Monday, August 23.

"It is an exciting strategy," Granberg said of the college's continuing efforts of renovation and expansion. He said the college has "accomplished a great deal and has plans to do a lot more."

"The college has made some nice progress," added Granberg. "It's a great strategy for the region."

Granberg was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1986. / August '04

■ I.C.C.B. C.E.O. OBRZUT VISITS

Geoffrey Obrzut, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Illinois Community College Board, described endeavors

by Rend Lake College to improve the quality of education for its students as "very impressive" following a whirlwind tour on Wednesday, September 22.

Obrzut praised the renovation of the Culinary Arts lab and the college's efforts in obtaining state funding for the \$200,000 project. He also liked the fact it is a regional program, accepting students from other districts which do not offer a similar program.

He likewise praised the Applied Science Center under construction, noting \$1.7 million of the project will come from state funds and \$500,000 from bonds issued by the college.

Obrzut said RLC has displayed "great vision" in looking for funding from other sources to help complete its various projects. He complimented President Mark S. Kern, faculty and staff for their work providing "great, quality education" to students. / September '04

■ AUTHOR BETH LORDAN

Beth Lordan, author of novels **August Heat** and **But Come Ye Back** and the short-story collection, **And Both Shall Row**, will read a selection of her works October 13 at Rend Lake College. She also will conduct a book signing and give free copies of two of the aforementioned.

She has been published in **The Best of American Short Stories 2002**, *Atlantic Monthly* and *Gettysburg Review* and has been on NPR's Selected Shorts.

The SIUC Fiction Instructor also is recipient of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and the O. Henry Award for Short Fiction. / October '04

■ SWITZERLAND LIBRARIAN GEY

Christoph Gey, a Librarian at the University of Applied Sciences Solothurn in Switzerland, is in the midst of a two-week visit to Rend Lake College to learn about its library system and experience the region's culture, as part of an Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs exchange.

Gey is the guest of Karla Lewis, RLC Distance Learning and Media Technology Coordinator, but other faculty and staff will be helping make Gey's trip a memorable one. Lewis will be Gey's guest in Switzerland in May 2005.

Gey has been to the U.S. twice and has traveled extensively throughout large cities. "I'm very interested to see what the more rural areas in between look like, how the people live there," Gey said.

Gey said he had never visited an American library. During a recent reception, he said RLC's library was much larger than that at his university. "I'm also very curious to look into an American college; the

educational system in Switzerland is quite different." / October '04

■ STEINWAY AND FRIENDS GO JAZZ

A group of the finest musicians in the area will assemble at the Rend Lake College Theatre on Saturday, October 23, for an "Evening of Jazz." The concert begins at 7 p.m. and is being held as an unveiling for its newly restored Steinway piano.

"We will present an evening of music of the highest quality," said Courtney Cox, member of the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees and former Music Instructor for RLC. Cox, who formerly directed the Rend Lake Symphony and the RLC Jazz Band, will play the Steinway during the concert.

"If you like jazz, popular music or good old standards, you are going to enjoy this concert," Cox said. "It will be full of music people will recognize and enjoy." The evening will consist of both vocal and instrumental selections.

Early in Rend Lake College's history, this Steinway Concert Grande Piano was donated to Rend Lake College by Dr. Carl Lincoln Schweinfurth. According to Liberal Arts Division Chair Chris Kuberski, the instrument's condition has deteriorated over the last decade and it needed to be refurbished, both inside and out.

"Steinway is the elite name in pianos," said Kuberski. "It is very unusual for a community college to have one." She estimated the handcrafted piano is now worth about \$90,000.

"The rebirth of this piano created a great opportunity to present a concert, said Cox, who came up with the idea for a concert.

Musicians are donating their time and talents.

Included: Trombone player Gene Stiman of Salem. "Gene is the musician's musician," Cox noted. "It is a real thrill to work with him." Stiman has played with big bands all over the Midwest.

Also featured: bassist Larry Phifer (Mt. Vernon), former RLC instructor who now teaches at Summersville Grade School; veteran drummer Chester Razer (Sparta); keyboardist Sue Krapf (Benton), Band Director for Benton Middle School, and Leslie Cox, Courtney's wife, and their son, Ben, who will provide vocals. / October '04

■ ILLINOIS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

The Illinois Shakespeare Festival Touring Co. will pay a visit to Rend Lake College Friday, November 19, to present an abbreviated and unusually lighthearted version of the tragedy, Hamlet.

The event is sponsored by the RLC Cultural Arts Committee. The performance is free to the public.

"Believe it or not, this version of Hamlet

is supposed to be treated humorously," said RLC Theatre Instructor Tracey Webb.

The ISF Touring Company, an outreach program, is designed to demystify Shakespeare and other authors by presenting their works in the fun and interactive atmosphere of live theater. / November '04

■ CONGRESSMAN JOHN SHIMKUS

Congressman John Shimkus (R-19) learned more about Rend Lake College's latest Title III Grant and the resulting Wireless Communications Technology curriculum during a recent visit and tour.

Shimkus heard presentations from several college officials regarding their third Title III "Strengthening Institutions" Grant awarded through the U.S. Department of Education, which potentially is worth \$1.8 million over five years.

The college also can benefit from a 1-for-1 matching Endowment Option which could increase RLC Foundation funds by \$1 million in 20 years if it is able to raise \$73,000 annually for those five years.

Of the Wireless program, believed to be the only one of its kind in the Midwest, Shimkus said the college made the right decision in creating it. "I believe the demand (for graduates) is there, definitely."

Shimkus saw the Culinary Arts lab undergoing a \$200,000 renovation; the new Applied Science Center; the handicapped-friendly Aquatics Center, and the RLC Clock Tower. / November '04

■ 'READING MAGICIAN' EGELSTON

Chris Egelston, the "Reading Magician," will present his Reading is Magic show twice on Saturday, April 23, as part of the Rend Lake College Farm and Garden Spring Fling.

Egelston uses magic, comedy and audience participation to teach children about the fun and importance of reading. He encourages them to read both to learn and to have fun.

"Reading is the most important skill anyone can learn. It is the key to success in life. And I remind parents and children you can borrow books for free at the library, so there is never an excuse not to read," Egelston said. / April '05

2005-06

■ AUTHOR GEOFF SCHMIDT

Author Geoff Schmidt will visit Rend Lake College on Wednesday, October 19, to read from his work as part of an ongoing series of events planned by the Cultural Arts Committee.

Schmidt has received a Literary Award from the Illinois Arts Council and has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize three times, receiving a Special Mention once.

He has had stories published in *Notre*

Dame Review, *Massachusetts Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Other Voices*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Chariton Review* and *Oxford Magazine*. He also has poems and essays appear in *Agni*, *The Southern Review* and *Chicago Tribune Book Review*.

Schmidt's first novel, *Write Your Heart Out: Advice from the Moon Winx Motel*, is a rarity – a compelling novel interlaced with a fierce satire. The unintended tale of a doomed writer, it takes the form of a recently discovered draft of a "How to . . ." book on creative writing. / October '05

■ SECRETARY OF STATE JESSE WHITE

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White made a stop recently at Rend Lake College to discuss the state's new organ and tissue donor registry following the unveiling of an advertising campaign aimed at saving more lives.

The state's new organ donor registry ensures a person's decision to donate organs and tissue following his or her death will be carried out as previously determined. Previously, the decision was not legally binding and remained with the individual's family; as a result, nearly 20 percent of consenting donors had their decisions overturned.

"Donor registration is an excellent way to dedicate yourself and make a difference by helping save the lives of others," said White. "One person can improve the life or quality of life of 25 people. When you donate your organs, you are a hero."

Illinois leads the nation in the organ donor charge, according to White, with six million registered donors. / May '06

■ BUDWEISER CLYDESDALES

A world-famous icon of the "King of Beers" will call the "King City" home the week of the fourth annual King City Barbecue Showdown, which runs June 9-11 at the Rend Lake College MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon.

The Budweiser Clydesdales, sponsored by B&G Venegoni Distributing, are just one of many exciting attractions scheduled. They will be sheltered beneath an immaculate 120-foot by 60-foot tent on the lot directly across from the RLC Golf Outlet on North Potomac Boulevard.

Clydesdales are one of the strongest breeds of horses, built to pull and maneuver heavy loads like the Budweiser wagon. To qualify as members of the Budweiser team, they must be bay in color, with a blaze of white on their faces, a black mane and tail and white feathering at their feet and legs. They become full grown around four years of age, stand 72 inches at the shoulder and weigh between 1,800-2,300 pounds.

Eight-horse teams will parade from their stables at the MarketPlace, then south on Potomac to the main entrance of the Barbecue Showdown, behind the Holiday Inn, each day of the event. / June '06

2006-07

■ FINLAND GUEST PAULA AHOLA

Rend Lake College is preparing to welcome another guest from abroad. Paula Ahola, a Tourism Director from Finland, lands on U.S. soil Saturday, October 14, and will be staying at English Professor Rob Little's home in Centralia.

Ahola is one of RLC's overseas contacts in the ICISP Faculty Exchange Program. She is scheduled to attend Instructor Greg Hollmann's star-gazing session, travel to Shawnee Forest and speak about Finland with Dr. Sue Tomlin's Anthropology class.

Ahola also has plans to sight-see in St. Louis and Chicago, visit RLC President Mark Kern's farm in Ewing, eat dinner with the family of Distance Learning and Media Technology Coordinator Karla Lewis and attend the Student Art League's Fall Auction at Pheasant Hollow Winery.

Other plans include visits to Mt. Vernon and Carterville as well as social gatherings at the winery and Tomlin's home.

The Finnish guest lives on a cattle farm and annually entertains in-laws from Minnesota. She last visited her U.S. family in the early 1990s. / October '06

■ STORYTELLER DOT KANE

An hour with professional storyteller Dot Kane seems like 10 minutes. The time flies – along with the oversized underwear, feathered boas, alien, baking pan and fake chicken that appear and disappear into her bag of tricks. By the time "the end" comes, audience members are smiling as much from her kid-like comedy as the warming moral of the story. And, the kids love her too.

Kane brought her 14-year-plus act to Ina, where she entertained 20-30 Pre-K students from the RLC Foundation Children's Center on the floor of Waugh Gymnasium. Children learned about colors, numbers, sharing, manners, opposites, taking turns and being true to themselves without ever knowing what hit them.

Dressed in a tie-dyed tee and mismatched Chuck Taylors, Kane used her "Move It or Lose It/Movement Storytelling and Comedy" routine to effectively wrangle the full attention of her young audience.

A walking, talking storybook, Kane also sang songs and played games as the children played and sang along with her. But mostly, they laughed. / November '06

2007-08

■ PRE-K CENTER GOES TO MARKET

Officials from Rend Lake College were joined Thursday morning (September 13) by Ambassadors of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce and local business leaders to celebrate the Grand Opening of the new Pre-K Center at the RLC MarketPlace on Potomac Boulevard in Mt. Vernon.

Students and staff at the Pre-K Center also took part in the ribbon-cutting and balloon lift-off to officially launch the new facility.

The center opened its doors August 20. Spots are still available for enrollment. RLC students are given priority; however, the general public is welcomed to enroll children as well.

The RLC Pre-K Center features extended hours from 5:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday in order to serve parents who work both traditional and non-traditional shifts. Spanish and sign language are incorporated into the curriculum. / September '07

■ AUTHOR JACINDA TOWNSEND

Fiction writer Jacinda Townsend will be reading from her work November 7 in the RLC Learning Resource Center.

Townsend, the 2003-04 Carol Houck Smith fiction fellow at the Wisconsin Institute of Creative Writing and a 2002 Hurston Wright Award finalist, has published in numerous literary magazines such as *African Voices*, *Carve Magazine*, *The Maryland Review*, *Moon City Review*, *Obsidian II*, *Passages North*, *Phoebe* and *Struggle*.

"I just had the pleasure of hearing Jacinda read at the Devil's Kitchen Literary Festival, and she was wonderful," said English Associate Professor Peggy Davis.

Her work has been anthologized in **Surreal South**, **O. Henry Festival Stories 2000** and **Telling Stories: Fiction by Kentucky Feminists**. A former Fulbright fellow to Cote d'Ivoire and graduate of Harvard University and the Iowa Writers Workshop, she teaches at SIUC. / November '07

■ MID-CONTINENT MEANS BUSINESS

Mid-Continent University announced plans to bring its sixth Bachelor's Degree program to the Ina campus of Rend Lake College . . . a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management. / November '07

■ ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY STRING QUARTET

A string quartet from the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra will be performing for one night only Monday, February 25, at Rend Lake College. The performance is free to attend and is made possible by Cultural Events at RLC.

The Saint Louis Symphony String

Quartet will perform the music of Mozart, Haydn and more.

The guest musicians are sponsored by the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra's Community Partnership Program which presents close to 300 free education and community programs each year throughout the St. Louis region. / February '08

■ AMERICAN POET RODNEY JONES

Celebrated American poet Rodney Jones, an Alabama native, will be reading from his works at Rend Lake College at noon, Friday, February 29, in the Student Center Dining Room.

Jones received a B.A. in English from the University of Alabama in 1971 and an MFA from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1973, where he won the Academy of American Poets Prize. He has published nine books of poetry, including **Transparent Gestures**, winner of the 1990 National Book Critics Circle Award; **Elegy for the Southern Drawl**, a finalist for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize, and **Salvation Blues**, winner of the 2007 Kingsley Tufts Prize and shortlisted for the International Griffin Poetry Prize.

Other awards include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation, the Lavan Younger Poets Prize from the Academy of American Poets and the Jean Stein Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He has taught at Virginia Intermont College, University of Cincinnati and, since 1985, at SIU-Carbondale, where he is a Professor of English and Distinguished Scholar. / February '08

■ JESSE WHITE TUMBLING TEAM

Rend Lake College will be the honored host to Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White this weekend as he is scheduled to visit the college with his Tumblers on Sunday during the RLC Cheer, Dance and Tumble Exhibition.

The first such event Sunday afternoon, March 2, will include a special appearance by the internationally renowned Jesse White Tumbling Team.

The acrobatic team has been thrilling audiences since 1959. Their performances have been enjoyed during halftime shows for the National Basketball Association, the National Football League and Major League Baseball games. The group also entertains at business and sporting events year-round, including colleges and universities nationwide.

The RLC Cheer, Dance and Tumble Exhibition will showcase the best cheer, dance and tumbling teams in Southern Illinois. Up to \$2,000 in RLC scholarships will be given away to eligible high school seniors. There will be individual competi-

tion in all age groups with prizes being awarded. / March '08

■ HARRIS BRINGS LIFE TO TUBMAN

Everyone is welcome to learn more about the amazing life of Harriet Tubman as seen through the eyes of performer Kathryn M. Harris at 1 p.m. Friday, April 4, in the Rend Lake College Theatre.

According to RLC History Instructor Henry Leeck, Harris both dresses the part and speaks the part. She will discuss Tubman's life from birth through death, and relate tales of her work with the Underground Railroad, her marriage as a slave and her family.

"She has done her homework. She knows Harriet," said Leeck.

Born Araminta Ross, a slave, Tubman escaped from slavery in the South to become a leading abolitionist before the American Civil War. She led hundreds of bondsmen to freedom in the North along the route of the Underground Railroad – an elaborate secret network of safe houses organized for that purpose. / April '08

■ 'BEHIND BARBED WIRE' EXHIBIT

Hardly anyone alive today is aware the first U.S. troops sent to fight in World War II came from the Upper Midwest, or that the region's 34th "Red Bull" Division served the longest uninterrupted duty in U.S. military history – about 600 days. Even fewer know some 1,800 mostly Midwest soldiers serving in North Africa were captured one night in February 1943, until the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 the most U.S. POWs in Nazi-German camps came, per capita, from the same region.

"Behind Barbed Wire," touring seven Midwest states in the spring and summer of 2008 – including Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan – explores the experiences of Midwest prisoners of war (POWs) who were imprisoned in Hitler's Third Reich, and the human context in which their experiences took place.

The St. Paul-based, non-profit educational organization TRACES created this exhibit. Housed in a converted school bus, it will reach nearly 120 schools, libraries and historical societies along the way.

The BUS-eum will be on the Rend Lake College campus in Ina from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, April 7. / April '08

■ POVERTY WORKSHOP

Rend Lake College will present "A Framework for Understanding Poverty Workshop" on the Ina campus June 12-13. It will be led by Dr. Bethanie Tucker of AHA Process, Inc., in Highland, TX.

The workshop is targeted at principals, counselors, social workers and classroom teachers.

Day One will cover: 12 key points in understanding poverty, resources and case studies, registers of language, story structure, cognitive development, family structure, hidden rules, discipline interventions and building relationships.

Day Two will go into depth on the "Structures of Learning: The What, The Why and The How." It also includes mental models; vocabulary, math, and reading strategies; lesson design, and question-making as a means to develop cognition in learners. / June '08

2008-09

■ WRITER GEOFF SCHMIDT

Award-winning writer Geoff Schmidt will read at Rend Lake College October 17 as part of the college's Fall Cultural Events lineup.

Schmidt has an MFA Degree in Creative Writing (Fiction) and specializes in Creative Writing, Contemporary Fiction, Twentieth-Century American Fiction and Popular Literature, including Graphic Novels. He is the Co-Editor of *Sou'wester*.

His publications include **Write Your Heart Out: Advice from the Moon Winx Motel** (Smallmouth Press, 2000) and works in fiction appearing in numerous publications. He has been recipient of a Literary Award from the Illinois Arts Council and nominated for five Pushcart Awards.

The reading is sponsored by the Liberal Arts Cultural Committee. / October '08

■ POETS SINCLAIR, LIEBLER

WHITTINGTON – Two men known throughout the world for their gripping, propelling poetry recently brought their beat to Southern Illinois with a tour stop at Pheasant Hollow Winery.

John Sinclair and ML Liebler appeared with Detroit musicians RJ Spangler and Jef Reynolds as part of the Fall 2008 Beats at the Local Library Tour and Rend Lake College's fall cultural events lineup through Professor Peggy Davis.

Detroit native-turned-Amsterdam resident Sinclair is the man who has been called "The Last of the Beatnik Warrior Poets" and who John Lennon was talking about when he sang "You gotta set him free" in the song "John Sinclair."

Populist poet Liebler opened with some of the work this "working class son of a factory worker who traveled the world" has written and read in cities from Detroit to Israel. He is now the Senior Lecturer in the College of Liberal Arts and Science at Wayne State University. / October '08

2009-10

■ OFFICIAL I.C.C.B. VISIT JULY 15-16

An official Illinois Community College Board Visit to the Rend Lake College campus is planned July 15-16. / July '09

2011-12

■ LT. GOV. SHEILA SIMON VISITS

One week after Rend Lake College's record-setting commencement, Lt. Governor Sheila Simon visited the college on her Complete College Tour – a mission to gather best practices relating to completion at colleges across the state.

Simon announced her goals for Illinois earlier this year. She plans to increase working adults with a college degree or certificate from 41 to 60 percent. Simon's tour plans to include stops at all 48 Illinois community colleges. Rend Lake College was the 15th stop on the tour. / May '11

2012-13

■ I.C.C.B. 'MILLION REASON' MARCH

Rend Lake College students, faculty, staff and administrators joined other colleges Friday night (August 24) at the DuQuoin State Fair Parade to support the Illinois Community College Board's new campaign, "A Million Reasons Why."

The Illinois Community College System is the third-largest in America, educates 65 percent of higher education students in Illinois each year and serves 1 million students annually. / August '12

■ I.W.I.B. MEETS ON INA CAMPUS

The Illinois Workforce Investment Board meeting September 13 at Rend Lake College featured more than 30 leaders in the public and private sectors talking about the state's economy and workforce initiatives, as well as goals to network businesses, employer associations, education partners and other stakeholders.

Board members welcomed Illinois Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon as a guest. RLC President Terry Wilkerson thanked the board for coming and invited those in attendance to tour the campus after the meeting.

"We really value the relationships we have with area employers," said Wilkerson. "The college is privileged to be the setting where so many representatives from the public and private sector come together to learn about the status of Illinois' workforce and economy, and plan measures for growth. Rend Lake College is eager and well-positioned to do its part to help them reach those goals."

Centralia Mayor Tom Ashby is IWIB Chair and has been a member for more than a decade. According to Ashby, it was one of the best turnouts for an IWIB meeting since he joined.

"This was the first Southern Illinois meeting in quite a few years for the board," Ashby said. "I thank the college, its board and President Terry Wilkerson for the opportunity to hold it at Rend Lake College, and I commend them for

addressing emerging training needs in Southern Illinois."

The IWIB is made up of representatives from universities, colleges, high schools, government agencies, private companies and more. Some of the employers represented Thursday at the college included UPS, John Deere, Caterpillar and Kraft Foods. State agencies represented included the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, with Director David Vaught and his staff at the table, and the Illinois Department of Labor, with Director Joe Costigan and his staff participating.

"We are a board that develops training programs to strengthen the state of Illinois' workforce system and economic development," Ashby explained. "We have many different partnerships in the public and private sectors." / September '12

■ M.V.P.D. DONATES SQUAD CAR

The Mt. Vernon Police Department recently donated its second squad car in just over two years to Rend Lake College, according to the December 27 edition of *The Clocktower Chronicle*.

MVPD Chief Chris Mendenhall described the donation as a "great car . . . While no longer meeting the force's needs, it should be perfect for patrols at the college." Accepting the much-appreciated vehicle were RLC President Terry Wilkerson and campus Chief of Police Gary McGill. / December '12

2013-14

■ RUN TO REMEMBER, HELP OTHERS

Members of the Benton Consolidated High School Class of 1993 are looking to get together, have fun and raise money for scholarships for future students, and what better way than to partner with the Rend Lake College Foundation to host a 5K Fun Run/Walk and Kid's Run.

The event is scheduled to begin with registration at 8 a.m. Saturday, October 5, at RLC's Hitting Zone at the Ina campus. The race itself will start at 9 a.m.

Cindy Ward, one of the organizers and a BCHS 1993 graduate, said the Fun Run is open to everyone, from walkers to runners of all ages, and even those with strollers. There also will be a one-mile Kid's Run for those ages 12 and younger.

"We were getting ready for our 20-year class reunion and we were thinking about what we wanted to do," said Ward. "Right now, there are so many people active in 5Ks, so we thought, why don't we do something fun like that? All of the money raised will honor three of our classmates who have passed away."

Of the three fallen classmates – Josh Odom, Ann Parker and Tammy Shock-

ley – two had attended RLC. Ward said putting together scholarships to honor the classmates would be a great way to remember them.

“The money we raise will be used as scholarship money for three 2014 BCHS grads who will attend RLC in the fall of 2014,” added Ward. / July '13

■ ATTORNEY GENERAL VISITS

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan was on the Rend Lake College campus Friday, August 23, to discuss credit fraud and identity theft during a Roundtable event before a room full of economic developers, law enforcement personnel, municipal employees and senior services representatives. / August '13

■ FIRE BRIGADE CONTEST RETURNS

Murray Energy Corporation hosted its second successful Fire Brigade Inner-Company Midwest Regional Contest this week at Rend Lake College's Coal Mine Training Center, with several mock events for three Midwest mines.

Jeff Wirth, Corporate Safety Director for Murray Energy Corp., said he is glad to be back at RLC. “This is a very good training facility, and the training offered here is outstanding. The staff has been excellent in helping organize this contest, and we plan on coming back every year,” he said.

During the three-day contest, nine teams from Murray Energy Corp. competed for a seat in the National Contest in September. The teams come from three mines, American Coal's New Future and New Era mines, both of Galatia, and Ken-America Mine of Kentucky. Winners will travel to Morgantown, WV, on September 20 to face off against winners of the East and West Regional contests.

In the Coal Mine Training Center, the teams raced against the clock and each other to complete a number of stations and problems, including lifelike fire scenarios. / August '13

■ I.C.E. FAIR ASSISTS STUDENTS

The Illinois College Exposition (ICE) Fair returns to Rend Lake College September 17, giving area students the chance to meet with representatives from more than 40 colleges and universities.

The free event will start at 6 p.m. in the RLC Waugh Gymnasium and will last until 7:30. Parents and students are welcome to attend.

The ICE Fair, sponsored by the Illinois Association of College Admission Counseling (IACAC), is one in a series of regional college fairs throughout the state. It is a great opportunity to gather information, ask questions and learn about options for the student's post-secondary education.

Institutions to be represented at the ICE Fair include: Benedictine University at Springfield, Blackburn College, Bradley University, Columbia College, Columbia College - Chicago, Dominican University, Eastern Illinois University, Eureka College, Fontbonne University, George Williams College of Aurora University, Greenville College, Illinois College, Illinois Institute of Art, Illinois State University, Illinois Student Assistant Commission, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis, Lincoln Christian University, Lincoln College - Normal, Linn State Technical College.

Also, MacMurray College, McKendree University, Methodist College, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Murray State University, New School of Architecture and Design, Olivet Nazarene University, Quincy University, Ranken Technical College, Rend Lake College, Southeast Missouri State University, Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, SIU - Edwardsville, St. Louis College of Pharmacy, St. Louis University, University of Evansville, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Illinois at Springfield, University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign, University of Missouri - St. Louis, University of Southern Indiana, Webster University, Westminster College, William Woods University. / September '13

■ JINGLE BELL RUN, WALK AND MORE

The Eighth Annual Jingle Bell Run and Walk for Arthritis is getting caught up in the holiday spirit with the Snowman Stroll, Reindeer Run and 5K, slated Saturday, December 7, at Rend Lake College.

Participants can help the sponsoring Arthritis Foundation raise money and stay active in the winter months by partaking in four events – a 5K Run or Walk (9 a.m.), the one-mile Snowman Stroll (8:45 a.m.) or a Reindeer Run for children (10:10 a.m.).

Laura Johnston, event organizer and RLC Aquatics Center Coordinator, said the event has helped raise over \$90,000 since it was first hosted by Rend Lake College in 2006. Last year, participants contributed \$13,518 to the Arthritis Foundation.

“This event raises awareness of America's leading cause of disability, while raising funds for research, health education and government advocacy to improve the lives of people with arthritis,” Johnson commented. / November '13

2014-15

■ BIG TRUCKS AND WARRIOR FEST

The whole family is invited to spend the day at Rend Lake College for the first Warrior Fest this fall. The event, scheduled for Saturday, October 18, will feature

a Car Show, Flea Market and children's activities galore across the Ina campus.

Craft and flea market vendors are invited to register for the event, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the west parking lot.

Registration for the Car Show – which was conducted a year ago on-campus and attracted 80-plus cars and trucks – starts at 10 a.m. in the east parking lot, with judging beginning at 11 a.m. More than a dozen awards will be presented, including Best of Show, President's Choice, Best Car, Best Truck, Best Paint, Best Motor, Best Interior and Most Original.

Headlining the children's activities, hosted by the RLC Foundation Children's Center, will be Big Truck Day. A number of big trucks, heavy equipment and machinery will be on hand. Also featured will be an Open House, a petting zoo by Franklin County Ag in the Classroom and several inflatables. / July '14

■ LIVING COLOR

Students and staff from Rend Lake College manned a station Saturday, August 2, at the United Way of Jefferson County's “Living Color Living United” 5K Run in Mt. Vernon. RLC sponsored the color red at its station. Participants were doused with different colors as they passed through the various stations along the fund-raising route. / August '14

■ CLINICAL CONSULTANT VISITS

Clinical Consultant Barbara T. Doyle spent August 7-8 on the Rend Lake College campus sharing with more than 80 community members, college faculty and staff about promoting the mental health of children and adults with disabilities.

Her two workshops were sponsored by RLC and the South Central Illinois Area Health Education Center (SCI-AHEC).

The first workshop, titled “Becoming the Instrument of Change,” addressed tips and techniques to help participants become better communicators with those who have disabilities.

“Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives” promoted mental health in children and adults with autism, intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Doyle brings more than 40 years of professional experience, as well as personal knowledge with five family members with disabilities. She is a nationally known teacher, presenter and author who delivers “ready to apply” information with humor and humanity.

The topics of mental health and communication are “incredibly interwoven,” she said. “The ability to communicate effectively is extremely important when it comes to mentally healthy thinking.” / August '14

Dream-on! If only we had \$1 million . . .

GRANTS, STATE / FEDERAL FUNDING HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES

If your interest in the history of Rend Lake College takes you all the way back to the early days – the mid- to late-1960s and even before that – then you should relate well to The Millionaire.

The original reality show? If memory serves correctly, with a considerable assist from google.com, a gentleman (Michael Anthony) would show up at someone's front door each week and present the lucky individual with \$1 million from an anonymous source. Apparently, Mr. Who-Done-It, John Beresford Tipton, indulged himself by giving away \$188M over five seasons (tax free from 1955-60!) to people he had never met in order to explore how sudden wealth changes everything for better or worse.

A life-changing amount back then, no doubt.

If the Rend Lake College of off-campus MarketPlaces, Dual Credit graduates, Wireless Communications – the 21st Century variety which recently re-entered the underworld of Coal Mining – is more to your liking, then we would ask the ultimate question, Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?

The apparent answer must be Everyman, based on the excitement generated by contestants fortunate enough to have the opportunity to "earn" said amount by answering a few other questions correctly; help may even be a phone call away.

A million bucks may not be what it used to be, but you could not prove it by the reactions of TV game show winners. In some cases, all they have to prove is: Are You Smarter Than a Fifth-Grader?

So, without any real-life experiences to draw from, can we safely assume \$1 million has been and always will be a tidy sum of money?

Noteworthy, for sure. Even in the life of a comprehensive community college, circa 1967 or 2016, and anywhere in-between.

★★★ ★★ ★★

Herein are Million Dollar Babies in the life of Rend Lake College. This is not meant to be a comprehensive list, by any means, but one of significant events, programs, additions, et al. Some are representative of many others.

Grants and State of Illinois and Federal funding are the major benefactors.

Consider the impact grants have made for many years on the institution, its students and staff. Take the 1991-92 academic year, for example . . .

Rend Lake College was rewarded for five years of persistence with its first Federal Title III "Strengthening Institutions" Grant from the Department of Education. The anticipated five-year, \$1.5 million award, assuming available funding in Years 2-5, was worth \$346,731 toward improving the college's campus-wide Management Information System (computers), implementation of a computer-assisted basic skills program and expanding and diversifying its financial base with a fortified fund-raising office (RLC Foundation).

The Child Care Resource and Referral program, "Project CHILD," had one successful year already to its credit – it is still going strong today – and received \$147,619 through the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. CCR&R provides referral services for parents seeking certified care in a 12-county region (all to the north and east of the Project CHILD home base in Mt. Vernon), training for child care providers, assistance in starting new child care facilities and collection/analysis of child care information in the region.

There was \$62,000 for the third year of the Higher Education Cooperation Act (HECA) "Project First Class," funded by the Board of Higher Education to raise academic skills and improve self-esteem of minority students in Mt. Vernon schools while encouraging and better preparing them for college. It did so by utilizing tutors, parental development, role-modeling and both academic and enrichment activities. HECA funds usually are available for only a few years, but Project Director Camille Jones continued to oversee this worthy project for another 10 years before resources finally were denied.

The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), sponsored through the Illinois Farmers Union Training, Inc., was funded at \$116,892 in its fifth year. This project prepared youth and unskilled adults for entry into the labor force and afforded job training to economically disadvantaged individuals and others facing serious barriers to employment. Staff

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RLC Work-Study student job 'interview' impressive

REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. JUNE 1995

A Cooperative Education work-study experience for one Rend Lake College student could result in employment in Phoenix, AZ, if she chooses to follow through on a recent job offer.

According to RLC Director of Cooperative Education and Job Placement Rex Duncan, Heather Ludwig of Benton may benefit even more than most from her part-time position with the Southern Illinois Arts and Crafts Marketplace.

Ludwig, employed under the Illinois Cooperative Work-Study Grant which helps pay some of her salary, waited on a customer who was quite impressed last week. After learning Ludwig would be transferring in Art Business to the University of Arizona, the customer told the 19-year-old student she was an administrator for the Phoenix Zoo.

"The lady was so impressed with her knowledge and ability to wait on customers she told her, 'You have a job waiting for you there if you so desire. We want people like you working for us,'" Duncan recalled.

Ludwig, a Dean's List student, was a member of the RLC Student Senate and a Warrior Cheerleader the past year. A former state champ and national finalist in baton-twirling, she graduated from St. Charles H.S. before moving to Benton. "We would like to think Heather is typical of many of our Co-op students," Duncan said. "She is doing an outstanding job as a part-time employee and it could really pay off for her."



RLC Early School Leaver program one of the best

NEWS RELEASE FALL 1993

The Early School Leaver Program at Rend Lake College is serving its district more effectively than any program in the state except for one, according to statistical information released recently by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Only Illinois Central College, which serves the heavily populated Peoria area, works with more clients than does the Ina-based ESL program, headed by Coordinator Ed Ruffino and Specialist Rich Campbell.

Twenty programs statewide helped a total of 745 participants during FY93, with 596 of those finding employment (80%) and earning \$1,508,067 in unsubsidized wages.

At RLC, 39 of the 44 area residents served (89%) were employed, earning \$108,583 in wages. That includes 14 participants who completed their GED – the high school equivalency exam – and eight who entered post-secondary education programs through the college. The eight RLC participants entering post-secondary education programs compare very favorably to just 42 others who chose to do likewise around the rest of the state combined. The 14 local GED completers account for 11.1% of the 126 participants statewide completing their secondary level of education through an ESL program.

And if the first half of FY94 is any indication, the trend will continue. Once again, Ruffino

(Continued at far right on next page)

accounted for all but \$9,500 of the yearly total, including Director Paula (Castagna) Myers, six other full-time employees and four other part-time positions.

JTPA funding and personnel have declined considerably over the years, yet Myers still heads the program which eventually evolved into the Workforce Investment Act.

Perhaps the longest-running grant in RLC history, the Early School Leaver (ESL) program, was in its 20th year. It was funded for \$55,209 through the Illinois State Board of Education - Department of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education (DAVTE). The ESL program assisted 16 to 24-year-old dropouts in re-entering school. Services provided include assessment, counseling, placement in appropriate academic and vocational classes and part-time job placement.

All told in FY92, a total of 21 grants and outside contracts brought in an additional \$1,821,480 and accounted for 29 full-time positions and another 88 part-time jobs.

That compared to 22 competitive grants amounting to \$1,146,958 the previous year (FY91). New grants never before funded totaled \$307,000 in FY90.

A mere three years later (FY95), those totals were up to \$3,738,222 in funding for 40 grants providing for 53 full-time and 86 part-time positions.

The RLC Grant Class of '95 was headed by a \$500,000 matching Title III Challenge Grant and included new grants AmeriCorps "ChildCorps" at \$255,000 for the year, the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market Distance Learning Grant for \$177,000, the Teen Parents project at \$99,999 and a \$35,000 planning grant which would result the next year in the "AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois" project.

Ongoing monies funneled through RLC year after year also include the likes of Adult Education, Literacy and other public assistance programs; Carl Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act - Title II, which strengthens targeted programs with equipment and support services for special populations; Department of Corrections educational programs,

and small business economic development support.

Numbers had almost tripled from FY92 to FY2002, with 53 grants by then bringing in \$5,188,526 in outside resources. Among those grants in 2001-02 – AmeriCorps (\$492,837) and AmeriCorps Southern Seven (\$152,900); a second Title III "Strengthening Institutions" Grant in Year Five, \$325,341; CCR&R, \$275,169; the fifth year of the Title IV STARS program, \$241,575; Upward Bound, Year Three, \$234,131; Teen Parent Services, \$181,000; Future Focus, \$175,000; Cooperative Education Work-Study, \$91,200.

All that said, it may be a number of years before anything compares to 2007-08 (FY08).

Eighteen grants/contracts of \$100,000 or more, 32 overall, added up to \$7,854,860 from outside resources.

Credit the comeback of King Coal for a sizable share of that total, including a \$1,622,155 Federal Department of Labor Community-Based Job Training award to educate the workforce in Coal Mining Technology and a \$1,072,500 State Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Illinois Coal Competitiveness Program to construct a Coal Mining Training Facility.

Another \$755,880 from the Illinois Department of Corrections is divided for inmate programs at Big Muddy River Correctional Center across Interstate 57 in Ina and Pinckneyville Correctional Center.

The National Science Foundation awarded \$500,000 in Fall 2007 to Rend Lake College for the two-year college's participation in a grant project with Missouri State University (Springfield) and its Viticulture and Enology Science and Technology Alliance (VESTA). Viticulture is the study of grapes and vineyards; enology is the study of wine and the making of wine. RLC will offer online courses which lead to an Associate Degree or Occupational Certificates in this curricula as the only school in Illinois selected to participate in this grant opportunity.

"We have seen rapid growth in recent years throughout Illinois and the entire Midwest in the grape and wine industry," said RLC Biology Associate Professor Steve

WISE INVESTMENTS

1967 - 1968

1968 - 1969

1969 - 1970

Holman. "Our goal is to supply this industry with well-trained and, preferably, local individuals to serve in all aspects of the industry . . . from grape-cultivating to raising your own vineyard, to grape and wine chemistry and starting your own winery business."

Volunteer participants statewide in 2007-08 shared almost all of \$529,200 in AmeriCorps funding for living allowances and educational awards upon completion.

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Perhaps no college in the nation has benefited more from Title III "Strengthening Institution" Federal Grants than Rend Lake College, nor has a better story to tell . . . with a happy ending.

At least twice in 48 years, college officials have made the decision to go with outside consultants to achieve desired goals and the end results have been ultra-successful.

(The other occasion was when college administrators selected Clements & Associates – founded in 1986 by C. Ray Clements and known today as The Clements Group, L.C. – to provide much of the know-how and assist the RLC Foundation, recently established as a full-time support organization thanks to the first Title III award in 1991, in its first major fund-raising campaign.)

Unsuccessful since 1987 in four previous attempts to secure a "Strengthening Institutions" Grant, RLC Director of Planning and Resource Development Bob Ross convinced college officials to let him work with Consultant Ramona Munsell, who had worked with several Title III recipients previously.

A five-year, \$1.5 million Title III award followed almost immediately in 1991. That led to a campus-wide improvement in the Management Information System, establishment of a full-time Resource and Development Office (the nonprofit RLC Foundation) and a computerized Developmental Skills Center.

The new, improved RLC Foundation, with a major tip of the hat to Consultant Sue Feamster, Owner C. Ray Clements and Clements and Associates, likewise was able to add an additional \$500,000 gift to its coffers thanks to a matching 2-for-1 grant. (The overall fund drive netted \$2 million in the next 2 1/2 years.)

Here is where it really gets interesting.

The first year the college was eligible to apply again, following the required year without Title III funds, all three readers awarded the new proposal by Ross & Co.

perfect scores of 100. No other application was even close.

The catch: No funding was available for new programs that year. Perfection on one hand, zero in the other. The timing could not have been worse.

However, in 1997, a total of 15 grants were awarded to new programs, from a total of 450 applications nationwide.

Rend Lake College's perfect 300 "game" was one of two "Strengthening Institutions" grants given to Illinois institutions. Belleville Area College landed the other.

The Title III sequel targeted two major activities: Critical Interventions to Increase Student Success in Activity I; Activity II emphasizes Curriculum Improvement and Program Evaluation in five vocational-technical areas – Agriculture, Nursing, Industrial Technology, Architecture and Office Systems Technology – and creation of a Faculty Development Center.

The funding meant approximately \$600,000 for state-of-the-art equipment purchases, with most of the remainder going toward new personnel, both full- and part-time, faculty stipends and benefits.

Even Munsell, who had made a living in recent years off Title III success stories, was nearly speechless when Rend Lake College and Director of Resource Development Trudee Wynn landed No. 3 in 2004.

"Unbelievable," exclaimed Munsell.

The largest "Strengthening Institutions" grant for RLC – five years, \$1.8 million – enabled the creation of a full-scale Wireless Communication Degree and Certificate program.

Included was a matching, 1-for-1 Endowment Option, which would mean another \$1 million for the RLC Foundation as long as \$73,000 annually was raised throughout the five-year duration of the award and the designated investment funds were left untouched for 20 years.

Illinois received two of 53 Title III grants awarded nationally, from a total of 260 eligible applications submitted. Prairie State College in Chicago Heights shared that distinction with Rend Lake College.

"Why have we been successful the last three times in a row?" President Mark S. Kern posed a very good question. "For one, we have a staff that comes up with good ideas and good programs. We also have a very good grants writer in Trudee Wynn (and Ross before her) and a very good consultant (Munsell). Put those three together

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ESL program (cont.)

and Campbell are helping RLC serve 44 participants, second only to the 57 total for ICC. Of the RLC total, 37 individuals have been placed at work sites – five of whom have been promoted to new positions recently – and had returned \$59,961 as of December 31, 1993, at the midpoint of the fiscal year. Salaries of those employed range from \$4.25-\$7 per hour.

No other program in the state presently boasts more than the eight RLC students who are enrolled in post-secondary education programs.

"Credit also should be given to several others on campus," noted Ruffino. "We work very closely with the Skills Center staff, including (Director) Barbara Bauernfeind, the GED people and Mary Kelso in testing. They are very important to our program's success."

Twelve of the 20 Early School Leaver programs in Illinois are located on community college campuses.

P.S. The Rend Lake College ESL program was funded beginning with the 1971-72 academic year (FY72) through 1997-98 . . . 26 years.

ESL funding from the Illinois State Board of Education averaged around \$55,000 annually the last 10 years. Even if that average was only \$35,000 the first 16 years, total funding easily would exceed \$1 million over the years.

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Upward program 2012 grads: 78% RLC-bound

NEWS RELEASE JUNE 6, 2012

Of the high school graduates who participated in the Upward Bound program in 2012, all are planning to attend college, with 78 percent of those planning to attend Rend Lake College.



Early School Leaver's Kays likes treatment as an adult

NEWS RELEASE 1977

Educational opportunities offered by Rend Lake College through its Early School Leaver program, directed by Mike McClure, have provided many students with a chance to earn a GED Certificate (high school equivalency) and continue their education in college classes even though they discontinued their high school education at one time.

One of these students is 18-year-old Sheila Kays, from Benton, who says if it were not for the RLC program she would have remained one of many frustrated students who for one reason or another leave high school.

One of the program's main goals is to offer students a successful learning experience that will influence them to go on with their education. The main ingredient which has made the program a success, according to Instructor Pam Sharp, is the emphasis placed on individual instruction. The sequence of study included consists of math, grammar, social studies, science, literature and a review of the Illinois Constitution.

A student's areas of study are geared to individual needs, according to Sharp.

When Kays started, she quickly discovered the atmosphere was going to be much different than it was for her in high school. "One of the best things is that you are treated like an adult," she said. "Since I enrolled last spring, I have

(Continued at far right on next page)

and that is why we were successful again."

Kern would be the first to admit RLC's friends in high places played major roles, also. That would include Congressman Glenn Poshard and U.S. Senators Paul Simon and Alan Dixon in 1991; U.S. Representatives Poshard and John M. Shimkus and U.S. Senators Carol Moseley-Braun and Richard "Dick" Durbin in 1997; Shimkus and fellow Congressman Jerry Costello and Senators Durbin and Peter Fitzgerald in 2004, in particular.

That is \$1.5 million, plus \$1.6 million, plus \$1.8 million or \$4.9 million total. But do not forget the first \$500,000 matching grant. And even a pessimist would admit the most recent Endowment Option match brings another \$365,000 to the table (\$73,000 x 5); the realist would look to the eventual \$1 million windfall (minus the \$365,000 raised) and add \$635,000 to the total.

Take your pick: Three "unbelievable" Title III "Strengthening Institutions" Federal Higher Education Act Grants and two supplementary bonus packages add up to \$5,765,000, the worst-case scenario, or \$6,035,000, at best.

Not a bad either/or perspective. Not even the end of the story, as it turns out.

Fast-forward to 2013.

If Title III Grant No. 3 was "unbelievable," according to the consultant, how should we describe Title III Grant No. 4? "Heart-healthy," maybe, because you have got to love it!

A "healthy choice," for sure. More wealth means better health . . . for Rend Lake College . . . its students . . . the community that benefits . . . and the economy as a whole.

In September 2013, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Rend Lake College a Title III "Strengthening Institutions" Pathways to Success in Health Careers Grant – approximately \$449,000 for the first year of an anticipated five-year period, for a total of \$2,249,833.

Components are expected to include the establishment of a Health Studies Success Center and a new Anatomy and Physiology Lab, development of a new Health Studies advising and tutoring systems and revisions

to the Practical Nursing program curricula and Anatomy and Physiology I and II course curricula, a cure-all expected to produce an increase in the number of Health Studies degrees and certificates awarded, as well as an increase in overall enrollment and enrollment-based revenue.

Perhaps more importantly, positively impacting the state's current ranking as one of the five states in the nation with the greatest shortage of healthcare professionals.



We may never know how many young people literally had their lives changed by grant-funded programs such as Early School Leaver, Project First Class, Teen Parent Services and In-Focus / Keep-Focused, et al.

Or how many college-aged students could not have made it through or not discovered what route to take without the help of Cooperative Education Work-Study, Upward Bound, Job Training Partnership Act, AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois / Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps and Teen Parent Services, among others?

The ability to improve one's chances for employment, getting a college education when it seemed out of the question and brightening entire families' outlook on life past and present can be attributed to Family Investment Centers and Family Literacy projects, out-sourcing education through off-campus sites such as the RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Center and a new generation of qualified workers for a revived Coal Mining Technology industry in Southern Illinois and surrounding communities.



Community-Based Job Training – Mining Technology / Welding Grant

2007-08	\$1,622,155
2008-09	\$1,622,155
2009-10	\$1,622,155
2010-11	\$1,622,155
2011-12	\$1,622,155
2012-13	

Funding to train workforce in Coal Mining Technology and Welding Technology

1970 – 1971

1971 – 1972

1972 – 1973

1991 / M.I.S., SKILLS CENTER, FOUNDATION TO PROSPER Five-year 'team effort' results in \$1.5M Title III Grant

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 12, 1991

Services to students, both present and future, should be greatly enhanced by a federal Title III Grant of nearly \$1.5 million which has been awarded to Rend Lake College, according to jubilant administrators who received official notification of the funding in the past week.

The application, submitted under the U.S. Department of Education's "Strengthening Institutions" Program, will enable Rend Lake College to implement a computer-assisted basic skills program, improve a campus-wide computer-based management information system and expand and diversify its financial base during a time of rising costs and declining resources.

It is for \$346,731 the first year, beginning October 1, and for approximately \$1,458,070 covering a four-year period.

Funding after the first year is considered very likely, but it does depend on continuing success of the program and Congressional appropriations.

"We could not be more delighted," admitted Interim President Keith R. Lape. "This will allow us to continue to move forward in some areas we might not otherwise have been able to at the present time due to the uncertainty of the budget situation."

The award is appreciated even more because college officials have tried for Title III funding each year since 1987. During the past year, it became a pet project of Dr. Jonathan Astroth, former president who left in June to become the first president at the new Heartland Community College in Bloomington-Normal.

"Special thanks should go to Jon for the high priority he placed on the project and the skills he provided in helping to improve the application, but it took a real 'team effort' on the part of many people on campus," added Dr. Lape. He praised the work of Bob Ross, Director of Resource Development, Research and Planning, and Jean Estes, Executive Secretary to the President, in particular, on the 230-page document.

"We are quite appreciative of the opportunity to be able to submit a proposal for consideration and for the federal financial support for education available to us," Lape commented. "The efforts of Congressman Glenn Poshard and our U.S. Senators (Paul

Simon and Alan Dixon) also played a major role in our receiving the funding."

Only 57 "Strengthening Institutions" Title III Grants were awarded nationally from 459 applicants. Another Southern Illinois community college, Shawnee in nearby Ullin, also is recipient of 1991 funding.

"These institutions are important players in our efforts to make progress in Southern Illinois, and I am pleased to have helped make this funding possible," Poshard said.

"The economy in Southern Illinois dictates that we have high-quality, affordable educational opportunities for our people. The needs of students from a wide range of ages and backgrounds demands innovative approaches. Rend Lake College and Shawnee Community College are working hard to meet those challenges, and I congratulate them on successfully competing for this funding," concluded Poshard.

Two of the three Rend Lake College activities under the grant project have immediate, direct impact on students. The third is more indirect, with results showing up for years to come.

But Dr. Lape added, "Even those activities that may seem short-term initially can have long-term effects in building systems for communications with the college and with students. All three activities will help strengthen all aspects of the college."

One activity will permit implementation of a computer-based basic skills program in mathematics, reading and writing. Individualized courses will be supported by instructional technology to more effectively serve the large proportion of students needing to strengthen basic skills. The outcome will be to improve the college's ability to retain and prepare high-risk students for college-level courses.

"As a college, we've done a lot in this area already, but there is considerably more we can still do," commented Lape.

Development and implementation of the MIS system "gives us the impetus necessary to move into the 21st Century." The system will provide accurate, timely and cost-effective information for management, planning and student support services. In addition to the acquisition and installation of computer hardware and software, it provides for the training of employees.

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ESL's adults (cont.)

enjoyed the learning environment offered and the attitudes of the instructors."

There are many reasons students are unable to complete high school. For Kays, she fell far behind in class work after missing several class days due to illness.

At the time she was a junior. Soon after leaving school, she discovered a high school diploma was very valuable. "There was no way I could get a job and I found myself sitting home, bored to death," she said.

Since starting in the ESL program, Kays has made plans to obtain her GED and then continue her education as a Secretarial Science major at the college. For her, the program already has made a big difference in her future and she openly admits her gratitude.

Sharp has had about 50 students complete the GED program, many of whom are now enrolled in college classes.

"Students come from a variety of backgrounds and have had their educations interrupted for a variety of reasons. The one thing they all have in common is their honest desire to learn."

Besides what takes place inside the classroom, a major part of the program is the assistance and encouragement given for students to find jobs. Once employment is located, the college works closely with employers to develop additional training through the RLC Vocational-Technical staff.

"There is no way this could work without close attention focused on the needs of each student," McClure added.

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Governor Grant enables RLC to establish BRAC

NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 19, 1983
 Rend Lake College will establish a Business Resource and Assistance Center in the very near future as a result of a \$15,000 grant through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. College officials received notification their proposal will be funded for FY83 under the Governor's Grant Programs. "Basically, the center will be established to provide training and educational programs for businesses and industries within our district," RLC Vocational-Technical Dean Carroll Turner said. The six-month grant will enable RLC to survey area businesses and industries as to their educational and training needs and to establish a program of work for the center so it might become self-sufficient, hopefully within two years. A part-time employee will be hired to man the center and lay the initial groundwork. RLC was one of 15 recipients from 33 grant applications.

First \$1.5m Title III Grant four years in making (cont.)

Resource development is addressed in the broad sense that includes institutional advancement and development, public and private grant writing, alumni development and extensive training of faculty, staff and RLC Foundation Board members. Foundation student scholarships and endowment funds should especially benefit.

"This is another area in which we already have made great strides, but this should enable us to get even more people involved in the work of the RLC Foundation," said Lape.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 1994

The fourth and final year of the federal Title III Grant will be funded in total, per request, Rend Lake College officials were notified in recent days by the U.S. Department of Education.

Included in the \$369,103 award, which will bring the four-year figure to \$1.4 million, is money for all three activities in progress and project management, including all or portions of salaries for nine college employees, equipment, supplies and travel.

"We are very pleased to receive funding for another year," said President Mark S. Kern. "We are especially pleased that there was no reduction in the amount requested, which is somewhat unusual. This is an indication the staff involved the first three years has done an excellent job of accomplishing what we were supposed to do."

Jean Estes, who recently retired as the Administrative Assistant to the President, will continue part-time as Title III Director.

Nearly half of the amount to be received - \$173,891 - is earmarked for Activity I, the Management Information System (MIS). Dean of Student Services Sue Wells is the Activity Director.

Computer-Aided Basic Skills Instruction (Activity II / Directors Dr. Steve Tietz, Vice President, and Barbara Bauernfeind, Skills Center Director) will get \$100,592; Resource Development (Activity III / Director Kern) will get \$74,665, and \$19,995 will go toward Project Management.

Major goals to be completed during the fourth year include modification and installation of CMDS computer software and continued training for the modified software in Activity I; modification of the Reading/Writing and Math Centers, as well as development and piloting of new components in the computerized Skills Center; development of a Grantsmanship Resource Center in Activity III.

The Grantsmanship Resource Center is designed to increase both the quality and the quantity of RLC's grant applications by 25 percent. Training seminars will be designed to instruct 10 faculty members, five directors and five administrators. A computer-based information system also will be established.

"We were committed to carrying out the various programs whether we were awarded the grant or not, but this will enable us to move forward without having to use other funds from the budget," Kern said.

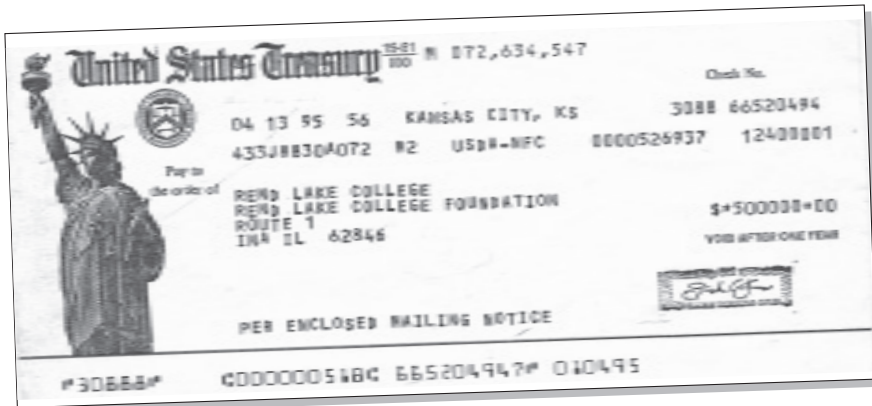
TITLE III "Strengthening Institutions"

	PERSONNEL	HARDWARE / SOFTWARE	* TOTAL
1991-92	\$100,071	\$237,636	\$ 346,731
1992-93	\$217,600	\$150,546	\$ 388,372
1993-94	\$242,201	\$ 76,100	\$ 336,590
1994-95	\$244,822	\$102,766	\$ 369,103
TOTAL	\$804,694	\$567,048	\$1,440,796

* Includes other Misc. expenses not shown

TITLE III "Challenge Grant"

1994-95	\$ 500,000
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1973 - 1974

1974 - 1975

1975 - 1976

1997 / ONLY 15 AWARDED TO STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONS Perfect! Wait worth it for second \$1.6M Title III Grant

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 7, 1997

Perfect! That is what all three readers must have been thinking when they evaluated the latest Title III Grant proposal from Rend Lake College.

That was the same reaction of Rend Lake College officials this past week when they received official notification of a five-year, federal "Strengthening Institutions" Program award that could mean as much as \$1.6 million from the United States Department of Education. The announcement came from the offices of Congressmen Glenn Poshard and John Shimkus and U.S. Senators Carol Moseley-Braun and Richard Durbin.

The proposal, which received almost unheard-of scores of 100 from each of the grant readers to move to the forefront, will focus on two major activities: Critical Interventions to Increase Student Success is Activity I; Activity II emphasizes Curriculum Improvement and Program Evaluation, including the creation of a Faculty Development Center.

Five vocational-technical areas will be targeted in Activity II – Agriculture, Nursing, Industrial Technology, Architecture and Office Systems Technology. The funding will enable approximately \$600,000 for state-of-the-art equipment purchases, with most of the remainder going toward new personnel, both full- and part-time, faculty stipends and benefits.

Rend Lake College was able to establish a computerized Developmental Skills Center, improve its campus-wide Management Information System (MIS) and establish a full-time Resource and Development Office thanks to a similar, four-year, \$1.5 million Title III Grant announced in 1991. That, in turn, led to a matching 2-for-1 grant of \$500,000 which provided the impetus for a capital campaign drive that has netted the RLC Foundation almost \$2 million in the last 2 1/2 years.

The latest Title III "Strengthening Institutions" Grant, according to Rend Lake College President Mark S. Kern, "has the potential to have an even greater impact on our institution than the first one."

The grant focuses on students who are needy, either financially or academically.

The national competition attracted 450 applicants when it was conducted in 1995 and 1996. Rend Lake College was not eli-

gible the first year, since rules required institutions to sit out a year after having received Title III funding before being eligible again.

Grants were made available again recently through increased appropriations for Fiscal Year 1997. The total of the five-year grant will be determined after college and Department of Education officials evaluate activities RLC already may have undertaken since the application's original submission.

"We feel very fortunate," Kern said. "It is my understanding ours is one of only two such awards in the state, along with Belleville Area College, and there were less than 15 awarded in the nation."

"To receive a score of 100 from any reader is very unusual, let alone from all three. Our proposal had the top score in the country, which is a real credit to (Director of Planning, Research and Correctional Education) Bob Ross, who was primarily responsible for writing the proposal, and the college staff who had input into it," continued Kern.

Ross likewise commended faculty and staff for their cooperation and willingness to provide valuable input. He also credited former part-time assistant Debbie Paschal, now the Executive Director of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, for her help in packaging the winning proposal.

"And yet, it looked last spring as if there might not be any new proposals funded. There we sat with a perfect score – the college first learned of the perfect score in August 1995 – with the No. 1 proposal, and it appeared there was only going to be enough money available to fund ongoing, existing grants," Kern added.

"We had a lot of support and help from our legislators; they really went to work on our behalf," noted Kern, who made a trip to Washington, D.C., on one day's notice and numerous other contacts in recent months to lobby the RLC cause. Congressman Poshard and both Senators from Illinois, along with former U.S. Senator Paul Simon, worked closely with college officials to help make the award become a reality.

Rend Lake College officials submitted the "perfect" 245-page document "because the college has reached a critical point in its development: The high-quality education, retraining and student success which have been an inherent part of our history are being detrimentally affected by disruptions

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Objective: Increase student success, improve curricula

MAY 1998

Launched in October 1997, Title III – Strengthening Institutions Program is one of the newest grant-funded departments on campus.

You may have seen some new faces on campus and some familiar faces who are now working with Title III. So you are probably thinking . . . That's great for RLC, but . . . what is it, who are all these people and where do I fit it?

The Title III goal is to "strengthen our institution." RLC was awarded more than \$1.6 million over the next five years. (Many grant programs run on a year-to-year basis; however, Title III allows us the opportunity to commit to positive institutional changes over a five-year period provided satisfactory progress is made yearly toward our objectives.)

To accomplish our goal, Title III is divided into two major activities: Activity I – Increasing Student Success. Designed to increase student retention and eliminate barriers to student success. Activity II – Curriculum Improvement and Program Evaluation. Designed to strengthen academic quality and improve the decision-making capability for occupational education programs.

Each has an Activity Director who will have the primary responsibility for accomplishing the activity objectives. The Activity I Director is Dave Vinyard; Activity II Director is Terry Clark.

At the helm is Cindy Minor, Title III Coordinator. She is

(Continued at left on next page)



Objective (cont.)

responsible for seeing that Title III procedures comply with federal guidelines, as well as ensuring efficient and effective project implementation.

As for the staff of Title III . . .

David Wicks, Education Technology Specialist (I) – Responsibilities include designing and developing a Faculty Development Center to train and assist faculty in the use of different software and hardware, provide new technology to integrate into the classroom and assist in revising instructional presentations and courseware.

Nina Gaspar, Programmer (I) – Design and Develop new Student Information and Tracking Systems.

Joan Long, Curriculum / Evaluation Specialist (II) – Responsible for planning an occupational analysis process (Developing a Curriculum or DACUM) for five targeted vocational areas.

Sharon Beasley, Instructional Coordinator (II) – Working alongside Long in evaluating the current program of the targeted area (Allied Health) and sharing her expertise in developing and implementing a revised curriculum.

Shari Carpenter, Administrative Assistant.

Bob Ross, Director of Resource Development – Not a Title III staff member. But with his knowledge and expertise in grant writing, he was able to gather, organize and write the “right stuff” for a winning proposal!

~ Article submitted

Perfect score rewarded: \$1.6M Title III Grant (cont.)

in the local economy and changes in the demography of the area the college serves.”

Many Rend Lake College students “are ‘at-risk’ because they come to us academically unprepared and economically disadvantaged. The college’s goal in undertaking these two activities is to upgrade vocational offerings and provide intervention strategies to significantly improve student success.”

Activity I – Increasing Student Success – eliminates barriers by developing 1) a coordinated matriculation system; 2) alternative instructional methods and support systems which acknowledge needs of under-prepared learners, and 3) a program to strengthen faculty skills in utilizing instructional technology.

Activity II – Curriculum Improvement and Program Evaluation – is designed to strengthen academic quality and to improve the decision-making capability for occupational education programs.

The two components of this activity are 1) a curriculum improvement process using DACUM (Develop A Curriculum) to identify and develop a competency-based curricula for five high-priority programs and 2) a program evaluation process utilizing a comprehensive, cost-versus-quality analysis to examine a program’s direct operating cost and several program-quality factors.

Kern noted, “I am proud of the planning and decision-making that led to this proposal and of the faculty and staff who are committed to improving and strengthening the college to better serve students.

“I am most proud of the willingness of college employees to take responsibility for solving problems that threaten the vitality of the institution. It would be easy for us to blame our difficulties on reductions in state funding, a declining local tax base, demographic changes that send us more under-prepared students or environmental changes that have wrecked havoc with the coal mining industry that for years has been the backbone of the local economy.

“Yet the college,” Kern continued, “has

chosen to take responsibility for its own future and for assuming a leadership role in revitalizing the district that it serves.”

In the news release from Poshard’s office, the Congressman commented, “Rend Lake College provides a great learning environment to many students who might not otherwise receive such a quality education.

“I have worked in conjunction with the college for three years to access these funds, and the perfect score the school’s application received is a confirmation of its fine record of performance . . . We must remain committed to ensuring any student who wants to attend college has the opportunity to do so; the ‘Strengthening Institutions’ program is a fine example of this effort.”

TITLE III “Strengthening Institutions”

1997-98	N/A
1998-99	N/A
1999-2000	N/A
2000-01	N/A
2001-02	\$325,341
5-Yr. Total	\$1,675,526 (est.)



BRAC / SBDC

Business Resource Assistance Center
Small Business Development Center

	B.R.A.C.	S.B.D.C.
1983-84	\$30,000	
1984-85		\$10,000
1985-88	N/A	N/A
1988-89	\$69,000	\$20,000
1989-90	N/A	N/A
1990-91	\$70,000	
1991-92	\$63,000	\$20,000
1992-94	N/A	N/A
1994-95		\$20,000
1995-2001	N/A	N/A
2001-02		\$40,000
2002-03	\$50,000	
2003-04	\$50,000	
2004-05	\$50,000	
2005-06	\$50,000	
2006-07	\$50,000	
2007-08	N/A	
2008-09	\$72,000	
2009-10	\$72,000	
2010-11	\$76,000	
2011-12	\$80,000	

2004 / \$1.8 MILLION FEDERAL AWARD LARGEST EVER 'Unbelievable!' Third Title III Grant for Wireless industry

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 2004

A potential \$1.8 million federal grant awarded through the U.S. Department of Education positions Rend Lake College to become a regional training giant in the Wireless Communications industry.

RLC President Mark S. Kern announced Tuesday (September 14) the comprehensive community college will receive \$364,893 in the first of an anticipated five-year Development Grant from the Strengthening Institutions Program, authorized under Title III Part A of the Higher Education Act.

Resources will be used to create a new Associate in Applied Science Degree program and six occupational certificates in Wireless Communications, a field the grant narrative states "offers extremely strong regional employment potential in business and industry. Coupled with general education requirements, this new degree also will afford excellent transfer opportunities for baccalaureate or more advanced degrees."

Only 53 of 260 eligible applicants nationwide received Title III funding, according to the notification letter from Hubert Davis, director of Institutional Development and Undergraduate Education Service for the U.S. Department of Education. Prairie State College, based in Chicago Heights, is the only other two-year institution in Illinois included.

For Rend Lake College, it is the third Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant in the last 15 years. Or, in the words of longtime consultant Ramona Munsell, "Unbelievable."

It likewise is believed to be the largest grant ever awarded Rend Lake College. Included in the total is a matching, 1-for-1 Endowment Option totalling \$365,000 (20 per cent) which could increase RLC Foundation funds by \$1 million in 20 years if the college is able to raise \$73,000 annually during the grant's five-year duration.

"That gives us tremendous incentive when we go to the public and ask for money," knowing the federal government will match the gift, Kern noted.

In a news release announcing the education grant, U.S. Congressman Jerry Costello (D-IL, 12th District) commented, "The field of telecommunications offers opportunities for job growth and demands

technical expertise. This is an exciting development for the college, its students and the regional economy."

Other legislators who played key roles in the Rend Lake College success story include the state's two U.S. Senators, Richard "Dick" Durbin (D) and Peter Fitzgerald (R), and U.S. Representative John M. Shimkus (R-19).

"Why have we been successful the last three times in a row?" Kern posed a very good question of his own. "For one, we have a staff that comes up with good ideas and good programs. We also have a very good grants writer in (Resource Development Specialist) Trudee Wynn and a very good consultant (Munsell). Put those three together and that is why we were successful again."

The Title III Education Grant is designed to enable eligible institutions of higher education to improve their academic quality, internal management and fiscal stability. Accompanying data must confirm the college has needy students and low educational/general expenditures, Wynn explained.

Rend Lake College's percentage of students receiving need-based financial assistance - 56 per cent - far exceeds the required minimum of 19.6 per cent. Expenditures per student (full-time equivalency, FTE) are \$6,880, compared to the requirement ceiling of \$8,668.

The RLC Wireless Communication program is expected to earn regional status, meaning students throughout Southern Illinois would be allowed to enroll at the same cost as in-district residents. In addition to tourism, the FY04 "Opportunity Returns" document released by Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich to encourage economic recovery cites "target expansion of Southern Illinois broadband technologies, including integrated access to voice, high-speed data, video-on-demand and interactive delivery services.

"The major obstacle in implementing this aggressive plan," continues the Title III narrative, "is the shortage of an educated, wireless communications workforce."

"A long-term benefit of this new program," Wynn indicates, "is that students will be able to earn more and remain in the area with stable employment after



More than just cell phones:
satellite TV, Internet, also

RLC NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 2004

When people hear the term "wireless," most immediately think of cellular phones. However, as Rend Lake College's new Wireless Communication Technician curriculum will soon prove, there is much more to wireless communication than simply making a phone call.

The WCT curriculum is expected to include options for an AAS Degree and six Occupational Certificates. Advanced Technology Division Chair William Dill said he is not aware of any other educational institution in the Midwest that has implemented the program RLC is planning.

Wireless communication includes not only cell phones, but also satellite television, wireless Internet service and much more. "Look at the evolution of telephones," Dill said. "These devices have transformed from rotary dial to push-button, from cordless to cellular. Wireless technology is moving at an amazing pace." According to the Global Wireless Education Consortium, 16.2% of the nation's population subscribes to wireless services; a subscriber is added every 2.7 seconds.

In general, "wireless" refers to the products and services enabling communication between two points without physical wires connecting them. There are three things all wireless technologies attempt to improve: speed, quantity and distance over which information can be passed between two points.

(Continued at left on next page)



Cell phones, more (cont.)

There is immense potential linking people and computers in wireless networks. Wireless offers tremendous efficiency to business processes, often reducing or eliminating redundant tasks which previously required dedicated human labor.

Graduates of the WCT program will be prepared to work at any cell phone or telephone company, for contractors who set up cell phone towers, for satellite providers and many more, said Dill. Available employment includes work as a cell site technician, telecommunications engineer, wireless systems engineer, switch maintenance technician and more.

The tentative list of certificate programs planned includes Basic Electronic; Land-Based Communication Systems; VoIP (Voice-Over Internet Protocol) Communication Systems; Fundamental Wireless Technologies, and Wireless WAN (Wide-Area Networking) Technologies.

Dill hopes WCT becomes a regional program, drawing students from a wide geographical area. "We always will be implementing and assessing," Dill commented. Additionally, the grant provides for the purchase of new, state-of-art equipment each year. Curriculum will encompass theory and hands-on activities. Plans call for lab facilities to accommodate 20 students. "Wireless is where everything is going," said Dill. "There is no telling where it will end."

Wireless Title III Grant largest at \$1.8M (cont.)

graduation. The visibility of graduates in these high-tech jobs will entice more students to explore this program and enroll."

A 10-year forecast into 2014 covering 20 Southern Illinois counties reveals 52 per cent growth in new and replacement jobs in Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts; a 37 per cent increase in Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers, and 14 per cent Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, except line installers.

That translates into about 180 positions needing to be filled in downstate Illinois alone, according to Advanced Technology Division Chair William Dill.

Dill cited results of a survey conducted in 2001 by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges in the State of Washington. "The growing convergence of wireless telecommunications, information technology and media technology has resulted in a correspondingly dramatic shift in the type of skill sets required for productive work in the industry," the report states.

"It is estimated by the year 2005 that 350,000 RF (Radio Frequency) engineers, technicians and related personnel will be needed in the U.S. to meet the demand for a qualified workforce for the wireless industry. Likewise, as developments in digital technologies and other new telecommunications technologies escalate, expectations for individuals entering the diverse and dynamic wireless work world also will increase. Workers must be prepared for a new industry – dubbed "Infocom" – that links wireless communications, networking, the Internet, E-commerce and M-commerce."

The report continued, "The wireless communications industry, as with other IT industries, is experiencing phenomenal growth, but cannot find a workforce with the unique RF skill sets necessary to fill the work slots. Simply stated, the U.S. is experiencing a 'skilled worker' crisis."

Funding for Year One of RLC's latest Title III project is scheduled to start in November. Ed Ruffino, Director of the RLC Center for Business Services, will serve as Title III Coordinator, with Dill filling the role as Title III Activity Director. Advanced Technology Associate Professor Chris Sink is the likely Title III Program Development Specialist.

About one-third of the total (\$548,346) will go toward Wireless Communication equipment.

The curricula developed by Dill and staff was heavily influenced by a similar program at Seattle Central Community College, in conjunction with Virginia-based The Global Wireless Educational Consortium (GWEC), a collaboration of major wireless industry firms and academic institutions with a curriculum model focused on expanding wireless technology to two- and four-year institutions.

Seattle's Skill Standards for Wireless Telecommunication resulted from a group of communication industry professionals who were brought together to develop a set of skills regional employers deemed necessary to be a functional Wireless Communication Technician. That set of skills was grouped into 18 categories ranging from academic knowledge and employability skills to key performance indicators.

The nearest GWEC partner school is St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley.

Rend Lake College was recipient of its first Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant in 1991, one of 57 awarded nationally, totaling \$1.5 million over five years.

A second Title III Grant awarded in 1997 was for \$1,675,526 total, also over five years.

TITLE III "Strengthening Institutions"

	DEVELOPMENT	MANAGEMENT	TOTAL
2004-05	\$363,893		
2005-06	\$414,263		
2006-07	\$422,419		
2007-08	\$363,867	\$149,022	\$512,889
2008-09	\$213,790	\$147,957	\$361,747

1997 / TARGET: LOW-INCOME, FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

\$879,360 Title IV TRIO Grant establishes STARS program

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 1997

Students and their support services, particularly for those from low-income families where neither parent graduated from college, stand to benefit greatly from the latest federal grant awarded in recent years to Rend Lake College.

The award is for \$170,690 for the first year, beginning September 1, and is projected to be worth \$879,360 over the next five years, provided the expected funding is still available.

Notification of the award came earlier this week from the Washington, D.C. offices of United States Congressmen Glenn Poshard and John Shimkus and U.S. Senators Carol Moseley-Braun and Richard Durbin.

In April, Rend Lake College was recipient of a second Title III Strengthening Institutions Award in the last six years. It could amount to as much as \$1.6 million.

The latest funding is under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and most commonly referred to as a TRIO program (initially three programs, since expanded to five).

The new Student Support Services grant program will be known on the RLC campus as STARS, which stands for Student Transfer and Retention Support.

Whereas financial aid programs help students overcome financial barriers to higher education, TRIO programs are meant to help students overcome class, social and cultural barriers to higher education.

In support of the nation's commitment to provide educational opportunities for all Americans, Congress established a series of programs to help those families with incomes less than \$24,000, and those with disabilities who have documented need for support, to enter college, graduate and move on to participate more fully in America's economic and social life.

The Rend Lake College grant was prepared by Director of Planning, Research and Correctional Education Bob Ross, with part-time assistance from Cindy Jenkins, other staff and outside consultants.

Additional student support personnel will consume a large portion of the TRIO Grant. Included will be a full-time Student Support Services Director and an Academic/Career Counselor, nine-month

Basic Skills Specialist, half-time Administrative Assistant and part-time tutors and mentors.

According to the RLC abstract, 85 per cent of the students currently enrolled meet eligibility criteria for the project.

"The overall goal . . . is to increase retention, graduation and transfer rates of eligible participants and to create a climate for their success. The plan of operation includes 11 measurable objectives and a variety of activities designed to lead to the successful accomplishment of all objectives and the program's purpose.

"The major activities focus on providing counseling and academic support to eligible participants to ensure their success through opportunities for interaction with faculty, staff and other students. Activities include assessment of needs; personal success plans; instruction and tutoring; advising; counseling; mentoring; various workshops; enrichment activities, and continuous monitoring."

The proposed Rend Lake College project will provide approximately \$975 in support academic assistance to 175 students, including those who are disabled.

"The extremely poor economic climate in RLC's district combines with rural isolation and low educational attainment to create a pool of students who are economically and educationally disadvantaged," the grant proposal emphasized.

"Historically, many students seek out RLC as a means of restructuring their lives and regaining economic self-reliance. The college has willingly assumed this role and, consequently, has an increasing number of students who are low-income (1,810 or 58%), first-generation (2,254 or 73%) and individuals with disabilities (74 or 2.4%)."

The average family income within the college district is \$25,483, compared to \$35,867 for the state and \$41,780 for the U.S. population as a whole. Just over 14 per cent of all families in the district are at the poverty level, compared to 10.1 per cent statewide and 11.7 per cent nationally.

As a result, 64 per cent of Rend Lake College students are dependent on some form of financial aid to stay in college. Around \$3 million in need-based aid is awarded annually.



Array of support services available through STARS

The Student Transfer and Retention Support (STARS) program is designed to enable participants to successfully complete a degree by offering counseling and academic support services.

STARS offers its participants a comprehensive array of support services:

- Academic counseling assists in choosing a major and planning schedules;
- Personal counseling aids in developing the necessary skills for coping with problems that impact scholastic performance;
- Career counseling sets appropriate short- and long-term career goals and provides opportunities for career exploration;
- Tutoring helps with academic work and is geared for individual needs;
- Workshops and seminars cover relevant topics such as learning how to take notes, efficient methods of reading, tips on test-taking, scheduling study time, etc.;
- Financial aid counseling provides information on obtaining the Financial Aid package needed for college attendance;
- Transfer counseling provides for smooth transition to a four-year institution;
- Peer mentors help with questions about college and provide opportunities to join campus activities and meet new people;
- Cultural enrichment activities focus on opportunities to participate in cultural experiences on- and off-campus which can include concerts, museums, lectures and college visitations.



At-risk STARS far exceed original program goals

NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 1999

STARS truly are the shining STARS of a grant program awarded to Rend Lake College in 1997. A first-year performance evaluation compiled by Director Mary Roe and staff indicates the Student Transfer and Retention Support program far exceeded its original objectives. STARS served 150 "at-risk" students in 1997-98. "We want our students to be successful . . . to understand they are not in it alone. We are here for them," Roe said.

- Four out of five (80%) participants earned GPAs of 2.0 or better Spring 1998.
- Half of those students (40% overall) had GPAs of 3.0-3.9.
- Another 12% had 4.0 GPAs.
- Summer was even better for 48 students – 83% earned GPAs of 2.0-plus, 21% at 4.0.
- Tutoring services were provided for 58 students requesting help Spring '98; 28 (48%) of those improved grades.
- The STARS program retained 101 eligible participants (80%, not including students who transferred or graduated).
- Over half (78 / 52%) took advantage of informational or academic enrichment workshops provided by STARS.
- A total of 131 participants (91%) were involved in cultural activities and/or workshops.
- For the year, 85% intending to graduate did so on time; the program objective: 40%.
- Of those who intended to transfer to a four-year institution, 85% did so successfully.

Trio of Title IV Grants produce all STARS (cont.)

Other TRIO programs on-campus are Upward Bound, Talent Search, Educational Opportunity Centers and R.E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement.



The STARS Grant has been renewed twice since the original award in 1997, the last time for \$1 million-plus and four years in 2005.

At that time, a five-person STARS staff truly practiced what it preached . . . Director Julie Mumbower, Counselor Glenn Box, Academic Specialist Jared Conner, Learning Enhancement Specialist Tara Sullivan and Administrative Assistant Barbara Waterbury were all first-generation college students.

Another difference: instead of selecting 150 students each year, as had been the case, the program has been able to assist 160 students since 2005.

Objectives of the STARS program include identification and selection of participants, persistence / retention, good-standing (grade-point average of 2.0 or better on a 4.0-point scale), graduation and transfer to a four-year institution.

A computer program developed at RLC enables the STARS staff to identify first-generation and low-income students from their applications. This pool of potential members receives letters of invitation to apply to join the program. Classroom presentations at the beginning of each semester also help get the word out to those students who could benefit.

STARS students must be able to demonstrate academic need as determined by test scores and placement. Applicants are ranked on several criteria.

Once selected, students discuss their goals with STARS staff members and a course of action is determined.

In addition to the variety of services available – such as personal, career and transfer counseling; tutoring and mentoring, and cultural enrichment activities – STARS also conducts workshops tailored

to student needs, such as note-taking, time management and study skills.

Another important facet of the support services available is the Learning Enhancement Center, which provides tutoring and study assistance for students in an environment conducive to succeeding in the classroom.

The STARS program also accepts nontraditional students and helps them deal with unique problems; i.e., money management or the fear of being in college.

"The STARS program has been the model for retention efforts at Rend Lake College," said Mumbower. "Through countless efforts to connect with students, STARS has exceeded its goals each year for persistence, retention, graduation and transfer of its students."

TITLE IV "TRIO Grant" / STARS

1997-98	\$170,690	2008-09	\$267,668
1998-99	N/A	2009-10	\$291,040
'99-2000	N/A	2010-11	\$275,680
2000-01	\$205,257	2011-12	\$267,134
2001-02	\$241,575	2012-13	
2002-03	\$242,067	2013-14	
2003-04	\$286,685	2014-15	
2004-05	\$290,383	2015-16	
2005-06	\$254,316		
2006-07	\$254,316		
2007-08	\$254,316		



Viticulture / Enology Science and Technology Alliance (VESTA) Grant

NATIONAL CTR.

2007-08	\$500,000	
2008-09	\$120,375	
2009-10	\$ 93,861	
2010-11	\$ 68,526	
2011-12	\$ 68,526	\$59,014
2012-13		

Funding to train workforce in Viticulture (Grape-Growing) and Enology (Winemaking)

1999 / TITLE IV FUNDS HELP DEVELOP COLLEGE SKILLS

TRIO Grant sends needy students Upward Bound

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 1999

Rend Lake College has received a \$1 million federal grant for its proposed Upward Bound program, which will help 50 eligible low-income, potential first-generation college students develop the skills needed to complete high school and enter and succeed at the college level.

If the project goes as planned and funding remains available, the college anticipates receiving \$200,000 per year in TRIO Grant funds for five years. The program will start this fall.

RLC Director of Community Development Elaine Johnson commented, "We are very excited about the Upward Bound program. It is just one more example of how the college is working to increase services and partnerships with area K-12 schools."

Johnson and Director of Resource Development Bob Ross, the two people most responsible for writing the grant with help from several others on campus, were notified of the award by the offices of Sen. Dick Durbin and U.S. Rep. David Phelps.

Upward Bound activities will include academic and career counseling and assistance, personal counseling and referral, exposure to post-secondary education, exposure to the arts and cultural events and parental and community involvement and assistance.

Services will be offered to participants at five target schools in Franklin, Jefferson and Hamilton counties. Participating schools are Benton Consolidated High School, Hamilton County Community Unit District 10, Mt. Vernon Township High School, Sesser-Valier Community Unit School District 196 and Zeigler-Royalton Community Unit School District 188. These high schools, with a total enrollment of approximately 3,000 students, are located in counties that typically rank low statewide in average income.

The Upward Bound project is designed "for kids who have potential but not necessarily the opportunity to attend college without some help," Johnson indicated.

Johnson said a director will be hired to oversee the project and a counselor will go into the high schools and work with the selected students.

Academic assistance will be provided for all participants in math, reading, writing, English, computers and study skills. With

ongoing counseling assistance, participants will develop an Education Plan after assessment of their interests and capabilities.

An intensive six-week "Summer Explorer" program will begin with a one-week orientation that includes team-building and leadership training for all participants. During the "Wildlife Week" portion of the summer program, participants will be housed at Wayne Fitzgerald State Park.

Upward Bound students will then be bused from their homes to the RLC campus for four weeks to attend classes in a creative academic program that capitalizes on the area's natural resources. In the final week of their participation, students stay in dormitories at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, where they will meet with admissions counselors, learn about academic programs and financial aid and meet with faculty and students from similar backgrounds.

"We need to make sure they pursue all avenues" for potential college funding, Johnson added. "A lot of students really don't know what kind of financial aid may be available to them."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Joe West was hired to direct the Upward Bound program, with Nicki Gray named Student Advisor. Recruitment of potential students began in earnest in December.

The program is available at no cost to underclassmen at five in-district schools through a National Education Department TRIO Grant and Rend Lake College.

According to West, the preparatory program is designed to provide continuous academic advisement and support services, including weekly tutorial services, to those who possess the academic ability to be successful in college. Students will gain skills and motivation critical to achieving success in the classroom beyond high school.

Students will be paid to be Upward Bound students based upon full participation and attendance at program activities and availability of funds. Students must qualify under guidelines determined by the U.S. Dept. of Education or meet criteria as a first-generation student.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 2007

The Upward Bound TRIO Grant program at Rend Lake College recently received some uplifting news for the third time. Four more

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Upward Bound update, as described on website

Upward Bound is a federally funded college preparatory program designed to provide academic support, personal/career counseling and cultural enrichment to participants who have the academic ability to be successful in college.

The ACADEMIC YEAR component emphasizes academic achievement and goal-setting:

- Weekly tutorial sessions at the student's target high school with Upward Bound staff.

- Once per month students participate in RLC "Saturday College" for career planning, assessment testing and enrichment classes.

- Field trips including cultural/social/educational enrichment academic, career, personal, college and financial aid counseling.

The SUMMER PROGRAM is the most intensive aspect of Upward Bound. It includes:

- One week residential program at RLC; students will be housed in apartments located south of the campus.

- Five weeks of classes (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays) at RLC in math, English, foreign language lab science and various elective classes.

- Tuesdays and Thursdays are reserved for Upward Bound Career Internships . . . students have the opportunity to learn more about a career he/she may be interested in by working at the site of a professional.

- End-of-year trip to major cities which includes campus tours, special events such as sports and recreational activities, theatrical plays, etc.



SIUC scholar recipient credits TRIO programs

NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 15, 2013

TJ Tomshack has one more achievement he can add to his list: First Rend Lake College graduate to receive the Poshard Foundation Scholarship for hard work in school and overcoming adversity.

Now a Saluki, Tomshack is working on a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, with hopes of working in child welfare and family counseling. The RLC (2012) and Benton Consolidated High School (2009) grad said he credits his grandfather and the TRIO programs at RLC with helping him accomplish his goals.

"The scholarship is for people who have barriers and difficulties growing up, and I had almost no support when I was younger," said Tomshack. "I grew up taking care of my sister and myself. My grandpa was a pretty big influence, too." Tomshack joined Upward Bound as a BCHS sophomore and STARS once at RLC.

"Upward Bound helped me get where I need to be going. It really helped a lot," said Tomshack. "I never planned on going to school, but they showed me the way. They're not just people being professional and doing their jobs; they're like family down this hallway."

On track to graduate in May 2015, he said the scholarship will help reduce student loans. TRIO's Leah Stallman added, "We're here for students who want us, and TJ has taken advantage of that. It's days like this that make us tear up."

Students Upward Bound due to TRIO of grants (cont.)

years of federal funding, totaling \$1 million, has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education.

U.S. Congressman John Shimkus (IL-19) announced May 18 USDE grants were approved for Upward Bound programs in the 19th Congressional District at SIU-Edwardsville, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (Olney), Lewis and Clark Community College (Godfrey) and RLC.

Upward Bound projects provide assistance to low-income high school students whose parents have not obtained a Bachelor's Degree.

Academic instruction in mathematics, laboratory sciences, composition, literature, and foreign languages is provided during an intensive six-week summer program on the RLC campus. Tutoring, counseling, mentoring, cultural enrichment and work-study are integral components year round.

According to the Council for Opportunity in Education's Web site, TRIO programs are funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

RLC TRIO Upward Bound works with students at Benton Consolidated High School, Sesser-Valier H.S., Zeigler-Royalton H.S., Hamilton County Senior H.S. and Mt. Vernon Township H.S. As many as 50 students can be assisted each year.

According to RLC Director Nicki Bowlin, the program fills up each year as more students learn skills necessary to complete their secondary education and enter and succeed at the post-secondary level.

"Our overall goal is to help them receive a post-secondary degree," Bowlin said. This is the program's third, four-year grant cycle.

"Grant renewal means continued service to our students," Bowlin said. "If funding of Upward Bound were discontinued, the students would lose all services provided."

"Their parents have not gone through the process of applying for financial aid and scholarships," Bowlin said. "These students need this assistance to go from high school

to college and succeed."

Help goes beyond filling out college applications, financial aid forms and scholarship applications. Students undergo weekly tutorial sessions with Upward Bound staff at the student's high school. Once a month, students attend a "Saturday College" at RLC for career planning, assessment testing and enrichment classes. Field trips are offered which provide cultural, social and educational opportunities.

In the Upward Bound Summer Program, students take part in a six-week simulation of life as a student at RLC. The first week is a residential component where the students live in housing near the Ina campus. In the remaining five weeks, students take classes in math, English, science, foreign languages and two electives. Photography and graphic design have been added as electives.

Bowlin said a Parent Advisory Board is held each semester. "We encourage parents to be involved in this process as much as possible," she said. The program offers "job shadowing" where students can earn money while working with a mentor.

RLC Upward Bound culminates each year with a trip to reward students for their achievements and good behavior.

"One goal is to continue our relationship with the student through their college career and beyond," Bowlin said. "We track their progress over a six-year period from when they graduate from high school."

Overall, 37 Upward Bound programs in Illinois, assisting 2,395 students, were recently approved for \$11.7 million in educational funding. RLC's TRIO Upward Bound is headed by Bowlin, who replaced West when he retired, and two Student Advisors.

TITLE IV "TRIO" / Upward Bound

'99-2000	N/A	2007-08	\$250,000
2000-01	N/A	2008-09	\$250,000
2001-02	\$234,131	2009-10	\$250,000
2002-03	\$278,301	2010-11	\$250,000
2003-04	\$234,624	2011-12	\$242,250
2004-05	\$234,624	2012-13	\$262,500
2005-06	\$234,624	2013-14	\$262,500
2006-07	\$237,546	2014-15	\$262,500

1992-PRESENT / \$90,000-\$110,000 EACH OF LAST 10 YEARS

Co-op Work-Study Grants for Education majors add up

Are we stretching it a bit to say a \$24,000 grant first awarded in 1992 has stretched into \$1 million-plus in the ensuing years?

We think not. And if an economic study were to be done, we feel it would be safe to say the overall monetary effects would be in the millions!

Rend Lake College has been the recipient of Illinois Cooperative Work-Study Program Grants from the State of Illinois Board of Higher Education every year since 1992.

Cooperative Education and the work-study program in various forms had been mainstays of the comprehensive community college almost since its inception. [The RLC Agriculture program, added to the curricula in Year Two, introduced the concept of students working for area businesses/professionals in related fields for both the experience and for college credit.]

A news release at the time indicated, "Approximately 30 more students should benefit from the college's Cooperative Education program in the coming year thanks to the new \$24,000 grant."

The Cooperative Work-Study project "will allow the college to expand an existing program by developing additional co-op positions for students majoring in areas that heretofore had not developed placements."

All grant funds, with the exception of a small auditing fee, are dedicated to paying student wages.

"It should be known we really appreciate the efforts of (Director of Resource Development) Bob Ross and (Co-op Ed Assistant Director) Joan Long in preparing this grant," said Director of Cooperative Education and Job Placement Rex Duncan.

An understatement, as history will show.

The Cooperative Work-Study Grant, which is awarded for one year at a time, was renewed at \$30,000 each of the next two fiscal years.

It was estimated "between 35 and 40 students should benefit both academically and financially" in Year Two.

It was expected to result in an additional \$58,000 in income for participating schools. Employees pay half of the student salary, with the college picking up the other half with grant monies.

Twenty new cooperative education positions already developed as a result of

the grant would be increased by 10 more thanks to the funding increase.

Publicity regarding the project in 1994 pointed out, "In addition to Co-op's role in training students, it has become a significant source of financial aid. Over the last six years (three of which did not include the expanded Cooperative Work-Study Grant), RLC students have earned over \$1 million."

Cooperative Education, Duncan commented, is gaining in popularity. "There exists a renewed focus on applied skills in education . . . not just learning, but learning by 'doing' in the work place.

"Both students and employers," he added, "are interested in developing skills that can be put to work quickly. Cooperative Education participation meets both needs."

The award from the state Board of Higher Ed was \$45,000 for the fourth year, but that is still a long way from anything close to \$1 million, we agree.

However, those students targeted and resources both brought more change. The initial focus on students in such major as education, social work, psychology, industrial technology and electronics has narrowed by public demand to reward education majors much more often than not.

Also targeted are minority students, nontraditional students and those in need of financial assistance.

"Education majors, for example, are able to provide classroom tutoring at the elementary level, and the schools are looking to this program as a means of getting high-quality classroom assistance economically," Duncan said.

"Most of the positions already have been spoken for," the director said at the time of the 1995 announcement, "but we could accept a few more new employers into it, and we are always looking for students."

To qualify, a student must have completed 12 semester credit hours with a "C" or better.

The grant award was for \$74,000 in 1996 and was up to \$110,000 by 1999. Rend Lake College consistently ranked as No. 1 in the state for the largest amount awarded to a community college for related programs.

Between 1997 and '06, the figure ranged from \$90,700 to \$110,000, with an estimated 110 RLC students benefitting directly from a \$91,200 award in 2002.



Program produced 100 new teachers in six years

RLC NEWS RELEASE JUNE 2005

Over a recent six-year span, the Cooperative Work-Study Program has produced nearly 100 new teachers, many of whom now teach in the RLC district, according to Ed Ruffino, Director of the Center for Business Services.

"For our students," Ruffino said, "the primary benefit is the fact it gives education majors a firsthand opportunity to see if teaching really is what they want to do for a career. It also helps pay for their educations and earn college credit."

The Business Center recently completed a survey of former Work-Study students. Of 178 responding, 116 (65%) had earned a Bachelor's Degree, 108 of them (93%) in Education; 93 are working as teachers, and 31 have careers in-district.

Former Work-Study student Robin Aaron told RLC Board members, "I owe a huge part of my career success to co-op." She was given multiple duties during "a defining time of my career." It proved to her "teaching really was what I wanted to do." She found she wanted to teach at the middle-school level and now teaches in the same Ina Grade School class in which she did her work-study.

Even if a work-study student discovers teaching is not what he or she wants to do, it is still a positive experience because the student then knows to look into other career options.

Students may earn up to eight credits through the program.

Area schools participating include Benton Consolidated

(Continued at left on next page)



Future teachers (cont.)

H.S., Benton District 47, Bethel Grade, Bluford District 114, Christopher District 99, Dodds District 7, Ewing-Northern District 115, Farrington Grade, Field District 3, Hamilton County Schools, Ina Grade, McClellan, Mt. Vernon District 80, Opydyke-Belle Rive Grade, Pinckneyville District 204, Rome District 2, Sesser-Valier Schools, Summersville District 79, Thompsonville Grade and Woodlawn District 4.

RLC students often gain more experience and take on more responsibilities than students in educational observation classes at the university level.

Co-op Work-Study Grants make a difference (cont.)

The grants “allow us to continue a program that has been very successful and expand it,” noted Duncan. “We are able to place more students in schools and help more school children. It provides a pretty good dose of reality, too, in that students learn early on what it is like to be a teacher.”

When the program was first explained to him four years before, then-Ewing-Northern Consolidated School District Supt. Ronnie McCormick had some doubts. “It sounded great,” he admitted in 1996, “but I had reservations because the participants were sophomores in college and I questioned their maturity to perform all of the tasks expected of them in the classroom.”

McCormick quickly became one of the program’s biggest boosters, calling it an “unbelievable” success.

“Rend Lake College students bring enthusiasm, are eager to learn, have many useful classroom talents, are valuable resources to substitute teachers and relate well to students in grades K-8.”

“It is hard to express all of the tasks work-study students perform in the classroom,” McCormick’s endorsement continued. “One would have to observe them working to really appreciate the things they do. These students become an integral part of the school just like the classroom teacher.”

Ewing-Northern Superintendent Marian Nipper calls it a “win-win” situation for both college and grade school students. She said several RLC graduates have been hired as full-time employees after participating in the Cooperative Education program.

According to Dr. Allan Patton, a member of the RLC Board and Superintendent of Benton Community Consolidated School District, “The availability of the Cooperative Work-Study Program presented itself at an opportune time . . . in light of the fiscal restraints experienced by school districts.”

“I’m so grateful,” said Michelle Lee of Mt. Vernon. “I wouldn’t exchange this chance of a lifetime for anything.”

Thompsonville’s Elizabeth Holman noted, “I would strongly recommend this program to anyone interested in the educational field. It has taught me more about classrooms than any lecture could.”

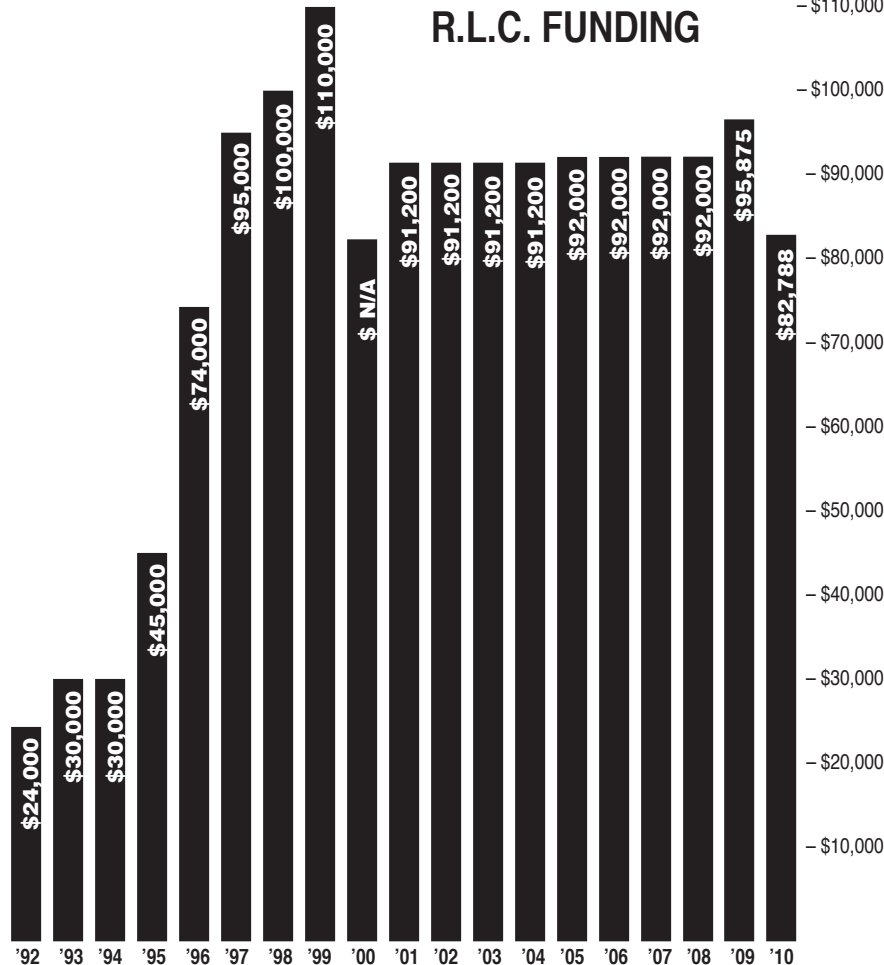
Dale Houseworth of Benton said it “made it possible to earn income for college and gain valuable teaching experience. Having this experience enables me to focus on my future, apply it to my education and use it as a valuable part of my portfolio. I also got a large dose of self-satisfaction. Not only do teachers show appreciation, but the sense of worthwhile permeates when I believe I’ve made a difference with a student.”

[Editor’s Note: According to figures stated at a June 2004 Board meeting – which differ somewhat from the chart at left – since 1992 a total of \$1,140,000 in grant funds had been received, with 840 students served, resulting in 537,000 work hours, 6,720 semester credit hours generated and \$2,280,000 in wages earned by students.]

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER ED GRANT

Co-op Work-Study

R.L.C. FUNDING



CO-OP EDUCATION / Work-Study

1992-2010	See chart at left
2010-11	\$23,920
2011-12	\$21,500
2012-13	\$23,140

1990 / BENEFICIAL FOR BOTH PARENTS, PROVIDERS CCR&R's 'Project CHILD' lends child care support statewide

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 1990

The United Way of Chicago recently notified Rend Lake College it has been awarded a Child Care Resource and Referral System planning grant for approximately \$15,000. It will be used to plan a regional CCR&R Center to serve 12 counties.

"The grant will complement the efforts of Rend Lake College to establish a new Child Development Center on campus," according to Bob Ross, Director of Resource Development, Research and Planning.

If established in the second phase of the grant, the center would be part of a statewide network providing child care services to the general public.

These services include:

- An up-to-date computer data base listing child care openings, rates, hours, etc. in the region's day care homes and centers. This information will be accessible to the public by toll-free phone.

- Classes/training for child care workers.
- Assistance in establishing new child care centers.
- Child care counseling and consumer education for parents.

The grant was written by Ross, Teresa Jakobsen of Illinois Farmers Union Training, Inc. and RLC's Elaine Griffith, who will coordinate grant activities.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 1990

Rend Lake College is one of 14 human service organizations to share in a \$3.3 million grant for the development of a statewide Child Care Resource and Referral system, according to a recent announcement by the United Way of Chicago. Funding was made available by the Illinois Department of Public Aid.

Valerie Dawkins of Louisville was appointed last week to the temporary position of Project Planner for Rend Lake College, through August. The program is expected to be fully operational by July 1991.

"This is a milestone," said Virgil H. Carr, President of the United Way of Chicago. "We've crossed a major bridge in being able to bring a system into being that ultimately will bring families and quality child care services together."

The project is a collaboration between United Way, DPA and the Department of Children and Family Services. Essentially, it

represents a partnership between the social service community and the State of Illinois.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 65 percent of all mothers work outside the home and more than 50 percent of new mothers enter or re-enter the work force before their child's first birthday.

"For a single-parent household that is dependent on one parent as its only source of income, lack of accessible and affordable child care can become yet another barrier to self-sufficiency. The statewide CCR&R Project is one vehicle designed to tear down barriers and pave the way towards self-sufficiency for all of Illinois," commented Michael J. Williams, Chairman of the United Way of Chicago.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASES FALL 1990

Confirmation was received in August that Rend Lake College has been awarded a \$77,600 implementation grant to establish a Child Care Resource and Referral Center.

The CCR&R Center will provide five core child care services for a 12-county region: a provider data base; consumer education and referral services; assistance in the development of new services; training of area staff, and a gathering and analysis of regional data.

RLC's Project CHILD is one of 16 agencies selected by the United Way of Chicago and the DCFS to form the statewide network. In turn, Illinois now boasts one of only eight such networks functioning in the United States today.

The implementation grant was written by Dawkins, Ross and Griffith.

New services will be available for parents who are looking for child care and for individuals who provide child care services when "Project CHILD" opens its doors to the public.

Project CHILD - Caring How Illinois Lives Develop - is part of the statewide CCR&R Grant and covers 12 counties in the Marion North District: Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Jefferson, Lawrence, Marion, Richland, Wabash and Wayne.

In addition to providing information on how to choose child care and the types of child care available, referrals to providers who meet the parents' requirements and information on various subsidies for child

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CCR&R help a call away for single working parent

SINGLE MOTHER SEPT.-OCT. 1995
NATIONAL ORG. OF SINGLE MOTHERS

In this era of the working woman and single mother, life can be hectic enough. Try adding the hunt for quality child care and your days can become even more frustrating. Here are four simple letters that all single working parents need to remember: CCR&R.

Get a phone directory and call your local Child Care Resource and Referral to request a referral list of child care providers in your area. They can offer you many options based on your needs and your ability to pay for child care. Here are answers to commonly asked questions about CCR&Rs:

WHAT DOES A CCR&R DO?

A CCR&R gives a parent complete information about the full range of local child care programs and current openings. Staff should counsel you and offer guidance when looking for care that is best for your child. Phone counselors or a specialist will talk with you about your needs and provide a service universally accessible to all families, regardless of income level. Making use of CCR&R does not demand many eligibility requirements.

HOW DO THEY DO THIS?

Most CCR&Rs are supported by a combination of funding from city, county or state budgets; federal dependent-care funds; businesses; corporate foundations; United Ways; universities, and charitable organizations. Some are housed in state or other public agencies, but most are community-based organizations created by parents or child care ad-

(Continued at left on next page)



CCR&R help (cont.)

vocates in response to local needs and often are run by a small staff and volunteers.

WHAT SHOULD YOU ASK?

Have in mind the type of care your child needs – in-home child care, family or group home child care (in provider's home) or a child care center.

When choosing child care, there are many factors to consider. Your child's needs and age are important. A very small child requires a great deal of attention. An older child needs attention, but also has the need to interact with other children. Look at your child's personality. Is she or he outgoing? If so, this child would do well in a group setting. If your child is shy, a provider who has fewer children would be the answer.

AFTER I CONTACT CCR&R?

After receiving a list of child care providers, begin to contact them. When doing so, listen to the noise in the background. Find out what services they provide. Always have your list of questions written out ahead of time. Schedule a visit with the providers, and take your child along. How do the providers respond to your child? How does the child respond to the providers? Follow your child's instincts. Every child will go through a period of adjustment, but all children will respond positively to a sensitive caregiver who plans a balance of activities and maintains a safe and inviting environment. Make a surprise visit to the providers who are

(Continued at far right on next page)

'Project CHILD' benefits parents, providers (cont.)

care expenses, "Project CHILD" likewise will work with providers by assisting them in the business aspects of child care and by providing licensing information. All legal providers can be listed with the referral service at no charge to the provider. Providers will have access to training opportunities, information on food programs and a lending library.

CCR&R is expected to prove beneficial to the community by providing up-to-date information on available child care and local needs and by working with employers. Needs surveys, consultations on child care options and contracted resource and referral services will all be available to employers.

An Advisory Council, with representation from each county, will serve as a support group for "Project CHILD."

Child Care Resource / Referral Services did not officially become available to the public until January 22, 1991, with the introduction of its toll-free line, 1-800-362-7257, which will be staffed 24 hours a day.

Although it is presently funded by the United Way of Chicago through state and private sources, beginning in July 1991 it will be administered through the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

As mandated by the statewide project, a small user fee (\$0-\$20 per year), based on household income, will be charged. This fee helps to cover the costs of the referral service and consumer education materials.

During the year planning process, according to Dawkins, offices were established at the college, a professional staff has been hired to operate the center and advisory committees comprised of child care providers, school and other human service personnel have been established.

Information about providers is the basis for the referral service. Additional information has been collected on legal providers – centers, homes, Head Start programs, school programs and license-exempt programs.

Child care providers who wish to know more about the services offered by Project CHILD or who would like to learn more about the program's toy- and resource-lending library should contact the CCR&R offices at Rend Lake College. No provider is charged for listing with the service.

[The Child Care Resource and Referral program occupied rental property off South 42nd Street in Mt. Vernon from 1997-2002.

"Project CHILD" since then has been part of the college family sharing facilities in the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon.

The program has known only two Directors in its first 27 years. Tranae (Eidson) Brockhouse, who joined the CCR&R staff as Provider Services Coordinator in 1995, succeeded Dawkins in 1998 and continues to serve in that capacity.]

CCR&R "Project CHILD"

	OPERATIONS	SUBSIDY	TOTAL
1989-90	\$ 15,000	(Planning Grant)	
1990-91	\$ 77,600		
1991-92	\$147,619		
1992-93			N/A
1993-94			N/A
1994-95	\$139,000		
1995-96			N/A
1996-97			N/A
1997-98			N/A
1998-99			N/A
'99-2000			N/A
2000-01			N/A
2001-02	\$275,169	\$418,146	\$ 693,315
2002-03	\$233,519	\$378,143	\$ 611,662
2003-04	\$233,519	\$378,143	\$ 611,662
2004-05	\$234,481	\$378,143	\$ 612,624
2005-06	\$234,481	\$378,143	\$ 612,624
2006-07	\$342,886	\$393,899	\$ 736,785
2007-08	\$474,500	\$397,050	\$ 871,550
2008-09	\$474,450	\$397,050	\$ 871,500
2009-10	\$449,149	\$401,020	\$ 850,169
2010-11	\$599,194	\$401,020	\$1,000,214
2011-12	\$599,194	\$401,020	\$1,000,214
2012-13	\$566,989	\$401,020	\$ 968,009
2013-14 •	\$547,949	\$413,051	\$1,030,442
2014-15 •	\$547,949	\$413,051	\$1,031,991
2015-16 •	\$547,949	\$413,051	\$1,032,495

• Totals also include Quality Rating System (QRS) Grant [\$36,050 annually] and Race to the Top (RTT) Grant [between \$34,392-\$35,445 annually]

WISE INVESTMENTS

Child Care Resource and Referral Grant
Planning Grant to serve 12 counties
\$15,000 / 1 Yr. / Sp '90

Child Care Resource and Referral Grant
Provides 5 core services
\$77,600 / 1 Yr. / Jan. '91

1988 - 1989

1989 - 1990

1990 - 1991

1994 / \$1.1 MILLION AMERICORPS STATEWIDE INITIATIVE

Illinois ChildCorps benefits all aspects of child care

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 1994

Rend Lake College will serve as the administrative agency for two of the building blocks in a national AmeriCorps service project – described as a domestic “Peace Corps” – beginning this fall, according to an announcement from Lieutenant Governor Bob Kustra’s Advisory Council on Voluntary Action.

Thirteen of the 300 awards nationwide were awarded to Illinois sites, allowing more than 200 Illinoisans the opportunity to serve their communities in exchange for educational benefits.

Illinois AmeriCorps will receive \$3.2 million in federal funds under the plan announced Saturday (August 13) by President Bill Clinton. “Compensated volunteers” will focus their energies on educational, environmental, public safety and human needs within the state.

Thanks to one award of \$275,755 (plus just over \$90,000 in living allowances for participants), Rend Lake College’s Child Care Resource and Referral program will collaborate with 16 diverse CCR&R agencies throughout Illinois to strengthen an existing network be establishing a ChildCorps Volunteer program.

Year Two amounted to \$348,932 and Year Three was funded at \$290,000, with \$90,000 in living expenses for participants both years. The program continues to this day.

Project Manager Valerie Dawkins indicated 24 full-time volunteer specialists and counselors will provide hands-on service to children and parents living in both rural and urban communities in every county of the state. They will help increase the number of day care spaces available by recruiting, training and providing technical assistance to new child care providers and will increase the quality of child care placements through consumer education to parents.

Full-time volunteers – those working 1,700 hours during a year – would receive \$7,640 in living allowances and \$4,725 in education awards to pay off college costs or student loans. Health care coverage and child care services also could be included. Part-time participants – 900 hours in a two-year period – qualify for approximately \$3,960 in living allowances, \$2,300 for educational purposes.

[The second grant award to Rend Lake

College is for \$35,000 to be used as a one-year planning grant. The proposal would place students from Rend Lake College, John A. Logan College, Kaskaskia College and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in mentoring or tutoring situations with at-risk grade school students and their families in 26 Southern Illinois Counties.

RLC Director of Cooperative Education, Job Placement and Human Resources Rex Duncan originated the “AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois” concept. He is optimistic the planning grant will lead to a full-fledged award next year.]

“President Clinton’s mission,” Dawkins commented, “is to engage Americans in community-based service. They told us they were interested in projects that will make something happen . . . things that you can see and measure . . . produce results.”

The statewide Illinois ChildCorps award will compensate 20 new full-time and two part-time employees who will work to establish more day-care facilities and other programs. “We are going to use our AmeriCorps people to work face-to-face with those in the communities to determine their specific needs,” Dawkins added.

Bob Ross, who was responsible for helping write and submit the grant proposals, and both directors will accept the awards and receive further instructions in Washington, D.C. and Chicago in the next week.

“The selective process was extremely competitive,” Kustra said in his letter of congratulations to Rend Lake College President Mark S. Kern, “allowing only outstanding programs, like yours, that have a solid design and clear vision to receive funds.

“As two of 13 AmeriCorps programs that will be operating in Illinois, your programs will serve as models for future AmeriCorps programs. The potential of these programs to meet critical community needs are great.”

Added Kustra, “These programs will give Illinoisans, especially younger ones, an innovative way to meet pressing community needs across the state while AmeriCorps members gain training and experience that will translate into a lifelong commitment to service.”

Six awards were to Chicago-based projects. Two others were statewide projects involving the American Red Cross and the

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CCR&R help (cont.)

finalists in your child care requirements. Observe the providers and the environment during the visit. Is the provider eager to invite you in? Does he or she want you to have a tour? Be sure to interview the provider on key issues. Does the provider respond to each child as an individual? Is she experienced dealing with more than one type of family? Are the children happy and active?

Once you have made a child care arrangement with a provider, continue to monitor the situation by making random visits throughout the year. This helps to insure that the provider and child are working together in a positive environment. Also talk with your child frequently about his or her child care setting. This will help you evaluate how your child is adjusting to the child care environment. Remember, children are very honest. Listen and respond.

CAN I GET FINANCIAL HELP?

CCR&R can alert you to guidelines for public subsidies and other financial aid that are targeted to the single parent. For example, Transitional Child Care is available to the parent who loses his or her assistance because of employment. This service will help parents pay for child care for up to 12 months. Another subsidy called At Risk Child Care (ARCC) assists parents who are low income and working. There are also subsidies available for the teen parent to make finishing his or her high school education possible. These subsidies vary from state to state.

~ By Monique Grizzell
RLC “Project CHILD”



Badger, Sayegh cited for 'Making Difference'

RLC NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 1997
Rend Lake College colleagues Alice Badger and Nicole Sayegh were nominated by the Child Care Resource and Referral staff for the "Make A Difference Day" awards program, an annual project sponsored in part by USA WEEKEND.

Both nominees are affiliated with Illinois ChildCorps, a program of the AmeriCorps National Service Network. Illinois ChildCorps is administered by RLC in cooperation with agencies of the statewide CCR&R network. AmeriCorps programs nationwide participated in the "Make A Difference Day" Service Projects in conjunction with Opening Day Ceremonies for Year Three members. While planning for the project, Badger and Sayegh wanted to do something for their neighborhood.

Badger was born and reared in Mt. Vernon, and now has two children of her own in her hometown. Both children attend Horace Mann Elementary School. A full-time employee with CCR&R, the Site Supervisor has been very involved with her children's education and spoke earlier in the fall with school officials in an attempt to address some of the needs of the student body.

She found many students lack the necessary clothing to keep warm during the winter; some families struggle to provide even the barest necessities, such as warm socks.

Sayegh moved to Mt. Vernon in the fall to begin a second

(Continued on Page 22)

AmeriCorps helps state child care improve (cont.)

Illinois RiverWatch Network, and the rest were awarded to Belleville Area College, Champaign and Decatur.

Programs were selected through a competitive process at the state level before going to the federal Corporation for National and Community Service which awards funds. The Lieutenant Governor's Advisory Council selected programs on the basis of community need, quality and innovation of program design, capability of the sponsoring organization to provide training and supervision and sustainability of the program.

The AmeriCorps initiative nationwide will involve 14,000 people performing community service.

Illinois AmeriCorps programs will begin recruiting potential members shortly. To qualify, Illinoisans must be 17 years of age or older who can serve full-time (part-time if needed). The year of service will begin with a statewide kickoff early in October.

Representatives of the Lieutenant Governor's Office and the Department of Children and Family Services joined local politicians, RLC administrators and Child Care Resource and Referral personnel from across the state in late September on the Ina campus to officially introduce Illinois ChildCorps.

DCFS Representative Lee Kreader called the AmeriCorps project and Child Care Resource and Referral "a perfect match."

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 1995

A statewide network of Illinois ChildCorps volunteers administered through Rend Lake College far exceeded expectations in its first year of existence and has been rewarded with \$348,932 in federal AmeriCorps funding for Year Two, according to an announcement by U.S. Rep. Glenn Poshard.

Sixteen full-time and four part-time specialists and counselors were found to provide hands-on services during that successful first year.

"We far surpassed our goals in all areas, especially in the recruitment of new child care providers, which was a critical part of what we were trying to accomplish," commented Rend Lake College CCR&R Director Valerie Dawkins.

According to information compiled after the first nine months of the Illinois ChildCorps program, the data base for child care providers statewide increased by 814 – compared to the grant's goal of 400 – and the number of new recruits was 1,508.

Other figures show 2,827 people utilizing educational materials through a lending library that proved very successful – nearly triple the usage originally anticipated – and the number of hours devoted to providing technical assistance and services to providers – 4,578 three-fourths of the way through the first year – was more than double the goal.

"Those numbers are deceptive, too," added Dawkins, "because of the ripple effect. They represent the actual work members have done working out in the community with parents and providers, but don't take into account the help provided in turn by the providers themselves to others.

"More than anything, they have increased the public's awareness of child care resource and referral services. I don't know what we would have done without them."

Year Two promises a continuation of many of these services, with emphasis on a couple of new areas, according to Dawkins.

One focus will be on validating or tracking provider services in order to improve the quality of care.

The other will concentrate on individual member development by means of computer skills such as word-processing and data entry and use of Internet and other electronic communications. This will be part of a cooperative effort involving the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Public Aid and the University of Illinois.

In announcing the second year of funding, Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs Assistant Director Levi B. Moore informed Dawkins, "You should

(Continued on Page 22)

Title III "Strengthening Institutions" Federal Grant
MIS • Skills • Foundation
\$1.5M / 5 Yrs. / FALL '91

Illinois Cooperative Work-Study Program Grant
1st award benefits 30 students
\$24,000 / 1 Yr. / Fall '92

WISE INVESTMENTS

1991 - 1992

1992 - 1993

1993 - 1994

1994 / R.L.C. OVERSEES GRANT FOR SIX AREA COLLEGES

AmeriCorps in S. Illinois volunteers aid at-risk youth

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 1995

A one-year wait was worth it. Now it may be a matter of another 5-8 years before determining just how worthwhile.

As expected after receiving a \$35,000 planning grant last fall, Rend Lake College has received word that its AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois initiative has been funded for the coming year.

All told, six area colleges, 40 AmeriCorps volunteer members and countless at-risk youth in grades 5-8 throughout Southern Illinois will benefit directly from the grant funding, estimated around \$400,000.

AmeriCorps members already chosen by Rend Lake College, Kaskaskia College (Centralia), John A. Logan College (Carterville), Shawnee Community College (Ullin), Southeastern Illinois College (Harrisburg) and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale personnel will be placed in elementary schools to help students identified by their teachers improve their chances for academic success.

"I'm really excited about the possibilities," admitted RLC Director of Cooperative Education and Job Placement Rex Duncan, who conceived the idea and helped write the original grant.

"The ultimate success of the project, though, will be when we see some of these at-risk students coming to college in 5-8 years," Duncan added.

Mentoring and tutoring will be provided to grade school students and their families in 26 counties. "At-risk" students are defined as those who may be substance abusive, delinquent, sexually active, with school problems, suicide attempts or thoughts, gang activity, poverty-stricken and abused or neglected.

"Hopefully, we can increase their school attendance and improve the quality of their school work," Duncan commented.

The AmeriCorps project is part of President Clinton's national service program that has been described as a "domestic Peace Corps" with compensated volunteers.

When Rend Lake College received its planning grant last August, it was one of only 13 AmeriCorps programs awarded in Illinois.

Another of those programs, a statewide network of ChildCorps Volunteer Programs, also was awarded to Rend Lake College.

And RiverWatch, yet another service project, likewise has offices on the Ina campus.

AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois includes approximately \$246,000 in operational funding and \$95,000 in educational awards for participants, with the total approaching \$400,000 with cash and in-kind matches.

AmeriCorps members will receive 80 hours of training, beginning the first week of September, to prepare for service. They also will spend 80 hours developing a community service project of their own that could benefit the community in which they are working, such as a family literacy effort or a library project.

Direct service work in the school will amount to another 740 hours, for a total of 900 hours per volunteer member.

In exchange, Duncan explained, each person will receive \$4,206 in living allowance and, upon completion, \$2,363 to be used toward a college education, either paying off a loan or for future needs.

Jana Groh, the only person hired a year ago as part of the planning grant, is responsible for member training and is expected to take over as Project Director soon.

Coordinators at the various sites are Duncan at Rend Lake College, Evelyn Stover at Kaskaskia, Elizabeth Bailey-Smith at Logan, Jean Ellen Boyd at Shawnee, Dick Hagan at Southeastern Illinois and Kathie Lorentz at SIUC.

[Bailey-Smith would be hired by Rend Lake College in 2005 as a full-time Speech Communications Instructor and started the competitive Forensic Team.]

Each of the campus coordinators will be responsible for activities involving their members - six individuals at each of the five community colleges and 10 at SIUC. Teachers and administrators in the participating elementary schools will provide the actual work-site supervision.

AmeriCorps members should be working in area schools by mid- to late-September, Duncan indicated.

According to the Southern Illinois Comprehensive Network of Youth Agencies, 6,452 young people (38 per cent) are "at-risk" students. Furthermore, 15,167 children in 10,210 families in the region are living at or below the official poverty level.

The grant, noting youth in these grades



AmeriCorps celebration recognizes 15 RLC reps

"Opening Day / Year Two" of the domestic volunteer service program, AmeriCorps, was celebrated in downstate Illinois on October 12, 1995, when approximately 150 members and other supporters representing 10 ongoing projects from Decatur south joined forces on the Rend Lake College campus in Ina. A similar celebration was held at the American Red Cross offices in Chicago as part of a national day of recognition. John Petrelli, Executive Director of the Illinois Coalition for Community Service located in Springfield, was the guest speaker at RLC.

Among those recognized:

■ Illinois ChildCorps second-year volunteer Linda Ross (Mt. Vernon) and part-time member Tammy Hodges (Mt. Vernon), who will be working in the Altamont satellite office, plus "graduates" Doug Smithenry (Newton) and Robyan Payne (Galatia).

■ Six students representing RLC through AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois - Aurelia Hudgens, Katrina Mellott, Brianna Richard and Travarr Rudd (all of Mt. Vernon), Emily McCormick (Belle Rive) and Amber Phelps (Bonnie).

■ Four Illinois RiverWatch Network AmeriCorps members who worked out of the RLC office the previous year - full-timers Eric Manker (Sesser) and Alice Brandon (Carbondale) and part-timers Duane Edwards (Christopher) and Wayne Caplinger (Marion).

■ RLC Sophomore Rachel Swan (Mt. Vernon), one of 26 full-time volunteers statewide working with the American Red Cross AmeriCorps project.



'Make a Difference' (cont.)

term of service with AmeriCorps. An Illinois ChildCorps volunteer who is paid limited expenses and a small educational stipend, Sayegh lives two blocks from Horace Mann. Neighborhood students frequently invite her to roller blade with them or read books. So the two women, aware of the need, decided to collect socks for Mann Elementary students. They contacted several businesses in the community. Big Lots, Stage Department Store and Walgreens agreed to donate socks and to post flyers inviting the community to join their efforts. On "Make A Difference Day," Saturday, October 26, Badger and Sayegh collected 131 pair of socks from the three local businesses. They delivered them the following Monday. That is not the end of the story, however. During that visit, Sayegh met Tina Mitchel, the reading specialist who runs a tutoring program called "Project Excel," which has received valuable input since its inception from another RLC staff member, "Project First Class" Coordinator Camille Jones. Now Sayegh gives 1 1/2 hours weekly to help three first-graders at the school. "You are among more than one million people around the world who spent October 26 helping others. Thanks for participating . . . and for making a difference in your community," USA WEEKEND Editor Pamela Brown noted.

AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois
Planning grant / Fall '94
\$35,000 / 1 Yr.

Illinois ChildCorps Grant
Statewide volunteer network
• Recruit child care providers
\$1.1M / 3 Yrs. / Fall '94

Title III Challenge Grant
2-for-1 Matching Funds
\$500,000 / 1995

AmeriCorps in S. Illinois
Six area colleges, 40 members
help at-risk youth, grades 5-8
\$1.5M / 4 Yrs. / Fall '95

AmeriCorps in S. Illinois aids at-risk students (cont.)

"are at a crossroads in their lives," goes on to point out: "AmeriCorps participants will be used in an effort to short-circuit existing conditions that can lead to failure. By employing participants in a series of activities and assignments that are designed to provide positive alternatives for these 'at-risk' youth, national service becomes a way of reducing the chances for academic and social failure and unproductive lives.

"The agencies that will be utilizing AmeriCorps participants are excited by the prospect of this vital new resource and have great expectations."



FROM REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 1998

The total awarded for AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois for 1998-99 was \$224,967. Of the announced figure, \$191,170 will go directly to 40 AmeriCorps in S.I. members for living allowances and benefits. But another \$94,500, not included in the total announced, is on reserve and guaranteed for scholarship awards to participants upon completion.

"The AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois project has generated about \$400,000 in college scholarships the last 4-5 years," Duncan commented.

Ten of the 40 AmeriCorps in S.I. members are Rend Lake College students assigned to Mt. Vernon area schools – four at Casey Middle School, four at Hall 6th Grade Center and two at Bethel Grade School.

"I support all efforts to encourage and promote volunteerism," said U.S. Senator Carol Moseley-Braun at the time the announcement was made in Washington, D.C. "Whether planting a tree, cleaning up neighborhood graffiti or mentoring 'at-risk' youths, these experiences will help our young people develop a lifelong commitment to helping others."

Fellow U.S. Senator Dick Durbin added, "Dollars invested in community service have a high yield that goes beyond their cash value. These young people work hard to help communities and families."

AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois

	Award	On Reserve - Scholarships
1994-95	\$35,000 (Planning Grant)	
1995-96	\$246,000	\$95,000
1996-97	\$225,000 (est.)	\$95,000 (est.)
1997-98	\$225,000 (est.)	\$95,000 (est.)
1998-99	\$224,967	\$94,500
'99-2000		

AmeriCorps helps state child care improve (cont.)

be proud of the national service program you and your colleagues developed 'to get things done' in Illinois."

Commented Poshard, "The community colleges in my district have been some of the most aggressive institutions for this kind of funding, because you recognize the need. You have gone far beyond what is expected."

Poshard said Illinois ChildCorps has "been a magnificent program."

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 1996

Year Three funding for \$290,000 will enable the hiring of the equivalent of 21 full-time members for 15 sites.

During the past year, members assisted 4,517 families seeking care for 7,227 children with referrals and consumer education, provided technical assistance to 12,009 child care providers who serve over 90,000 children, conducted 204 training sessions for over 2,010 potential providers and added 703 new providers to their data base.

AmeriCorps / Illinois ChildCorps

	Award	Living Allowance
1994-95	\$275,755	\$90,000
1995-96	\$348,932	\$90,000
1996-97	\$290,000	\$90,000
1997-98	N/A	
1998-99	* \$225,000	

WISE INVESTMENTS

Illinois Cooperative Work-Study Program Grant
4th renewal: \$29,000 increase
\$74,000 / 1 Yr. / Fall '96

1994 - 1995

1995 - 1996

1996 - 1997

2000 / GOVERNOR, FIRST LADY LIKED WHAT THEY SAW RLC hand-picked for Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 2000

In the not-too distant future, many elementary students throughout the state will be able to read about the successful "AmeriCorps in Southern Illinois" model program thanks to a Governor and First Lady who thought highly enough of the Rend Lake College creation they wanted to share it with others.

Representatives in the office of Gov. George Ryan, First Lady Lura Lynn Ryan and the Illinois Commission for Community Service convinced Rend Lake College officials to expand the scope of the AmeriCorps program – nearly doubling it in size and outreach – then made it the first and only Governor's Initiative program in Illinois to compete nationally for funding.

The mission of the resulting Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps project is "to better link Illinois college students with their communities in an effort to assist children and youth in achieving their fullest academic and social potentials."

Mrs. Ryan announced Wednesday (June 14) her "Futures for Kids" program would receive a \$468,000 grant from the Corporation for National Service to create the Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps program in six communities throughout Illinois.

Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps is an expansion of the AmeriCorps of Southern Illinois project currently administered and operated by Rend Lake College as a collaborative effort among six Southern Illinois institutions of higher education which have joined forces to serve over 2,000 youth in 14 communities.

The resulting project will combine old and new to partner 12 colleges statewide. AmeriCorps Southern Illinois will continue to provide tutors and mentors to at-risk fifth- through eighth-graders. Through this program expansion, 80 Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps members will provide in-school academic support to supplement classroom learning, provide individual and small-group tutoring and mentor students in kindergarten through Grade Two.

The First Lady stated, "The Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps program is an example of what we are trying to accomplish with 'Futures for Kids.'

"We were made aware of a program that was showing positive results for children, had relevance to the outcomes of 'Futures

for Kids' and we expanded it to include more children and start earlier."

Rend Lake College will receive approximately \$468,000 the first year to administer the statewide initiative, which goes into effect August 1.

Remaining funds needed will come from the partnership colleges and "Futures for Kids." Mrs. Ryan was responsible for creating "Futures for Kids" to help reduce youth drug use, delinquency and dropout rates.

Southern Illinois institutions already part of the proven project, in addition to Rend Lake College, are Kaskaskia College in Centralia, John A. Logan College in Carterville, Shawnee Community College in Ullin and Southeastern Illinois Community College in Harrisburg – all two-year institutions – and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Commitments from Central and Northern Illinois have come from Danville Area Community College, Highland Community College in Freeport, Malcolm X College in Chicago, Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg and East St. Louis Community College Center. Confirmation is expected soon from Parkland College in Champaign.

One of the reasons this program was singled out is a demonstrable, six-year history of quality service to youth through solid national service opportunities.

"While fostering inter-institutional collaborations between the six colleges through this distinctive partnership, and advancing an ethic of service in the region, ASI has reduced absenteeism, improved academic performance and enhanced self-esteem among at-risk middle-school students," according to Project Director Michelle Garrett.

- In Central and Northern Illinois for the first time, Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps members will focus their efforts on increasing reading success in kindergarten through second grade. Participants will support the "Right to Read" initiative implemented by the Illinois State Board of Higher Education.

The goal of the Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps program in Grades K-2 in Central and Northern Illinois is to improve reading skills by providing literacy activities to help students apply word analysis and vocabulary skills, improve understanding and fluency and comprehend reading materials.

AmeriCorps tutors/mentors will work

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RLC also very involved with state RiverWatch Network

RLC NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 1995

Rend Lake College was the recipient of two national AmeriCorps grants when President Clinton's domestic volunteer answer to the Peace Corps was first announced, quite an accomplishment in itself since there were only 13 awarded in the state and 300 nationwide.

But the college also is very involved with a third AmeriCorps program, the "Illinois RiverWatch Network."

Four volunteers are presently working out of RLC offices in the North Oasis – full-time "Citizen Scientists" Eric Manker of Sesser and Alice Brandon of Carbondale, plus part-timers Duane Edwards of Christopher and Wayne Caplinger of Marion. They are among 30 participants throughout the state, including six other community colleges.

Ten individuals statewide listed as "mentors" include RLC's Bob Ross, Director of Research, Planning and Correctional Education, and Larry Williams, Chair of the Math and Science Department.

The Illinois RiverWatch Network (IRWN) was established in April 1993 under an initiative of Lieutenant Governor Bob Kustra. The program is coordinated through the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

In a nutshell, the Illinois River-Watch Network is a partnership among citizens of the state to monitor, restore and protect the rivers and streams in Illinois.

The IRWN was created with

(Continued at left on next page)



'Partnerships in Education' cited for excellence by ICCB

RLC NEWS RELEASE JUNE 1996
Adult Education and Literacy programs at Rend Lake College have been cited by the governing Illinois Community College Board for promoting excellence through their "Partnerships in Education."

RLC Skills Center Director Barbara Bauernfeind and Adult Literacy Coordinator Tina Grounds presented the certificate signed by ICCB Executive Director Geraldine Evans to college officials Tuesday night at the monthly Board of Trustees meeting.

Adults 16 years of age and older no longer enrolled in high school and their families are served by the program.

"Partnerships in Education" provides services at Family Investment Education Centers in Benton, Christopher, Mt. Vernon and McLeansboro.

The Franklin County HUD Grant was the only one awarded in Illinois. Bauernfeind informed Board members the program was successful in reaching 1 1/2 times the anticipated

(Continued at far right on next page)



RiverWatch (cont.)

three primary objectives:

- To educate and inform re: the ecology and importance of the state's streams.
- To provide an opportunity for Illinois citizens to become involved in protecting the health of local streams, and
- To provide consistent, high-quality data to be used by the scientific community.

Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps (cont.)

in classrooms under the supervision of a certified kindergarten or elementary teacher.

• In the southern portion of the state, Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps members will continue to focus efforts on at-risk middle school students in Grades 5-8, working to decrease absenteeism, improve academic performance and enhance student self-esteem. The number of service sites will increase from 14 to 21 under the new funding.

Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps will utilize 80 part-time members, each serving 900 hours for two years. These volunteers receive minimal living compensation for their efforts, as well as monies on reserve . . . available to them upon completion for future educational needs.

Rend Lake College will be advertising for a Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps Project Director, as well as Member Support Coordinators for the Southern Region (housed on the Ina campus) and the Central/Northern Region (housed at Danville Area C.C.).

RLC's AmeriCorps members work with Horace Mann, Benjamin Franklin and Summersville grade schools, all in Mt. Vernon. Other participating schools in Southern Illinois include: St. Mary's and Carlyle Jr. High, both in Carlyle (Kaskaskia); Herrin Middle and Washington in Marion (Logan); Century in Grand Chain and Cypress (Shawnee); Malan Jr. High and East Side Elementary in Harrisburg, Eldorado Middle and Galatia (Southeastern Illinois) and Thomas and Winkler, both in Carbondale (SIUC).

"Because of the program partners, the commitment and dedication of well-trained members and active support and involvement of community members, Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps will truly live up to the AmeriCorps motto and 'get things done' in Illinois," commented Garrett.

Garrett helped write the Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps proposal with the help of former Campus Coordinator Rex Duncan, who wrote the original application, Director of Research Bob Ross, Community Develop-

ment Executive Director Elaine Johnson, Tammy Tadlock and other staff members.

There are 30 AmeriCorps programs of various types in Illinois. Rend Lake College is believed to be the only community college with two; the RLC-administered Illinois ChildCorps program likewise is a statewide initiative that has been in existence since the establishment of the AmeriCorps program.

Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps

	OPERATIONS	CASH MATCH
2000-01	\$468,000	
2001-02	\$492,837	\$152,900 *
2002-03	\$496,000	\$156,200 *
2003-04	\$531,130	\$ 69,808 *
2004-05	\$536,951	\$ 73,728
2005-06	\$516,212	\$130,146
2006-07	\$464,624	\$178,000
2007-08	\$529,200	\$132,300
2008-09	\$527,300	\$ 12,000
2009-10	\$497,700	\$ 12,000
2010-11	\$499,536	\$ 12,000
2011-12	\$499,536	
2012-13	\$492,100	-
2013-14	\$385,700	\$ 5,996
2014-15	\$385,699	\$ 477
2015-16	\$425,600	-
2016-17	\$445,034	-

* State DHS Southern Seven AmeriCorps



Carl Perkins Grant Skill Improvement / Postsecondary

1991-92	\$198,477
1994-95	\$228,367
2002-03	\$263,766
2003-04	\$397,502
2004-05	\$314,622
2005-06	\$235,027
2006-07	\$200,815
2007-08	\$202,723
2008-09	\$210,912
2009-10	\$216,175
2010-11	\$213,430
2011-12	\$195,822
2012-13	\$189,708
2013-14	\$173,964
2014-15	\$150,273
2015-16	\$149,893

Title III Grant
Student Success •
Curriculum Improvement
\$1.6M / 5 Yrs. / Fall '97

STARS Title IV Trio Grant
Student Transfer &
Retention Support
\$879,360 / 5 Yrs. / Fall '97



Upward Bound
Title IV Trio Grant
50 low-income, 1st generation
\$1M / 5 Yrs. / Fall '99

Illinois Cooperative
Work-Study Grant
Seventh renewal
\$110,000 / 1 Yr. / Fall '99

1997 - 1998

1998 - 1999

1999 - 2000

1995 / FRANKLIN COUNTY HOUSING RESIDENTS TO BENEFIT Skills Center part of 'Investment' just under \$1 million

FROM NEWS RELEASED BY GLENN POSHARD'S OFFICE AND REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 1995

CHRISTOPHER – Congressman Glenn Poshard Friday (January 14) announced a grant of just under \$1 million to help public housing residents in Franklin County with the skills they need to compete in the job market. Poshard applauded the Franklin County Housing Authority and Rend Lake College for securing the \$999,625 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for its "Family Investment Center" program.

"This provides a means for folks to get into the classroom and get training they will need to find work and support their families. Without these services that opportunity is severely limited," Poshard stated.

The FIC program provides on-site adult education classes and helps people with child care while they are attending classes, transportation to and from the centers and employment support services which will make them competitive in the job market. Other services include latchkey tutoring for school-age children and family literacy.

Poshard admitted to a packed room of area media and Franklin County supporters, "I don't usually hold press conferences on grants. But some times, something special comes along that we need to draw to the attention of the public. This is one of those special occasions."

"It isn't enough just to provide public housing" for those who qualify, Poshard noted. "We need to do something else to help. We need to give them the skills needed so they can leave public housing. The unemployed . . . disabled . . . elderly . . . they all need help to better their lives."

The Franklin County "Family Investment Center" plan will receive approximately 1/25th of the federal funds released this year to provide education, training skills, child care, transportation . . . "The things that can help these people make a better life for themselves and their families."

And, Poshard was quick to point out, that money "is coming here because the Franklin County Housing Authority and Rend Lake College – on a competitive basis – did one of the best jobs in the country in submitting a proposal. If it isn't good enough, then we don't get the money, it's that simple."

"We've got some folks out there doing the

right thing for our people," Poshard added.

The U.S. Congressman from the 19th District introduced RLC President Mark S. Kern, Larry Crabtree with the Public Housing Authority, Steve Schumacher of the Illinois State Board of Education - Adult Ed and Literacy Section and State Sen. Jim Rea of Christopher. He also mentioned the efforts of State Rep. Larry Woolard.

Kern then introduced RLC personnel responsible for putting the five-year grant together – Director of Planning, Research and Correctional Education Bob Ross, Skills Center Director Barbara Bauernfeind and Literacy Coordinator Tina Grounds.

"These folks," Poshard reiterated, "did a good job, doggone it, and need some recognition for it. They did an outstanding job."

"We're elated," said Crabtree. "You don't know how much work is involved (in a grant proposal) until you have done one."

"Without the college," added Crabtree's assistant, Monica Stewart, "we could never have done this."

The "Family Investment Center" primarily will serve residents of public housing units but will not turn away other Franklin County residents in need of help, provided space is available. Sites will be established in Christopher and Benton.

Offerings include reading and literacy classes, adult basic education and GED classes, vocational education classes, other college classes, computer classes, parenting classes, community education classes, tutoring, child care and transportation.

Several full- and part-time employees will be hired. Two vans will be purchased for use by the Housing Authority.

"We have been saying for years this is the type of program we need to help get people self-sufficient," commented Schumacher.

"Now we have the opportunity to show how it can work and be accomplished. We're in the limelight. The rest of the nation will be looking at this as a model that can be replicated. The State Board is really excited about its possibilities."

Over 300 applications were submitted for this grant; only 34 grants were awarded.

HUD "Family Investment Centers"

1994-95	\$226,189	1997-98	N/A
1995-96	N/A	1998-99	N/A
1996-97	N/A	Total (est.)	\$999,625



'Partnerships' cited (cont.)

number of participants in the first year. Three students completed Adult Ed classes in the first semester the grant was in operation and then enrolled in college classes.

"The HUD Office in Washington, D.C. informed us this is one of a few grants awarded that is meeting projected goals and considered successful," according to a report provided.

A "Center for Excellence" Grant received from the ICCB to enhance the Mt. Vernon Center's computer classroom and upgrade its technology was one of 19 statewide, out of 121 total programs. Thanks to the \$23,500 award, computers used to assist adults as they improve literacy skills, study for the GED (high school equivalency) exam and prepare to enter the world of work are now connected to on-line services, allowing students to utilize the Internet and America On-line to search for information. I.e., students are becoming computer literate as they learn basic skills.

Along with community educational centers, RLC Skills Center personnel have developed Family Education Child Development Centers to "provide quality educational services to young children while parents attend an adult education class or workshop."

Information from the Illinois State Board of Education indicates 56 of the public assistance students served by RLC in FY95 increased earnings enough to have their assistance grant reduced or canceled. The estimated savings attributed to Rend Lake College total \$388,368.

1989 / JOB SEARCH, PLACEMENT INFO ALSO OFFERED

JTPA Client Service Center provides vocational training



Nervous and unemployed Paschal: 'OK, let's try it,'

REGISTER-NEWS SEPTEMBER 23, 1996
BY MARY KAYE KOCH-DAVIS

Debbie Paschal knows what it is like to have a job one day and the next day be out of work. That was the situation she faced when she lost her job as Administrative Assistant to former State Rep. Larry Hicks when he lost his bid for re-election in 1994.

"When I worked for Larry, I was the one answering the phone and giving displaced workers referrals on where to get help. Now it was me. I knew the whole spiel of where to go. Now, I had to say to myself, 'OK, let's try it,'" she said.

Paschal contacted Rend Lake College and, through the Job Training Partnership Act program, she soon was on campus working toward a degree in Business Management.

"That was one of the hardest days of my life, when I had to walk onto that campus," she said.

Her nervousness faded, and she quickly fit into college life.

(Continued at far right on next page)

Good hires

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Three of the original JTPA employees – Paula Myers, née Castagna; Sharon Richardson, née Lemay, and Warner – were still working at RLC in various capacities 22 years later.]

The Rend Lake College Board of Trustees approved a cooperative agreement with Illinois Farmers Union Training, Inc. "to provide services for individuals eligible for all titles of the Jobs Training Partnership Act" at its July 18, 1989 monthly meeting.

These services will be provided through the establishment of a JTPA Client Service Center on the Ina campus (North Oasis).

According to the contract, this Client Service Center "reflects an expansion rather than a duplication of SDA 25's current operation . . . The JTPA Client Service Center proposes to provide the following services: outreach, intake, assessment, counseling, job development and follow-up."

More specifically, the JTPA is a grant funded through Illinois Farmers Union-Training, Inc., the administrative agency, with support coming from the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs.

It offers opportunities to prospective students interested in vocational training and basic skills education. Job search and placement information also are available.

For those who qualify, JTPA will pay tuition, fees, books, tutoring, supplies and, for some, mileage and day care expenses.

Eligibility is based on income, long-term unemployment, plant closures and/or other special circumstances.

Coordinator Paula Castagna was hired prior to the July meeting. JTPA hirings approved at the meeting were Counselors Sharon Lemay and David Warner, Assessment Specialist Meridy Lutheran and Intake Specialist Kathy Hayes.

Also working with the center part-time will be Rex Duncan, Assistant Director of Cooperative Education and Job Placement.

Trustees were provided with a special update during their June 1990 meeting . . .

"Since the establishment of the JTPA Client Service Center on-campus almost one year ago, the number of participants has

more than doubled and 4,470 contacts with students were made in 11 months time.

"The numbers have overwhelmed us. We have had far more students than we ever anticipated," said Vocational-Technical Education Dean Carroll Turner.

"The report by Turner and Castagna revealed 608 students (294 Fall / 314 Spring) enrolled in college classes through JTPA. Those students are generating 6,820 credit hours, compared to approximately 4,500 hours by 300 JTPA students the year before. Participant contacts during that time have gone from an estimated 500 to the 4,470.

"Other figures indicate 67 JTPA products among Spring 1990 graduates; the program boasts a 74 per cent job-placement rate.

"Turner emphasized the need for centralized services to prospective students, rather than outreach sites scattered throughout the district. The program was losing many students who would become disgruntled having to go back and forth between IFU offices and the college. Assessment, intake and eligibility determination can now be accomplished without the 'runaround' previously experienced by many students, Turner added.

"Most participants," Castagna said, "are 'slot-in' students enrolled in regular college classes. The JTPA program does offer special classes like Building Maintenance, Nurse's Aid, Truck Driving and Clerical."

Job Training Partnership Act

1989-90	N/A	1995-96	N/A
1990-91	N/A	1996-97	N/A
1991-92	\$116,892	1997-98	N/A
1992-93	N/A	1998-99	N/A
1993-94	N/A	1999-2000	N/A
1994-95	\$276,266		

IETC / Workforce Investment Act

2000-01	N/A	2005-06	\$57,789
2001-02	\$51,720	2006-07	\$68,000
2002-03	\$54,073	2007-08	N/A
2003-04	\$54,985	2008-09	\$53,323
2004-05	\$57,789		

WISE INVESTMENTS

Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps

Initiative of Gov. Ryan and Illinois First Lady modeled after RLC's AmeriCorps in S. Illinois to help youngsters achieve fullest academic and social potential / Fall 2000

RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus

Off-campus site becomes reality thanks to cooperative effort by State Sen. Bill O'Daniel and David Luechtefeld, Murphy-Wall State Bank, City of Pinckneyville and others

Dr. Allen Y. Baker Administration Building Renovation

Student Intake Center 7,000-sq. ft. addition doubles size
• Paid by transfer of insurance reserve funds w/ no additional taxing obligations / \$1.47M / Completed Fall 2000

2000 - 2001

2001 - 2002

2002 - 2003

1993 / ON-CAMPUS CLASSROOM, ONE OFF-CAMPUS SITE TO START SICCM benefits from \$1 million Distance Learning link

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 1993

Gov. Jim Edgar visited Southern Illinois Wednesday afternoon (September 29) to announce a \$1 million grant that could link college and high school classrooms, businesses and industry to a new statewide education network.

The grant awarded to the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market, of which Rend Lake College is a member, is part of a \$15 million program Edgar included in his budget for the fiscal year.

Rend Lake College's share of the SICCM grant is expected to be around \$190,000, according to Director of Research and Planning Bob Ross.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education is expected to act on the telecommunication consortia HECA grants at its meeting on October 7.

Grant monies awarded the first year are expected to go primarily toward the purchase of equipment. RLC will share the funding with SICCM participants Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, John A. Logan College, Shawnee Community College and Southeastern Illinois College.

"I am delighted," Edgar said during the announcement on SIC's campus, "to deliver on a commitment I made in my State of the State Address earlier this year.

"This grant and others like it throughout Illinois will fund the development of a long-distance learning network that will put our state on the leading edge of expanding educational opportunities through high technology.

"We live," he added, "in an age of new technology, where changes seem to occur almost by the minute. We have the choice to make change an ally or we can become a victim of change. With this grant, we choose to become an ally of change."

The technological program is designed to link colleges and universities with hospitals, businesses and high schools in order to provide better access to higher education.

As part of administrative rationale in seeking RLC Board of Trustees approval for distance learning funding at the October meeting, President Mark S. Kern commented, "Distance learning is the closest thing to being in a classroom with an instructor (and not actually being in the

same room) that I have ever seen."

First-year HECA grant monies will be used to equip a Distance Learning Classroom on-campus and telecommunications hookup between the college and SIUC, as well as one off-campus site, probably in Mt. Vernon initially. Additional funding is expected to continue for at least four more years.

"The State of Illinois is a leader in the United States in telecommunications," added Director of Learning Resources David Patton.

Distance Learning allows a teacher to provide instruction to an on-site classroom of students at the same time the class is "beamed" via television and communication technology to other sites.

Because the program is comprised of a network of educators, Mt. Vernon Township High School Superintendent Pat Garrett informed his board, it will allow schools to offer more classes without having to hire more teachers.

Garrett also said classes from MVTHS could be transmitted to other schools which do not have classes which it does.

"Some outlying schools do not have classes such as calculus and we do. They just don't have enough interested students or personnel. This way we could teach it and they could take it through long-distance learning."

I.e., Distance Learning represents a win-win situation for everyone involved, in particular high school and college students.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 1994

Rend Lake College administrators watched from long-distance a couple of weeks ago when Gov. Edgar was on the Southern Illinois University campus in Carbondale to announce the awarding of the second year of grant funds for "Distance Learning" through the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market.

Last week, RLC officials discovered exactly how good that news is for the In-based community college and its district residents.

The college will receive \$300,000, the entire amount it requested in the grant application.

President Kern informed the RLC Board of Trustees Tuesday night (October 18) the

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'OK, let's try it' (cont.)

"One of the first classes I took was Speech, and it was a great class. I made some lifelong friends there, and we still keep in touch. It didn't matter that they were 18 and I was 38, we were all on the same level - all struggling," she said.

While taking classes at RLC she was hired as Executive Director for the [Jefferson County] Chamber of Commerce.

As Executive Director, she wears the hats of an organizer, public relations director and manager.

She said she has learned a lot since being hired a year ago.

"It's amazing how far I've come with three hours of training. That, by no means, is a bad reflection to those who trained me, but that's how it was. When I first came on, I didn't even know who all the Board members were," she said.

She said one of her main jobs is to keep all members informed; she also has to keep track of what is happening in the community.

Paschal said education is a key toward a successful career, and she is eyeing continuing education through the Institute for Organizational Management. The IOM is for Chamber executives and others who deal with management similar to a Chamber. Classes are held one week a year for six years at colleges throughout the U.S.

"The theory that women don't need an education has changed. Education is the key that opens so many doors. Work experience helps, but education is the key. You have to keep up or you will get left behind," she said.



Equipment grant in 2015: videoconferencing upgrade

NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 2, 2015

Rend Lake College and five area high schools are receiving an upgrade to their videoconferencing equipment, thanks to a Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Project administered by the Rural Utilities Service.

The \$439,425 grant will be divided between four Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM) members – RLC, Kaskaskia, Shawnee and Southeastern Illinois – and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale to install and upgrade equipment.

RLC will upgrade equipment on-campus and the Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus. Additional funds will upgrade equipment at Thompsonville, Waltonville, Wayne City and Webber Township, as well as install new, state-of-the-art equipment at Hamilton County Senior High School.

“Most of the videoconferencing equipment in the district is approximately 10 years old,” said Andrea Witthoft, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness. “Technical failures have increased over the past few years and these issues impact the quality of the teaching and learning experiences. The participating institutions are very grateful.”

The grant will connect high school and adult students for the delivery of college-level courses, reducing transportation and distance barriers for rural residents while increasing their access to a college education.

Distance Learning links expected to expand (cont.)

new monetary award will allow Rend Lake College to complete work on its Mt. Vernon site in the Sister Joanne Building at Good Samaritan Regional Health Center, establish two new off-campus sites “probably in area high schools,” and equip each of the off-campus sites so that transmittals will go directly from RLC to those sites rather than having to go through Carbondale, thus reducing telephone expenses considerably.

Kern praised the efforts of Learning Resource Director David Patton. “He developed the grant, and we got every penny we asked for. Good job, Dave,” Kern said during the meeting.

An on-campus “distance learning” classroom was established this year in the LRC (Room 211), in addition to the one in Mt. Vernon, as a result of RLC’s share of a first-year, \$15 million statewide grant.

One Allied Health class is being taught via “distance learning” at the present time. Several others are scheduled this spring.

McLeansboro and Pinckneyville have been mentioned as possibilities for the off-campus sites this coming year, although that determination has yet to be made.

A meeting with high school administrators regarding “distance learning” opportunities will be conducted by Rend Lake College officials November 2.

HECA Grant / Distance Learning

1993-94	\$177,000	2004-05	N/A
1994-95	\$300,000	2005-06	N/A
1995-96	N/A	2006-07	N/A
1996-97	N/A	2007-08	N/A
1997-98	N/A	2008-09	N/A
1998-99	N/A	2009-10	N/A
1999-2000	N/A	2010-11	N/A
2000-01	N/A	2011-12	N/A
2001-02	N/A	2012-13	N/A
2002-03	N/A	2013-14	N/A
2003-04	\$105,875		

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 2004

Changes to Rend Lake College’s Distance Learning classrooms may not be

readily apparent on the surface, but they certainly show themselves in function and friendliness.

Karla Lewis, RLC Distance Learning and Media Technology Coordinator, is in the process of upgrading each of the college’s 11 Distance Learning sites to Internet video technology, thanks to a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Grant. The \$388,000 grant was awarded to the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market, according to Lewis. Southern Illinois University, Shawnee Community College and Southeastern Illinois College will benefit from the grant as well as RLC.

Distance Learning allows students at participating Rend Lake College interactive video sites to take courses using a live video connection. The system allows students and instructors to see and hear one another continuously.

Compression technology has changed, Lewis said. In the past, large bandwidths with Internet “clear channels” were required in order to send video to the other D.L. sites. Now, video information is sent out in “packets” and compressed so much there is no need to have multiple dedicated T1 lines.

“We now have new, cutting-edge equipment,” Lewis said. It was obtained through Polycam, which handles 80 percent of the interactive video market. This also eliminates the problem of video and Internet traffic “bleeding” into each other.

Eliminating many of the unneeded T1 lines will save the district a considerable amount of money each month, added Lewis.

“The new system is more flexible,” Lewis said. Multiple controls have been condensed and replaced by one touch-sensitive remote control. Distance Learning instructors have more options with computer software to put on a presentation; an instructor can bring in a laptop containing the software needed to run the program and link it directly to the video system. Routine maintenance and software upgrades can now be accomplished by Lewis from afar.

There will be enough equipment, after all upgrades are complete, to add two more D.L. sites.

Upward Bound
Title IV Trio Grant
Renewed
3 Yrs. / 2004

Title III Grant
Wireless Communication •
Matching Endowment Option
\$1.8M / 5 Yrs. / FALL '04

WISE INVESTMENTS

2003 - 2004

2004 - 2005

2005 - 2006

2003 / 1,500-PLUS MIDDLE-SCHOOLERS TO BENEFIT 'In-Focus/Keep-Focused' Grant promotes teen abstinence

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 2003

More than 1,500 middle school students and freshmen in the Rend Lake College district are expected to benefit directly during the next year from an Abstinence Education Grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Rend Lake College is the only community college in the nation to share in the \$15 million program designed to help communities develop and implement abstinence education programs for young people ages 12-18. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced 28 grant recipients last week.

College officials were notified of the \$298,080 federal grant by Congressman John Shimkus (R-19).

The In-Focus/Keep-Focused Abstinence Education Project through Rend Lake College mirrors the current Future Focus program which already offers education, counseling, career exploration and cultural events to grade and middle school students in Franklin and Jefferson counties.

Keep-Focused will now serve Benton Consolidated High School and Mt. Vernon Township High School freshmen, in addition to other freshmen at Hamilton County Sr. High School in McLeansboro, Pinckneyville Community High School and Zeigler-Royalton High School. The five participating high schools boast 800-plus 9th-graders.

In-Focus will reach out to about 375 students in Grade 7 and a like number of 8th-graders attending Field Grade School near Mt. Vernon, Ina Grade School, McClellan Grade School, McLeansboro Junior High, Pinckneyville 204, Pinckneyville Junior High, St. Bruno Catholic School in Pinckneyville, Rome Grade School in Dix and Zeigler-Royalton Grade School.

It is designed as a three-year project totaling \$867,900, according to Resource Development Specialist Trudee Wynn, funding permitted.

"When adolescents become sexually active, it can have negative effects on their physical and emotional health," Secretary Thompson noted. "These grants create an environment within communities that supports teens in their decision to remain abstinent until marriage."

The 28 Community-Based Abstinence

Education implementation grants were awarded to both public and private entities, including community- and faith-based organizations, hospitals, health centers, school systems and other youth service agencies. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) branch of HHS expects to announce the availability of another round of abstinence grants this fall.

"Abstinence education is designed as an intervention to reduce the number of teens who have premarital sex and who may not be emotionally or financially ready for the consequences," said HRSA Administrator Elizabeth M. Duke.

Interventions are designed to reduce the number of adolescents who engage in premarital sexual activity and, consequently, out-of-wedlock pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, and to encourage youth to avoid other risky behaviors associated with early sexual involvement, such as alcohol and drug use.

The grant application submitted by Wynn emphasized a rural, low-income district where the need is great due to several factors – high unemployment; low educational attainment for local residents; high child abuse and neglect rates, and extremely high teenage pregnancy rates.

In-Focus/Keep-Focused will strive to meet the needs of its target population through classroom abstinence-only education; individual and family counseling; career exploration and goal-setting, and a variety of cultural opportunities on- and off-campus.

In addition to a more systematic approach to educating students on ways to practice an abstinent lifestyle, the project also is designed to teach the type of decision and refusal skills needed for students to live with the positive choices they make.

While the major focus of instruction and programming activities will be abstinence from sexual activity until marriage, abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and violence likewise will be stressed. The program will give students the opportunity to learn alternative, healthy behaviors that encourage success in life and promote positive decision-making. Emphasis will be placed on the knowledge of what can be achieved when they choose this lifestyle.

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'Future Focus' winners reward: Trip to Chicago

Twenty seventh-grade students reaped the rewards of first-year participation in the "Future Focus" program with an all-expense paid trip to Chicago in June 1999 (and succeeding years). They were winners in an essay contest which attracted over 250 entries from about 400 individuals in that class who attend the seven participating schools.

The topic of the essay was "Abstinence: A Choice for Me! Why I Want to Say No!" Essays were judged on content and form. Emphasis was on how well each entry addressed specific topics using materials presented throughout the year, which began August 1.

The three-day trip to Chicago included the Shedd Aquarium, Hancock Tower Observatory, Field Museum of Natural History, Museum of Science and Industry, Rainforest Cafe, Planet Hollywood and the Cheesecake Factory, an afternoon at Navy Pier and a Chicago Cubs baseball game.

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Title VII CETA Grant will train 30 new Coal Miners

NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 1980

Rend Lake College has been awarded a Comprehensive Employment and Training Act Title VII Grant to train 30 students in Coal Mining Technology. The nine-month CETA program will provide an educational allowance of \$3.10 per hour (35-hour week), transportation and other services.



Upward Bound steps up in our needy backyards

LETTER TO PRESIDENT

In the three-county region served by the Upward Bound program at Rend Lake College, 36.3 percent of all families are low income, 87 percent of the adults have no college degree and there is a high school drop out rate of 18.09 percent. Astounded by these facts? The Upward Bound staff isn't.

We know these statistics alone provide solid evidence why programs like Upward Bound are so greatly needed not only nationwide, but particularly in our own backyard. Caught in a dizzying cycle of under-education, poverty, and general lack of understanding about negotiating the post-secondary educational maze, many of our local students are being left behind to fend for themselves.

Upward Bound can step in and go that extra mile by offering tutoring, college tours, ACT prep classes and weekend and summer programs which all are geared toward keeping students active in learning.

Supporters know the program works. According to the Council for Opportunity in Education, 91 percent of students who complete the Upward Bound program go to college, compared to only 41 percent of students from all low-income families. How can it be denied that any program with a 91 percent success rate is working, especially when that percentage represents students who are going to college and making their lives better?

In-Focus/Keep-Focused pushes abstinence (cont.)

Lisa Price, coordinator of the RLC Future Focus prevention program the past five years, will assume the role of In-Focus/Keep-Focused Project Director. The college is now in search of a Project Coordinator, two In-Focus Counselors and one Keep-Focused Counselor.

Price is Director of both the RLC Counseling Center and K-12 Programs, which includes Teen Parent Services, Welfare-to-Work and Department of Children and Family Services Life Skills Instruction.

The Abstinence Education Grant program was started in FY2001 and is funded as part of the Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS).

Only three other colleges and/or universities were singled out – University of South Alabama, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles and Medical College of Georgia.

Area schools currently served by Future Focus are Casey Middle School, Bethel Grade School and Dodds Grade School, all in Jefferson County, and Benton Middle School, Akin Grade School, Ewing-Northern Grade School and Logan Grade School in Franklin County.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JUNE 1998

A state grant which could affect nearly 1,000 middle-school students within the RLC District has been approved for \$200,000 in funding over a 16-month period beginning this fall.

Future Focus is a curriculum-based intervention project designed to provide students in grades 5-8 with the "knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to combat at-risk behavior and promote career awareness," according to the proposal.

Simply put, the main purpose for the grant program is to decrease teen pregnancy. Special emphasis toward that goal will be placed on encouraging college and career aspirations.

Curriculum that will be introduced into two core schools and seven smaller feeder schools will integrate family life education with lessons concerned with career exploration, interpersonal and family relationships, decision-making and goal-setting.

The project will be piloted at Benton Middle School and Casey Middle School in Mt. Vernon, as well as at Franklin County schools Akin, Ewing-Northern and Logan and Jefferson County schools Bethel, Dodds, McClellan and Summersville.

Approximately 950 students are expected to participate in the first year.

Curriculum will be strengthened by supplementing it with hands-on experiences that include extensive career exploration in the new RLC Career Center; student and teacher training in conflict resolution; a "virtual baby" experience to demonstrate the commitment and disruptions a child requires; RLC summer camps, and positive cultural experiences – field trips, performances and "Focus on Youth" seminars.

The project will be staffed by certified elementary teachers and counselors.

Notification was received by RLC President Mark S. Kern last week (May 25-29) from Howard A. Peters, Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Resources.

Those most responsible for preparing the grant application were RLC personnel Elaine Johnson, Director of Nontraditional Programs, Director of Resource Development Bob Ross and Lisa Price, Teen Parent Services Case Manager, along with Parent Liaison Gail Lowe, Benton Middle School.

TITLE IV "TRIO Grant" / Focus

Future Focus

1998-99	\$200,000	2002-03	\$126,000
1999-2000	N/A	2003-04	\$115,500
2000-01	N/A	2004-05	\$ 87,500
2001-02	\$175,000	2005-06	\$ 60,000
		2006-07	\$ 60,000

In-Focused / Keep-Focused

2003-04	\$298,080	2006-07	N/A
2004-05	\$319,468	2007-08	N/A
2005-06	\$298,080	2008-09	N/A

Upward Bound
Title IV Trio Grant
Renewed
\$1M / 4 Yrs. / 2007

Federal Energy Grant for Mining Technology
Funds provided for coal mining and production
workforce training / \$1.6M / March 2008

Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunities Funds
to construct Coal Mining Technology training facilities
/ \$1.07M / April 2008 • Groundbreaking August 7, 2008

IL Cooperative Work-
Study Program Grant
12th year in row over
\$90,000 / Fall 2008

2006 – 2007

2007 – 2008

2008 – 2009

1994 / CAREER EXPLORATION ALSO KEY TO ONGOING GRANT Teen Parent Services emphasizes education, counseling

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 1994

Rend Lake College has received official notification it is the recipient of a Young Parent Services Grant from the Illinois Department of Public Aid that will enable college representatives to provide education, counseling, career exploration and child care to teen parents in five counties.

The \$72,200 grant also will allow RLC to hire two new full-time employees – a case worker and secretary.

The proposed Rend Lake College project replicates the Comprehensive Young Parent Services Model and will serve individuals in Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Perry and Wayne counties, which include approximately 100 AFDC young teen parents at the present time. Nontraditional Student Program Director Elaine Johnson will oversee the grant program.

Anticipated participants will include rural teen parents, African-American teen parents, dropouts and teen parents who lack transportation.

The primary purpose of the RLC Young Parent Program is “to enroll, retain and see through to graduation the young teens in the project and create a climate for success.” Objective Three, for example, is “to break the cycle of welfare dependence through education and behavior modification.”

The proposal goes on to state, “The keys to keeping young parents in school lies in removing barriers to education, providing support services and providing opportunities for success. The project will assist in removing educational barriers by helping with transportation, child care and personal problems. Support services such as personal counseling, support groups, seminars, home visits and recognition of success will significantly impact the success rate of young parents.”

Project staff will work closely with the Department of Public Aid in each of the counties served, 12 high schools in the district and two other programs located on campus – Project CHILD, the Child Care Resource and Referral program funded by the Department of Children and Family Services, and the Job Training Partnership Act Client Service Center. Also expected to be involved are other programs such as Literacy, GED, Financial Aid, Single-Parent, Career Center and Early School Leaver.

RLC Grants Writer Bob Ross also was instrumental in obtaining grant funding.

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Teen Parent Services is part of the college’s Nontraditional Student Programs. By definition, a nontraditional student may be a single teen parent, a single adult parent or any student older than the traditional college age of 18-22. Other nontraditional programs at the time Teen Parent Services came into existence were the Single Parent / Displaced Homemaker Program and the Building Fairness Program, which was initiated to assist students in all areas of career exploration and development.

According to the RLC Catalog, “The Teen Parent Services program is part of the state’s welfare reform program which helps young parents receiving financial assistance through the Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program take responsibility for improving family’s lives while avoiding long-term welfare dependence. The goal of the program is to promote self-sufficiency and break the cycle of poverty among single mothers.”

The Teen Parent Services program:

- Requires parents age 18 and under to attend classes if they do not have a high school diploma or GED;
- Provides a positive, supportive environment for young mothers and their children through comprehensive, family-centered case management;
- Provides workshops on family health, parenting and child support enforcement;
- Holds parent-child activities;
- Helps young parents set goals and follow through to achieve them;
- Shows parents their children’s success is dependent upon the parent’s success;
- Pays for child care and transportation.

State DHS “Teen Parent Services”

1993-94	\$ 72,200	2002-03	\$170,000
1994-95	\$ 99,999	2003-04	\$182,000
1995-96	N/A	2004-05	\$179,400
1996-97	N/A	2005-06	\$190,000
1997-98	N/A	2006-07	\$150,000
1998-99	N/A	2007-08	\$154,500
'99-2000	N/A	2008-09	\$168,300
2000-01	N/A	2009-10	\$143,500
2001-02	\$181,000	2010-11	\$129,500

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AmeriCorps members’ spirit did not disappoint

NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

By TARA SULLIVAN

Learning Enhancement Specialist

There is a certain type of person willing to stick his or her neck out for others, to take a chance in order to help someone else. People who fit this description are commonly referred to as volunteers.

Whether the act of kindness comes at a nursing home, an educational setting or any number of other places, it is not unusual to find the same characteristics demonstrated by volunteers influencing all parts of their lives and actions.

On Wednesday, July 30, two members of the statewide AmeriCorps program directed by Rend Lake College had the opportunity to demonstrate how this spirit of selflessness could even save someone’s life. They didn’t disappoint.

It began as a normal training trip to the Cache River for AmeriCorps members John Laury (Vienna) and Brittany Freeman (Metropolis). That was before they showed their dedication to the fundamentals of volunteerism by assisting in the rescue of a State Police Officer from an overturned vehicle.

The two were riding in a van of participants in the AmeriCorps program when they spotted an accident which had just happened near Karnak.

Laury and Freeman immediately noticed there were no paramedics or police officers on the scene and asked Land of Lincoln Southern Seven AmeriCorps Director Dave Warner if they could stop and help since they both had medical experience.

(Continued at left on next page)

2000 / \$1.47 MILLION CREATED TO DOUBLE SIZE OF FACILITY

Administration Building turns into Student Intake Center



AmeriCorps spirit (cont.)

Because the traveling party was so close to its destination, Warner decided it was best to get the rest of the members to a secure location and then return with Laury and Freeman to the scene of the accident.

Laury and Freeman surveyed the situation and wasted no time taking charge while waiting for other paramedics and officers to arrive.

The State Trooper's vehicle had been completely upside down. However, during the time the AmeriCorps personnel had dropped off other members and come back to the scene, community bystanders had taken it upon themselves to flip the vehicle right side up.

Laury knew this potentially could have been a fatal move if there was a neck injury involved, so his first move was to stabilize the officer.

Laury, a native of St. Louis, is EMT-trained and has been a volunteer for years in settings such as a firefighting unit, in camps and with the American Red Cross. His current AmeriCorps position is with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service doing Environmental and Outdoor Education in the Cypress National Wildlife Refuge. His 12 years of experience prepared him to go directly into action.

Was he nervous or scared about getting involved in this situation? "No," Laury responded just as quickly as he

(Continued at far right on next page)

Creative financing made it possible for Rend Lake College to nearly double the size of its Administration Building during 1999 and 2000 at no cost to district residents.

The \$1.47 million Student Intake Center Project, which enabled several student service-related functions to come together in one convenient area, was paid for through a transfer of insurance reserve funds first proposed by Dean for Finance and Administration Bob Carlock and President Mark S. Kern and approved by the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees in 1998.

The unique financing plan means no additional taxing obligations.

Instead, general obligation, alternate revenue source bonds were issued in an amount not to exceed \$1.85 million for the major renovation and other small projects. The college purchased its own bonds through a "0" coupon rate without having to pay any interest; after 10 years, the indebtedness will be forgiven.

The approximate 7,000-square-foot addition will bring the new, improved Dr. Allen Y. Baker Administration Building to a total of 15,000 square feet.

For the most part, college employees moved and worked around the building renovation work as it was in progress. Move-in likewise occurred in pieces.

First to move in to their new "digs," located in the back fourth of the expanded building, were President Kern and Assistant to the President Cindy Minor; Dean of Instruction Dr. Homer Cissell, Dean of Vocational-Technical Education Terry Clark, Dean of Information Services Salah Shakir and Dean of Student Services Mary Roe; RLC Foundation Executive Director Pat Mitchell, and Administrative Assistants.

Enlarged restrooms were functioning when moving took place in January 2000.

By April 2000, half of the remaining part of the intake center was complete.

In essence, that meant almost all college personnel who worked in the Administra-

tion Building before renovation began were by then settled into their new surroundings.

Dean Bob Carlock and his Business Office staff had moved into their remodeled quarters in the front part of the expansion, which brings the official front forward several feet, eliminating most of the previous roof overhang of the original structure.

Also making the move in late March and early April were Admissions and Student Records, soon to be renamed the Office of Student Records; Management Information Systems (MIS) personnel, receptionist and mailroom.

The final phase was completed late that summer, in time for Fall 2000 classes.

That brought Administration Building newcomers – the Counseling Center, consisting of five offices, a student reception area and a computer lab Assessment Center; three Financial Aid Offices and reception area; the Student Transfer and Retention Support (STARS) program, and the Upward Bound grant project.

Tucked in among all of the new offices is a large, upscale Conference Room available for use primarily by the President's Office and other high-level administrators.

Three offices were moved out of Admin as a result of the need to centralize student-related activities. The Marketing and Public Information Office was relocated into the east end of the Student Center balcony, to be joined there by Resource Development. The Work Keys operation moved to the Advanced Technology Building.

General Contractor for the addition and remodeling was Lipps Construction of Mt. Vernon. Sub-contractors included Industrial Mechanical Contractors, Ltd. of Centralia, Brown Electric of Goreville and Litton Enterprises, Inc. of Marion, plumbing.

In recent months, \$3 million in two other facilities – Aquatics Center and Children's Center – have been built at no expense to taxpayers, due to donations through the RLC Foundation and other funding sources.

2013 / FEDERAL TITLE III GRANT NO. 4

Healthy outlook for Allied programs thanks to \$2.2M

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 4, 2013

Big changes lie ahead for students looking into healthcare at Rend Lake College as updated curricula, student support services and new programs will be taking shape over the next five years with the help of federal grant money.

The Title III Pathways to Success in Health Careers Grants were announced last week by the U. S. Department of Education (USDE). A total of approximately \$20.1 million in grants to 39 colleges and universities across the nation will be awarded under the "Strengthening Institutions" Program.

RLC will receive the first grant payment this fiscal year in the amount of \$449,960 to begin making significant changes in the Allied Health Division. Kim Robert, Dean of Allied Health and Project Director, said the grant money will help increase educational prospects for Rend Lake College students.

Annually, per approval by the USDE, Rend Lake College will receive approximately \$449,000 over a five-year period, for a total of \$2,249,833. By the end of the grant period, RLC expects to see an increase in the number of Health Studies degrees and certificates awarded, as well as an increase in overall enrollment and enrollment-based revenue.

"The Allied Health Division is extremely excited to be awarded such a grant from the U. S. Department of Education, and we look forward to utilizing it to help our students in a number of ways," said Robert. "We are looking into starting some new programs, purchasing equipment and starting an Allied Health Student Success Center to help our students be successful in their field of choice.

"Personally, I'm looking forward to working with the Rend Lake College staff to prepare our students for life after graduation in a number of healthcare occupations."

Other plans include:

- The establishment of a new Anatomy and Physiology Lab.
- Revision of Anatomy and Physiology I and II course curricula.
- Revisions to the Practical Nursing program curricula to incorporate educational simulation and web-based interactive instructional modules.
- Development of new Health Studies

advising and tutoring systems.

- The establishment of a new Health Studies Success Center.

"Rend Lake College is one of only 39 schools across the nation to receive a part of the \$20.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, and the only one in Illinois," said RLC President Terry Wilkerson. "The grant will help us improve on our health studies programs, including the addition of two programs, and the support our staff can give to our students.

"On behalf of the college, faculty and staff, I want to thank the Department of Education for believing in Rend Lake College and our students by helping us expand our educational options and become one of the best higher education institutions in healthcare."

Information from the USDE indicates the healthcare and social assistance sector is expected to create 149,000 new jobs in Illinois alone by 2018, positively impacting the state's current ranking as one of the five states in the nation with the greatest shortage of healthcare professionals.

More than a third of RLC students – 35 percent – identify completion of health studies as an educational goal. Enrollment in these programs has increased 22 percent since the 2009-10 academic year.

U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan stated due to these job increases, both in Illinois and across the country, grants such as the Pathways to Success in Health Careers will allow students more options for careers post-graduation.

"Everyone deserves access to high-quality learning opportunities, from preschool to middle school and all the way through college," said Duncan. "In order to achieve President Obama's goal to lead the world in college graduates by 2020, we must work to ensure that everyone has a chance to enroll and complete postsecondary education.

"These grants will boost the capacity and quality of programs offered by higher education institutions that serve low-income students as they work to increase completion rates and better prepare their students for success in college, careers and lifetime aspirations."

The Title III "Strengthening Institutions" Program helps postsecondary schools ex-



AmeriCorps spirit (cont.)

had reacted. "Something just 'clicks' and you get in there and just go."

After controlling the bleeding, with the aid of Freeman, a Medical Technology student who has had EMT and Licensed Practical Nursing training, Laury worked to calm the officer and held his body weight up in the 45 degree-angled squad car until an officer arrived with equipment.

While Laury stayed with the officer, Freeman took charge of the site and people at the site. She directed traffic, cleared bystanders and served as an information channel to professionals arriving on the scene.

Brittany's AmeriCorps position is with the Faith Cares Mentoring Program in Metropolis. It is a non-denominational tutoring/mentoring program that also supports a food pantry and does family outreach.

Freeman was considering a change in her career track but now says, "Since this incident, I have decided to continue in the nursing field and become a fully licensed professional. This was very rewarding."

Both Laury and Freeman say volunteerism is a way of life for them. They are of the ideology that by giving back to the community they are repaying some of the kindnesses given to them along the way.

Hopefully, some of the people Brittany Freeman and John Laury have touched will continue with this cycle of giving and performing an outreach of their own.



Co-op Work-Study Grant = \$190,000 for students

RLC NEWS RELEASES AUGUST '97-98

Cooperative Education, commonly referred to as on-the-job training, has been an integral part of the learning experience for Rend Lake College students since the early days. It has grown from an ag-related beginning to include more than 200 students annually in jobs that reflect their field of study.

Just because the concept has stood the test of time does not mean it cannot be improved on, nor should it ever be taken for granted. For proof, look no further than a \$95,000 Illinois Cooperative Work-Study Grant RLC will receive in 1997.

The competitive award represents a \$21,000 increase over last year and is four times that of the initial request six years ago. Of 32 proposals funded statewide from 39 applications, only Bradley University will receive more money.

It is a "win-win-win proposition" for students, employers and the college," said Rex Duncan. "Every penny we receive is matched by employers, so in reality this is the same as a \$190,000 award as far as our students are concerned."

No other college or university in the state – public, private two- and four-year institutions alike – will receive more than RLC's \$100,000 Co-op Work-Study Grant for 1998. Bradley University and Eastern Illinois University will receive the same amount. The total ICWS appropriation of \$1.7 million will support 10 new and 27 continuing projects.

Healthy outlook [\$2.2M] for Allied programs (cont.)

pand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen their academic quality, institutional management and fiscal stability, as well as build a framework to help students complete college.



To say Rend Lake College has prospered thanks to Federal Title III "Strengthening Institutions" Program Grants would be a gross understatement.

The latest such award is the fourth in 22 years, for an estimated \$7.2 million in grant funding and another \$865,000 in two additional matching opportunities.

Thank you, U.S. Department of Education Title III "Strengthening Institutions" Program Grants!

• The breakthrough came in 1991, when Rend Lake College was one of 57 recipients nationwide from 459 applicants.

The federal grant was for four years and approximately \$1.45 million, not to mention qualifying the institution for a matching, 2-for-1 Challenge Grant which resulted in another \$500,000.

Rend Lake College was able to establish a computerized Developmental Skills Center; improve its campus-wide, computer-based Management Information System (MIS), and expand and diversify its financial base during a time of rising costs and declining resources. It was able to accomplish the third goal with the establishment of a full-time Resource and Development Office.

End result, not counting the Challenge Grant: \$804,694 in personnel, \$567,048 in computer hardware/software and a total of \$1,440,796.

The Challenge Grant, in turn, provided the impetus for a capital campaign drive that netted the energized RLC Foundation almost \$2 million in 2 1/2 years.

• Title III SIP II was perfect from beginning to end.

After all three grant readers indepen-

dently gave the Rend Lake College grant application – a 245-page document, by the way – almost-unheard-of scores of 100, the Department of Education nodded its approval with \$1,675,526 over a five-year period from 1997-2002.

Activity I addressed "Critical Interventions to Increase Student Success." Activity II placed an emphasis on "Curriculum Improvement and Program Evaluation."

College administrators were able to create a Faculty Development Center and target five specific Vocational-Technical programs – Agriculture, Nursing, Industrial Technology, Architecture and Office Systems Technology – for improvements and \$600,000 in new equipment.

• "Unbelievable!" was the reaction of RLC's grant consultant to its third Title III award in 15 years.

Title III No. III was for five years and enabled Rend Lake College to establish a state-of-the-art Wireless Communications Technology program unique to most institutions of higher learning.

One of 53 funded from 260 applications, it was for \$364,893 the first year and approximately \$1.8 million overall, the largest grant awarded Rend Lake College to date.

Included in the total was a matching, 1-for-1 Endowment Option of \$365,000 (20 per cent) which will increase RLC Foundation funds by \$1 million in 20 years because the college was able to raise \$73,000 annually during the grant's duration.



Funding after the first year is considered very likely, but it does depend on continuing success of the program and Congressional appropriations. "Strengthening Institutions" Program Grants are authorized under Title III Part A of the Higher Education Act.

TITLE III "Strengthening Institutions" Pathways to Success in Health Careers

2013-14	\$449,960
2014-15	N/A
2015-16	N/A
2016-17	N/A
2017-18	N/A
TOTAL (anticipated)	– \$2,249,833

Title III "Strengthening Institutions" Grant No. 4
Pathways to Success in Health Careers
\$2.25M / 5 Yrs. / Fall '13

WISE INVESTMENTS

2012 – 2013

2013 – 2014

2014 – 2015

1994 / DONATIONS, STATE FUNDS MAKE \$2.6M POOL A REALITY Aquatics Center only indoor public facility in district

NEWS RELEASE FROM GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OCTOBER 1994

SPRINGFIELD – Gov. Jim Edgar today (Thursday, October 20) released \$1.8 million in state construction funds for development of a swimming and aquatic rehabilitation center at Rend Lake College near Mt. Vernon.

"This unique center will be a facility used by the entire community," the Governor said.

"Area residents will have recreational and educational programs available. It will offer individuals with disabilities physical training and therapy programs, and it also will provide water safety training for law enforcement, schools and the community college."

"Far from being just a swimming pool, this aquatics complex will offer many programs and services to the public, as well as recreational and competitive swim programs," Edgar said.

The natatorium will include a main pool, a hydrotherapy pool and equipment for handicapped accessibility and rehabilitation.

Approximately 15 construction-related jobs will be created by the project.

Funds for the project came from state construction bonds which cannot be used to support ongoing programs and services.

★★★★ ★★★★★

At the time the project first showed up on the state's list of approved projects, RLC President Mark S. Kern noted:

"We have taken the approach all along that even though it would be located on our property, we are going to make it a 'public' pool."

Kern added, "I really think one of the things they really liked about our proposal was our willingness to make the facility accessible to the public and the cooperative effort among several agencies."

Kern pointed to the nearby Wayne Fitzgerald State Park and commented, "Guests of the park will be able to come over and use the pool and our fitness center. It can assist the entire area in our efforts to attract more tourism. It will be located on a public community college property and will be a public pool."

Kern indicated the facility will be utilized for instructional purposes by the college's

Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department, as well as for physical therapy by Allied Health programs and the recreational / tourism aspect.

"Our aerobics fitness centers (on campus and at Good Samaritan Regional Health Center in Mt. Vernon) have been so successful, we feel certain this type of aquatics complex can be, also. To the best of our knowledge, this will be the only indoor public pool facility within our district. We feel it will help bring people to the area to use it."

College officials do not have a timetable for facility construction at this time. They expect representatives for the governing Capital Development Board to be in touch with them shortly to start the process.

Architectural plans, to be determined through a quality-based selection process, and more exact details regarding the complex itself must be finalized in the weeks ahead.

★★★★ ★★★★★

As plans progressed, it became obvious the allotted money would not be enough. But Kern was determined not to use local taxes to help pay for the facility.

The RLC Foundation almost immediately stepped forward with a commitment of \$200,000, a large portion of which was provided by pledges from the Bank of Illinois in Mt. Vernon, Farrar Oil Company, Peoples National Bank, Withers Broadcasting and Mariah Boats.

By the time actual bids were accepted, the shortfall was even greater. The State of Illinois agreed to increase its share of the cost because of the facility's heavy emphasis on rehabilitation, and the Foundation Board accepted the challenge of raising even more funds.

Problem apparently solved when RLC Foundation Board member Jimmy J. Fulks, President of Mariah Boats, Inc., assumed the additional liability of the debt when he announced a personal donation and pledges totalling \$300,000. Fulks saw the need and the benefits to the community in making his generous offer.

"When considering this donation," Kern told the audience estimated at 250 at the October 30, 1998 dedication, "Jimmy asked the question, 'If I do this, will it free other

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Aquatics Center claims one of Madigan Awards

RLC NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 1999

Representatives of Rend Lake College and those firms most responsible for building the Jimmy J. Fulks Aquatics Center on the Ina campus will be in Springfield Friday, October 29, to receive one of the four Thomas H. Madigan Awards to be presented by the Capital Development Board.

The RLC natatorium will be cited for Special Merit for Programmatic Achievement and Community Involvement at the 12th annual luncheon at the Hilton Hotel.

Members of the CDB and its staff will be joined by more than 300 design and construction industry representatives to honor the accomplishments of their peers. The Madigan Awards recognize outstanding efforts of team members in the completion of CDB-administered construction/renovation projects.

Saluted along with the Rend Lake College project will be the Illinois State Police District 1 Headquarters in Springfield for "Outstanding New Construction," the Old Market House in Galena for "Outstanding Renovation" and North Point Marina Erosion Protection and Site Rehabilitation in Lake County for "Special Merit for Programmatic Achievement." The RLC "Project Team" to be recognized includes the local architecture firm of Wilson, Hodge and Groh; the general contractor, Brieseacher Construction, Inc.; Clinton Electric; Rend Lake Plumbing and Heating, Inc.; Williams Air Conditioning and Heating;

(Continued at left on next page)



Aquatics Ctr. award (cont.)

Swan Sheet Metal, Inc.; Tom Kramer; McCoy and Howard Consulting Engineers, Inc.; Gary Foreman, and Counsilman/Hunsaker and Associates.

RLC President Mark S. Kern cited two unique features in his letter of recommendation . . .

- "It probably is the most handicapped-oriented and accessible facility of its kind in Southern Illinois."

- "Even though it is under the control and operation of a community college, it truly is a total community facility and is even used to promote recreation in the Rend Lake area."

During FY99 there were 22,252 actual visits to the pool, with 474 different individuals receiving swimming lessons. Other facts and figures noted:

- 150 active memberships.

- There have been 49 therapeutic memberships, 18 of those active at the time of the nomination in early September.

- Offered during the year were 62 college classes.

- "Arthritis Aquatics" classes are the most popular, with 135 individuals enrolled.

- Group usage has exceeded expectations, including birthday parties and after-prom parties for area high schools. Kern cited RLC employees Wayne Arnold, Jason Thrash, Laura Johnston and Debbie Bennis for their efforts. "They should be proud. They talked more about us than any of the other three award-winners. Also emphasized was the fact practically all of the contractors were local and the matching funds were raised through private donations," Kern said.

Indoor Aquatics Center only one in district (cont.)

monies for (student) scholarships?"

The facility, which opened February 9, 1998, even though the dedication was not until months later, was called the Jimmy J. Fulks Aquatics Center its first few years of operation. But the name was officially removed by 2006 when monies pledged fell short of the original promise after Mariah Boats closed operations unexpectedly in Benton and Fulks left Southern Illinois suddenly in 2001.

According to an article in the St. Louis Business Journal, the closing was announced "in a May 23 letter sent to employees and faxed to dealerships and the mayor of Benton. Since then, people haven't been able to contact Fulks."

"The news shocked 300-plus workers and almost 200 Mariah boat dealers nationwide and abroad. Mariah Boats boasted annual sales of about \$48 million."

The Aquatics Center features a six-lane, 75-foot by 45-foot pool which boasts a ramp for the physically challenged and ranges in depth from 3 feet 6 inches to 7 feet 6 inches. A 10-foot by 20-foot therapy pool and a whirlpool 10 feet in diameter add to the usefulness of the complex.

In addition to numerous classes scheduled each semester – including the widely popular Arthritis Aquatics classes for in-district senior citizens – the pool is open during specific time periods daily for recreational usage. Memberships are available to the public.

A typical schedule of class offerings may include beginning and intermediate swimming; prenatal aquatics classes for expectant mothers; swimming classes for tots; aquatic aerobics fitness classes; lifeguarding, and aquatic recreational games.

Shower and locker room facilities add to its convenience, including a family changing room set aside for anyone who may need assistance from a spouse/parent of the opposite sex. The facility typically hosts get-togethers of area grade and high schools and is available for use by individual parties.

A large entrance/lobby area doubles as the entrance to James "Hummer" Waugh Gymnasium and houses the Rend Lake College Sports Hall of Fame. An outdoor patio which spans the length of the Aquatics Center, with built-in grilling and cookout

equipment available to meet the entertaining needs of large gatherings, adds to the ambience possibilities.

The Mt. Vernon-based firm of Wilson, Hodge and Groh Architectural Corp. designed the facility

Richard Brieseacher, owner/operator of Brieseacher Construction in Mt. Vernon, was the general contractor. Brieseacher Construction also served in the same capacity for both the Auto Shop extension on the Vocational Building and the remodeling of the Industrial Technology Building.

Other local firms which worked on the project included Rend Lake Plumbing and Heating; Clinton Electric; Swan Sheet Metal; Williams Air Conditioning and Heating, and Forby Excavating.

Sam McGaw, Executive Director of the Capital Development Board, was on hand to represent Gov. Jim Edgar and the State of Illinois at Dedication Ceremonies.

McGaw, who worked with college administrators from the beginning of the project, commented, "This is a splendid addition (to campus). It is a pleasure to see in concrete, steel, masonry and glass what we have worked so hard towards."

Frank Donnelly represented the numerous older "students" who benefit weekly from the therapeutic value of the facility. He told the dedication audience the RLC Aquatics Center is a "perfect example" of what can be accomplished for the good of the community "when you have the right people going in the right direction and working together" toward a common cause.



REND LAKE COLLEGE F.Y.I. DECEMBER 1997

The creation of an Aquatics Center on the Rend Lake College campus was indeed unique in many ways . . . including tours.

The joint walk-through tour of the construction site December 3 as it neared completion was a first locally by labor and management, according to SIMPACT Executive Director Charlie Morris.

Representatives of the Southern Illinois Management Promoting Active Construction Trades organized the tour "in recognition of a successful construction project, highlighting its completion in timely fashion and the cooperation and quality performances of both management and labor."

Included were General Contractor Richard Brieseacher, major subcontractors and agents for various trade unions, SIMPACT members and college administrators.

2000 / RLC MURPHY-WALL PINCKNEYVILLE CENTER Senators, Bank, City make college feel 'wanted here'

The Rend Lake College Pinckneyville Center did not start out to qualify as a \$1 million project. But when it became obvious it was going to turn into one, necessary funding continued as needed . . .

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE JULY 24, 2000

PINCKNEYVILLE – Thanks to the combined funding efforts of two Senators from Southern Illinois – David Luechtefeld (R-58) of Okawville and William L. “Bill” O’Daniel (D-54) of Mt. Vernon – the Rend Lake College Pinckneyville Center will become a reality, with construction expected to begin later this year or early next spring.

A joint announcement was made Monday morning near the building site in the Pinckneyville Industrial Park on State Route 154, a quarter of a mile to the east of the Matsushita Universal Media Services (MUMS) LLC of America plant which should benefit greatly from training provided by the comprehensive community college.

Each of the legislators was able to contribute \$200,000 for the project from monies available at his discretion – described as “member initiatives” – for a total of \$400,000 from the State of Illinois. The total cost is estimated at \$790,100, with excess funds from a capital improvement plumbing project on-campus that came in considerably under estimate expected to be enough to complete the educational/training center.

Land for the facility, which includes parking space for 65 vehicles and will be constructed with future training lab expansion in mind, has been donated by the City of Pinckneyville. A frontage road will be built to serve both the college facility and a new motel planned.

On hand for the press conference conducted by RLC President Mark S. Kern, in addition to Senators O’Daniel and Luechtefeld, were Pinckneyville Mayor Kirwan Heisner and Gary Vaughn, MUMS Chief Operating Officer.

Heisner presented the deed of the property to Kern during ceremonies.

“We started looking for a facility in Pinckneyville around 1996. A number of Pinckneyville people have provided us with a lot of assistance” in seeking a greater presence within the community, Kern told a gathering of about 100 people, including local Rep. Mike Bost, George Fleischli

of the Capital Development Board out of Springfield, other Pinckneyville community leaders and college personnel.

“They wanted us here, you could tell,” Kern added.

Phase I construction will consist of two classrooms, one computer lab, offices and restroom facilities totalling approximately 5,915 square feet. The attractive facility will bear a resemblance to the newly remodeled Administration Building and others with angled roofs on the Ina campus.

It will serve two purposes. First will be as an attendance center for Pinckneyville-area and Perry County residents to reduce the number of trips needed to the main campus; college officials estimate students will be able to take 60 per cent or more of the required classes to graduate with an Associate Degree through the Pinckneyville Center. Classes will run the gamut from college-transfer to vocational offerings, remedial/developmental classes and GED (high school equivalency).

The facility likewise will help meet training needs for business and industry and provide retraining for those individuals currently without work. The initial emphasis will be on training for Matsushita Universal Media Services, but training will be available to other industry in the area as well.

It took more than one action to make things fall into place, Kern indicated. The first two factors involved the plumbing project coming in under budget and the CDB’s willingness to allow those excess funds to be used for the new project. Next was a good, ongoing relationship with MUMS, which is headed locally by “a very educational-minded and training-minded person” in Vaughn. “We were already very heavily involved in training with MUMS. This alleviated one of our problems and strengthened the proposal we took to Springfield,” Kern commented.

Senators Luechtefeld and O’Daniel pledged their financial support “almost without hesitation” . . . “But we still had the problem of where to put it, because we didn’t have money for the site,” added Kern.

That is where Mayor Heisner, city commissioners and the community itself stepped forward. “We could not have picked a better spot if we had tried,” Kern told those present.



Murphy-Wall State Bank, RLC share similar goals

RLC NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 1999

The fact Murphy-Wall State Bank and Trust Co. in Pinckneyville and Rend Lake College have developed a close relationship in recent years should come as no surprise to anyone familiar with the institutions.

They share similar philosophies and goals: Both are well-rooted in the communities they serve and family-oriented. Progressive while still showing concern for the old-fashioned, common-sense, practical, personal touch; i.e., they care for their customers, with a willingness to do whatever it takes to get a job done with quality and excellence.

Murphy and Wall Banking Co. when it was first established in 1874, the community-minded financial entity celebrates its 125th year with nearly \$65 million in assets. It has grown to 24 employees, the majority of whom are in their 40s with 20 or more years of experience.

“It truly is like a family,” said Clark Bush, only the bank’s sixth president and the first “outsider” to fill that position. But even Bush, who was managing a Louisville branch bank when beckoned in 1991, has been there long enough to feel like family.

He succeeded W.K. “Bill” Crawford Jr., who has served as Chairman of the Murphy-Wall Board since 1990 and has been associated with the bank for 51 years. J. Joseph Crawford, Bill’s son, is an Executive Vice President and Internal Auditor, serving on the Board with his father for six years.

As a business leader in a community on the outlying

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Murphy-Wall/RLC (cont.)

fringe of the college district, Bush helped solidify relations by joining the RLC Foundation Board of Directors in the mid-1990s. He followed in the footsteps of many other influential members of the Perry County area with past RLC ties, like one of the founding Trustees and leaders, Dr. Allen Y. Baker, and RLC Foundation Board members Jean Ibendahl (Tamaroa), Don Johnson and Dave Pirsein.

Bush no longer serves in that capacity, but the two organizations still share two board members. Dr. Gene Stotlar, a retired general practitioner who owns Stotlar Drugs in Pinckneyville, and Dr. Charles W. "Bill" Roe, a Pinckneyville dentist better known on campus as the husband of RLC Dean of Student Services Mary Roe, are currently among the more active members of the RLC Foundation, according to Executive Director Pat Mitchell.

The Murphy-Wall / Rend Lake College relationship extends well beyond that, however, despite the fact, as Bush notes, "most of our employees came to work here right out of high school and have never worked anywhere else."

Consider Joan Weisel, the bank's do-everything executive secretary who came to RLC as a nontraditional student-athlete, played tennis for two years and earned her Associate Degree in the process. "A real success story," Bush said of the invaluable employee. Weisel's daughter and daughter-in-law are both RLC graduates as well.

There are many similar stories within the facility. Executive Vice President /Cashier Bob Marlow is an RLC graduate;

(Continued at far right on next page)

Pinckneyville Center has local support (cont.)

[The 4.2-acre plot along Illinois 154 is just east of the Craig Williams Creative facility. The city agreed to give the land to the college and, in return, the college had to agree to develop the property as pledged. "The city bought the property for \$2,500 per acre and paid to install infrastructure at the site where they have since been selling land for \$5,500 per acre," according to a newspaper report by *Southern Illinoisan* Correspondent Christi Mathis.

In another goodwill gesture later, the city also donated the culvert in front of the building, valued at \$1,200.]

Luechtefeld singled out the cooperative spirit between those who made things happen. Different districts. Different parties. It made no difference. "This shows the good working relationships we have in Southern Illinois," he noted. "I wasn't sure it could happen, but I am glad to be a part of it. I believe this is just the start of a lot of good things that are going to happen between Rend Lake College and this community."

O'Daniel reiterated those thoughts and praised the role community colleges play. There are five such institutions within his 12-county district, compared to none directly in any of the seven counties served by Luechtefeld. "In terms of retraining our people, there is nothing as valuable as our community colleges," he said. "There is nothing I get more enjoyment out of than working with our educational institutions at all levels."

According to a presentation made to the RLC Board of Trustees at its March workshop, "Phase I construction will meet the immediate and most pressing need of MUMS for remedial training of current employees and possible remedial training of future employees."

Rend Lake College for several months has conducted training on-site at MUMS, centered around the ACT Work Keys Model. Current and proposed training will include assessment; job profiling; reading and mathematics instruction; listening and communication skills; high school equivalency training; forklift training; hazardous waste operations; OSHA safety training; teamwork, and cross-training.

"This is a great day for the people of Pinckneyville, Perry County and all of

Southern Illinois," admitted Mayor Heisner. "This is a 'win' day for our town. And it would not have been possible if not for the support of our city council . . . it would not have happened without people like David Luchtefeld, Bill O'Daniel and Mike Bost . . . it would not have happened without MUMS and someone like Gary Vaughn . . . or people like City Attorney Don Johnson and others like him. I am just very proud of what is going on here today."

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 7, 2000

The newest Rend Lake College facility is already on the drawing board. It has a home, funding and purpose. Construction is scheduled to begin this spring.

And now it has a name.

Assuming official confirmation at next week's Board of Trustees meeting, the off-campus training and educational showpiece will hereafter be referred to as the Rend Lake College Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus.

The family-oriented financial institution and a close friend of Murphy-Wall State Bank who prefers to remain anonymous have stepped forward with substantial gifts to ensure the educational and building essentials of a project originally estimated at \$790,000. It will be built in Pinckneyville's Industrial Park.

The surprise announcement was the climax to a perfect evening in which a record-crowd of 362 enjoyed the festive holiday spirit engulfing the RLCF's Annual Dinner at the Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn.

On a night when those who give were honored, Murphy-Wall State Bank unassumingly stole the show with the final announcement by RLC Foundation Executive Director Pat Mitchell that the combined \$200,000 donation helps guarantee a first-rate facility inside and out.

Murphy-Wall State Bank President/CEO Marty Davis was shown earlier on video praising the campus. He said bank officials "are excited about the opportunity." Convenient, affordable education is imperative, he noted, and "will place Pinckneyville in even higher regard" with potential employers seeking to relocate. "We welcome this magnificent facility."

The facility will feature classrooms and lab space available for credit classes which will help reduce the number of trips Perry County residents and others might have to make to the main campus in order to

(Continued on Page 42)

2008 / FEDERAL COMMUNITY-BASED GRANT RLC awarded \$1.6 million for Coal Mining training

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE MARCH 26, 2008

When U.S. Rep. John Shimkus presented a \$1.6 million energy grant to Rend Lake College Wednesday morning (March 26), he spoke of the important role community colleges play in training a workforce to meet the nation's growing need for energy.

"The benefit of what the community college system does is its ability to turn around and fulfill the need for a trained workforce," Shimkus said. "We need highly trained professionals. A highly skilled workforce is what is going to keep us . . . competitive."

As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Shimkus (R-Illinois-19th) has firsthand knowledge of how important alternative energy sources are to the nation, especially in an age of escalating demand for power through added consumers and more technology than ever.

"If we don't expand the current industry . . . how are we going to meet that increased demand," he said.

In anticipation of an expansion to coal mining operations in Southern Illinois and new producers entering the market, the RLC Board of Trustees decided in 2006 to bring back the college's coal Mining Technology program which had been downsized dramatically as a result of the decline in area operations decades ago.

When coal was booming, President Mark S. Kern said, the coal program was placing 97 percent of its graduates at area mines. By the mid- to late-1980s, the college was finding it difficult to place graduates.

Now, with a consensus coal is on the brink of a comeback, the college is once again positioning itself to be a training leader. The \$1.6M grant through President George W. Bush's Community-Based Job Training Grants initiative will help Rend Lake College do just that.

Many individuals representing local government, industry and organizations have pitched in their support. Kern introduced numerous supporters seated in the RLC Theatre during the announcement ceremony.

Shimkus pointed out the positive effect a coal resurgence would have on the area. For the individual, he mentioned good paying jobs in mine construction, refinery construction and mining. For

local government, there is the beneficial increase in tax base from new producers and residents, and a better local economy due to workers buying goods and services. And for the nation, he said alternative fuel sources decrease reliance on imported oil and provide the U.S. Air Force – which can use coal that has been turned into jet fuel – with a viable alternative to foreign sources for energy, thus strengthening national security.

He also noted Southern Illinois coal operations provide a centralized region for coast-to-coast dispersal of coal.

Shimkus said it is a sign the USDL realizes the importance of creating energy from fossil fuels.

Kern accepted the \$1,622,155 from the U.S. Department of Labor on behalf of the college.

Rend Lake College will use the funding to boost its growing Coal Mining Technology program by training a proposed 420 Coal Mining Technology students; bring dual-credit classes in Mining Technology to area high schools in Benton, Pinckneyville, Sesser, Christopher and Hamilton County, and raise student awareness regarding occupations in the coal industry at 15 area grade schools.

Kern said approximately \$700,000 will go toward purchasing equipment, \$600,000 is for contractual training, \$60,000 will be used to purchase supplies and \$200,000 will go toward personnel.

RLC's competitive grant proposal was one of 69 chosen from 341 applications the USDL received in response to a competition announced last August.

Area supporters of Rend Lake College's competitive grant proposal include such organizations as the Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals; American Coal; Plumbers and Pipefitters; Peabody Coal; ManTraCon Corporation; Southern Illinois Coal Resource Center; Sugar Camp Energy; Franklin County Tech Prep; the Bechtel Corporation, and local unions of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

They include area leaders like Benton Mayor Gary Kraft, Mt. Vernon Mayor Mary Jane Chesley, McLeansboro Mayor Dick Dietz and Pinckneyville Mayor Joseph

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Murphy-Wall/RLC (cont.)

Kathy Marlow, a Murphy-Wall vice president, is enrolled in a computer class and has taken other classes in the past, on- and off-campus. Assistant V-P Meschelle Brand is a 1983 RLC grad and has taken several computer classes since through the college at PCHS. Assistant V-P Barry Kellerman and Assistant Cashier Brian Chandler also are RLC grads.

Assistant V-P/Marketing Director Claudia Choate and Teller Mary McKinstry attended RLC. One of McKinstry's daughters is an RLC graduate and the other is a current freshman. It is the same for two others who have taken classes in the past – Senior V-P Paula Wright, whose son is a graduate, and Bookkeeper Betty Yates, whose husband and son are both graduates. The husband of Teller Carol Smith is a graduate, also. V-P Deborah Davis has taken Community Education classes in the past, while Teller Beverly Wilks has a son attending at the present time, and Assistant V-P Janet Porter had a daughter attend.

Their loyalty and staying power are phenomenal, considering zero turnover for a number of years. That kind of longevity, almost unheard of in this day and age, plays a very strong factor in the bank's relationship within the community.

Added Bush, "We have made the offer to pay any employee's expenses to go to Rend Lake College. We do everything we can to encourage people to attend college."

2008 / STATE COAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS \$1.07M granted to build Coal Mining Training Center



Instructor five years later: 'Coal industry booming'

NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 26, 2013

As the coal mine industry continues to expand in Southern Illinois, Rend Lake College's Coal Mine Training Facility grows with it, bringing students/miners from across the nation to learn and practice on-the-job safety and skills.

Don McBride, Mining Technology Instructor, said he is happy to see the growth in the industry and job market, especially within the district.

"The coal mine industry is booming and I'm glad that we're part of that boom," said McBride. "Coal mines are a large part of our district and they will continue to be in the future. We're preparing the workforce of tomorrow."

Dean of Applied Science and Technology Chris Nielsen expects RLC's training facility to become busier as more locals seek jobs in the area.

"At one time, there were nine mines in our district and that went down to zero, but it's going back up," he said. "Now we're training a new workforce for those jobs. We're working with the next generation of coal miners and we're going to be a big part of their life."

Recently, the facility hosted the Murray Energy Corp. Fire Brigade Inner-Company Midwest Regional Contest, where three teams from Illinois and Kentucky competed.

Other employers have taken advantage of the center, said McBride, citing a group of Wyoming trainees coming to use the state-of-the-art space. McBride added the center is fully booked until November with similar trainings.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE APRIL 8, 2008

A \$1.07 million grant awarded Monday (April 7) puts Rend Lake College on the leading edge of mining technology training in Illinois.

Less than three weeks after U.S. Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL-19) visited the Ina campus with a \$1.7 million federal energy grant for RLC's Mining Technology program, State Rep. Kurt Granberg (D-107) presented Rend Lake College President Mark Kern with \$1,072,500 in Illinois coal development funds from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

This most recent signal of what state leaders believe is in store for Illinois coal will be used to construct a training center north of the Applied Science Center on the Ina campus to house the college's growing Mining Technology program.

"I cannot emphasize enough the importance of this," Kern said. "If you don't have the building, you can't put the equipment in and train the students . . . We aren't talking about a history class. It takes considerable space to make this program go."

The \$1.7M grant announced earlier through President George W. Bush's Community-Based Job Training grant initiative will be used to provide salaries, supplies and equipment for coal mining and production workforce training. With 12 area mining sites on the map – six entering the market and three within driving distance from the college – Rend Lake College and Southern Illinois will be "poised for coal's comeback," according to Kern.

"Rend Lake College and Southern Illinois are now well-positioned to become the leading coal mining training center in the Midwest," Granberg said.

He thanked Governor Rod Blagojevich, as well as Jack Lavin and Bill Hoback of the Illinois DCEO, for "lobbying hard for the release of these funds." He congratulated Kern and recently retired Rend Lake College Vice President of Finance and Administration Bob Carlock on their vision finding fruition.

"Between lobbying, meetings, planning, more meetings and more planning," college officials pushed for more than a year to secure funding for the project, Carlock said. The next step for college officials is to get

permission from the RLC Board of Trustees to advertise for construction bids. Kern anticipates approval will be granted at the May meeting of the Board.

He said groundbreaking on the training center could take place in about 12 weeks. The certificate program is scheduled to start in the fall.

The training center will include three offices, a traditional classroom and "a large, open space where the majority of training will take place," Kern said.

It will feature operational coal mining equipment, such as continuous miners, roof bolters and shuttle cars.

Another space where a mock mine is to be located likewise is planned in the construction. Kern said it will feature movable walls and other components, such as a pitch-black interior and a smoke machine, to simulate actual mining conditions. Kern indicated the Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals has shown considerable interest in this feature, which could be used to train mine rescue teams, not just RLC students, he added.

There also will be an outside area where fire safety training will be performed. If the college can acquire adequate machinery through donations, it could provide outdoor training on coal equipment, according to Kern.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 8, 2008

State politicians, coal officials and civic leaders joined Rend Lake College Board members, administrators, faculty and staff Thursday morning (August 7) to break ground for the newest addition on-campus, the RLC Coal Mining Training Center.

The groundbreaking ceremony featured guest speakers Warren Ribley, Director of Operations for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity; State Rep. Kurt Granberg (D-107); State Sen. Gary Forby (D-59); State Rep. John Bradley (D-117); and RLC Interim President Charley Holstein.

"In the late 1970s, Rend Lake College had the distinction of offering one of the largest coal mining training programs in the United States," Holstein explained. "We were a leader in providing new miner training, mandatory retraining and the education of mine maintenance technicians.

Mining Training Center part of comeback (cont.)

“ . . . Once again, Rend Lake College is poised and ready to be one of the largest coal mining training centers in the United States.”

The college has been awarded nearly \$2.7 million in federal and state aid to design, engineer and construct the facility, equip it and provide training in its revitalized Mining Technology program. Provided through the Illinois Coal Competitiveness Program, this state grant from the Illinois DCEO counted for \$1,072,500 toward building the 20,000 square-foot training center.

Ribley, who represented Gov. Rod Blagojevich and the DCEO at the ceremony, read a letter from the Governor to Holstein.

“Developing this project, in partnership with the state of Illinois and federal government, highlights the vision of your institution and the commitment of Rend Lake College to being a leading force for economic betterment in Southern Illinois,” Ribley read.

“ . . . This ceremony today recognizes both that our investment in the future of coal continues, and that the dividends from that investment have begun to flow. As the nation searches feverishly for clean, affordable, secure sources of fuel, coal is the Comeback Kid of the energy game.”

According to Gov. Blagojevich, despite the shutdown of two large, older mines in Wabash and Macoupin counties, Illinois produced nearly 32.3 million tons of coal in 2007, down slightly from 2006 but above the average for the past five years.

In April 2008, the state also completed five consecutive years of operations without experiencing a fatality in either its coal or aggregate mining operations.

Granberg, Forby and Bradley followed suit in their support of coal’s comeback and expressed an ongoing need for teamwork between legislative and industry leaders who work to bring the jobs to the area and the colleges that train a highly skilled and safe workforce.

“Rend Lake College is the first junior college in the state to have this,” Granberg said. “We have to bind together. That’s the only way we can succeed in the long run.”

“Together, we will train a new generation of men and women to work safely and

productively in bringing Illinois coal up out of the ground,” Ribley added.

The Illinois Office of Mines and Minerals, a division of the Department of Natural Resources, is projecting 2,000-plus new miners will be needed for the coal industry by 2015.

As an example, Peabody Energy is preparing to open its new Lively Grove mine in Washington County in 2009 and is expected to hire more than 300 miners to produce coal at the mouth of Peabody’s new Prairie State Generating Station.

Information from the Office of Coal Development at the Illinois DCEO shows 2,000 new miner positions, 2,000 replacement positions, and approximately 4,200 indirect jobs will be created in the next 5-10 years.

New mines in Illinois include Mach Pond Creek, Black Beauty Wildcat Hills UG, KHC Prairie Eagle UG and KHC Royal Falcon, according to the DCEO.

New mines permitted and likely to come on line include Lively Grove and Jordan Mine; mines that have submitted permit applications include Hillsboro Energy Deer Run, BBC Mary’s River, Locust Grove, Sugar Camp and Ewing Mine.

The number of positions needed were projected for some mines; however, the number of needed positions was not noted for all mines.

Holstein said construction should be finished by March and officials are working on a move-in date for the first class. He said it most likely will be Fall 2009.

“From the first turn of dirt today to the last bolt put in place months from now, this training center is the result of building relationships and the community working together,” Holstein said.

Located just north of the Mark S. Kern Applied Science Center, the Rend Lake College Coal Mining Training Center will be a 100-foot by 200-foot steel building designed with Sierra Tan brick to match other buildings on campus.

Joining Holstein in the breaking of ground were Ribley, Granberg, Forby, Bradley, Mt. Vernon Mayor Mary Jane Chesley, McLeansboro Mayor Dick Dietz and Hamilton County Board Member Don Mitchell;

Also, DCEO Office of Coal Development Bureau Chief Bill Hoback, DCEO Office of Coal Development Coal Grants Manager Gary Philo, DCEO Office of Coal Develop-



Trained manpower key to STIP grant funding

RLC NEWS RELEASE MAY 4, 1978

Rend Lake College is now accepting applications from eligible persons wanting to participate in a Skills Training Improvement Program (STIP) in Mining Technology funded by a \$293,238 grant issued by the Governor’s Office of Manpower Development.

Some objectives of the program, which was approved by the college’s Board of Trustees last winter, are aimed at “meeting the coal industry’s demand for trained manpower, assisting graduates in gaining employment in the coal industry, assisting the industry in meeting affirmative action goals and to increase the incomes of all successful program completers beyond official poverty levels.”

All participants accepted must qualify under the financial need guidelines established by the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA).

Dale Mason, Chairman of the RLC Mining Department, indicated a major goal of STIP is to place 80 percent of those completing the program in area coal industry jobs.

The program has received funding through June 30, 1979. The college is seeking 28 eligible persons to comprise the first group to participate in the 36-week training program.

The college will work with area CETA Outreach Offices, employment offices and the Department of Public Aid and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in recruiting persons for the program.

Skills developed will be in hydraulics, electrical testing/trouble-shooting, welding, blue print reading, first aid and the understanding of mine roof, rib and ventilation systems.



RLC training a HITS with Nutherm International

RLC NEWS RELEASE AUGUST 1980

Given the chance, Rend Lake College could be a real hit with new industries in the area just as it has proven to be with Nutherm International in Mt. Vernon.

Funding obtained through the Illinois State Board of Education's Department of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education is enabling Nutherm International to train employees in a highly specialized field.

"We'd probably be six months and several thousand dollars behind if it were not for the HITS program," Nutherm President Rod Hanner said in reference to the High Impact Training Service coordinated by Rend Lake College.

"This way," continued Hanner, "we can spend money that would have gone into training our people on improved equipment instead. As a result of the program, we've been able to work with CETA (Comprehensive Employment Training Act), too, and have had a good experience with their people."

Nutherm, which relocated last January in the old YMCA building, is an engineering and manufacturing firm involved in custom sheet metal projects. One of only three such companies in the nation, Nutherm produces sophisticated electrical heating systems for use in nuclear power plants.

Individuals working on nuclear-related projects must have documentable experience under federal guidelines. That is where Rend Lake College comes into the picture.

RLC Vocational-Technical Dean Carroll Turner applied
(Continued at far right on next page)

Mining Training Center part of comeback (cont.)

ment Coal Programs Manager Mike Murphy and IDNR Office of Mines and Minerals Director Joe Angleton;

Illinois Community College Board President Guy Alongi, RLC Board of Trustees Chair Bill Simpson and Vice Chair David Edmison; RLC Trustees Randall Crocker, Bryan Drew, Hunt Bonan, Ed Cunningham and Marvin Scott; Prairie State Energy Campus Site Construction Manager C. R. Rick Mays, and White Oak Resources Manager of Operations Steve Rowland.

Other guests included Mine Safety Health Administration Supervisory Coal Mine Safety and Health Inspector Mike Rennie; United Mine Workers of America Coal Industry Liaison Evan Sink; UMWA International District Representatives Gary Butler and Steve Jones; UMWA Training Coordinator Jodi Hogge; RLC Foundation Board of Director members Chris Johnson, Rich Yunkus, Dr. Warren Petty and Hank Eisenga; former RLC Board member Joe Scrivner, and former RLC Mining Chairman Brad Evilsizer.

Energy needs can be met training coal miners (cont.)

Holder; area County Board Chairmen Randall Crocker of Franklin County, Ted Buck of Jefferson County, Donald Mitchell of Hamilton County and Jim Booker of Perry County; FREDCO Vice President Ken Burzynski, and Continental Tire North America Plant Manager Hank Eisenga.

Kern thanked Shimkus and credited the hard work of college administrators and staff who were influential in RLC being selected in the grant competition. They include Resource Development Specialist Trudee Wynn, Vice President Dr. Jim Hull, Applied Science and Technology Division Chair Dr. Sarah Bond, Industrial Maintenance Professor Chris Nielsen, Mining Technology Instructor Dave Colombo and Welding Professor Dave Smith.

Kern himself played a large role in the research and preparation of the proposal. "As with anything that is successful, it is a team approach," he said. "No one person is solely responsible for bringing in this grant."

Pinckneyville Center has local support (cont.)

graduate with a degree or certificate. It will be built with future expansion in mind.



• When architectural estimates came in higher than expected prior to the start of construction in Spring 2001, President Kern and RLCF CEO Mitchell approached O'Daniel once again for additional help. The Senator visited the Ina campus on February 6 to announce another \$160,000 in state funding for the soon-to-be-built Pinckneyville Center, bringing the total he earmarked for the project to \$360,000.

The latest resources represented a share of the five-year, \$12 billion Illinois FIRST program designed by Gov. George H. Ryan to build, repair and upgrade critical infrastructure in the state. O'Daniel was joined by Bob Winchester, Deputy Chief of State for the Southern Illinois Office of the Governor.

"We have a commitment to community colleges," O'Daniel said of a legislative body that will be considering Ryan's proposal in his State of the State Address to fund a new building project on each of the state's 47 public, two-year colleges.

Ironically, the Pinckneyville Center will not be in O'Daniel's district, although the main campus is; the Ina campus is not in Luechtefeld's territory, but Pinckneyville is.

• With the facility nearing completion and college administrators still not certain how or when the roadway entrance would become a reality, E.T. Simonds Construction Co. of Carbondale stepped forward to make an in-kind proposal no one could refuse:

The successful bidder for the parking lot agreed to do the entrance at cost. Not only that, but a semiretired, former Simonds Chief Engineer, Dale Usher, was responsible for suggesting other cost-cutting measures by using different materials and altering the entrance design.

An original estimate of nearly \$84,000 became \$47,128, thanks to the generosity of Bill Simonds, who runs the company. His sister is Pinckneyville Attorney Gayl Pyatt. "They were most generous in doing this. They didn't have to do it," said Mitchell.

• Harrisonville Telephone Company, which serves Monroe County and parts of Randolph and St. Clair counties, stepped forward early with a \$5,000 monetary contribution to help furnish and equip the facility.

1981 / STATE TO CORRECT CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS Phase II Heating/Chilled system repairs with \$1.2M

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 10, 1980

Officials at Rend Lake College can face the cold weather ahead warmed by the knowledge that \$1.2 million needed to correct construction defects in the college's heating/chilled system is just a signature away from becoming reality.

A bill which originated in the Senate and passed through the House last week by a 116-14 vote is on Gov. Thompson's desk waiting to be signed some time within the next 60 days.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 26, 1981

Officials at Rend Lake College received word the past week that Gov. James Thompson has signed the bill which will provide \$1.2 million needed to correct construction deficiencies in the college's heating/chilled system.

The long-awaited news caps a concerted effort to obtain funding through the Capital Development Board which began in earnest over two years ago. Actual problems with the institution's system for heating and cooling Phase II and III buildings on the Ina campus date back as far as November 1972, shortly after construction began on five buildings.

A final program review is scheduled for March 6. Tentative plans call for a bid date in mid- to late-April, with corrective repairs to hopefully start by the middle of May.

REND LAKE COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 21, 1983

Final acceptance of the corrective measures to repair Phase II heating and chilled piping on the Rend Lake College campus, originally funded for \$1.2 million, should be forthcoming within the next four days, but only if certain stipulations are met to the satisfaction of college administrators.

The RLC Board of Trustees authorized Dr. Harry J. Braun, College President, to "work out the best deal he can as outlined" when he meets with representatives of Phillips Swager Associates, the Peoria firm which has overseen the project since March 1981 and the Capital Development Board.

★★★ ★★ ★★

Apparently \$1.2 million dollars does not go as far as one might expect, even back in the early 1980s. It obviously can not buy timeliness, nor can it ensure satisfaction.

It has to be one of the longest-running

repair jobs in history - 1) Problem started November 1972; 2) Serious efforts to seek funding began around 1978; 3) State resources supported by both the Senate and House in late 1980; 4) Supportive Governor waits two months before signing bill in early 1981; 5) Actual repairs and squabbling over corrective measures taken continue through Fall 1983.

Phase II and III structures include the Learning Resource Center, Vocational-Technical Building, Student Center, North Oasis and Administration Building.

"We're very hopeful at this point," admitted Braun prior to repairs starting. The Governor's Office was involved with area legislators and the Illinois Community College Trustees Association in drafting the bill. "We sincerely appreciate the support we have received in recent months from area legislators who helped make sure Rend Lake College was included in this bill.

"It has been a long time coming."

Since the underground pipes were first installed, college officials indicate they have had to pump thousands of gallons of additional water into leaking boiler units since before the projects completion in 1974, and as recently as January 1980 were forced to spend \$16,300 retubing two boilers following a collapse. They have lived in fear each winter of a major break which could force the college to cease operations while necessary repairs are made.

A \$3.2 million bill which included repairs at Illinois Eastern College's Lincoln Trail (Robinson), Danville Area and Triton College in River Grove was introduced by Sen. Terry Bruce (D-Olney). Co-sponsors of SB2040 and HB 3631 included Sen. Gene Johns (D-Marion), Rep. Jim Rea (D-Christopher), Rep. William Harris (D-Marion) and Rep. Robert Winchester (R-Rosiclare).

Before the Governor would place his signature on the bill to award state construction money, he required the Capital Development Board to pass a resolution stating "its opinion, based upon the information presented to them, was that the heating system was defectively constructed."

"Things look positive," Braun said at the time the college was still awaiting the Governor's signature. "We still have this winter to get through before we're out of

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Training a HITS (cont.)

for a grant through the Illinois State Board of Education and was awarded \$29,500, which was used to hire an instructor and fund a 26-week training project.

Four individuals are learning sheet-metal processing under the grant, receiving both theoretical and practical experience required to insure product quality and to comply with federal guidelines.

Nutherm, Hanner indicated, prefers to hire local people when possible. Qualified personnel were not available in the area, however, until the HITS program became a reality.

"This is the first time we have been involved with the HITS program. It's an excellent opportunity for our local community college district to entice new industry into the area or for existing industries to expand," Turner commented.

Only 31 HITS programs were subsidized in Illinois last year.

"My partner (Leonard Hinson, Operations Manager) and I have been doing the work until we can get these other people trained and documented. As a result, we've only been able to produce a handful of units," Hanner said.

"We've got orders for over 100 units, but we can't turn them out until our people get the training. That is why the HITS program is so valuable to us. Without it, everything would be set back several months."

Nutherm International employs 12 people, but Hanner and his brother, Project Coordinator James Hanner, hope to increase the work force and sales staff through additional funding by HITS.

1993 / LOCAL MATCH OF \$460,000 TO COMPLETE PROJECT ICCB provides \$1.38M for original piping replacement



Parents in School Grant encourages involvement

NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 2005

A \$110,524 grant from the U.S. Department of Education will help several Rend Lake College students care for their children while pursuing higher education.

The Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program supports participation of low-income parents in higher education by facilitating campus-based child care services. Rend Lake College has such a facility in the Children's Center.

"The goal is to serve at least 15 students per year," said Trudee Wynn, Resource Development Specialist for RLC.

This program will promote parental involvement at the Children's Center; help students with children remain in school, graduate or transfer, and link students with appropriate social service agencies.

The four-year grant means more than \$27,000 per year, with most of that amount going directly to student assistance and child care. "When a parent drops out of college, it is usually due to financial concerns. This program should help curtail that trend," said Wynn.



FY91 grants administered = 22 total, \$1,146,958

According to a Grant Index for Fiscal Year 1990 . . .

- Rend Lake College administers 22 competitive grants which add up to \$1,146,958.
- New grants not previously funded amounted to \$307,000.
- The majority of the grants directly benefit students by providing support that might not otherwise be available.

REPRINTED FROM THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN
BY HEIDI HILDEBRAND, S.I. SPRINGFIELD BUREAU

Capital development projects at two Southern Illinois community colleges are included in a budget proposed Friday (October 15) by the Illinois Community College Board.

The board's capital development budget for the Fiscal Year that begins July 1, 1994, includes money to renovate plumbing and utilities at Rend Lake College and to plan a new classroom building at John A. Logan.

The \$1.8 million project at Rend Lake College will replace piping installed when the campus was built in the early 1970s. The pipes, which have had numerous leaks, have been patched, but further leaks could damage buildings.

Phase II piping replaced by overdue funds (cont.)

the woods, but at least we know now the end of our problem is in sight."

Little did he know, in reality.

Board members eventually granted approval reluctantly to make the final payment for repairs after learning the letter of acceptance had to be signed within four days or else appropriations awarded by the state would go back into the general fund. The contractor would then have to sue the CDB for the outstanding payment.

Braun recommended signing the agreement after meeting with Phillips Swager

The project would include \$1.38 million in state funds, matched by \$460,000 locally.

At Logan, a 63,000-square-foot building is planned to provide more classroom lab space required to handle increased enrollments. The board requested \$409,400 in state funding for planning, to be matched by \$136,500 in local funds.

The projects were among \$50.7 million budgeted for specific projects at 11 colleges.

The capital projects budget also includes \$15 million to continue the new telecommunications system linking colleges throughout the state, \$6.2 million for long-term maintenance and \$6 million for projects to make colleges more accessible by people with disabilities.

and the CDB and receiving written documentation that certain stipulations would be met, including a guaranteed extension of the system's warranty which would last into the next cooling season.

Additional valves and gauges also were required to monitor water input into the system because the automatic built-in alarm mechanism did not function properly and the manufacturer recommended "scraping" that aspect of the latest, state-of-the-art piping.

A monitor which was supposed to guard against the danger of lightning did not work properly, either, board members were told, and four of six compressors had already been replaced due to malfunctioning.



Adult Education Grant

		EVEN START
1967-91	N/A	N/A
1991-92		\$151,200
1992-2001	N/A	N/A
2001-02	\$340,476	
2002-03	\$305,133	\$110,000
2003-04	\$287,740	\$100,000
2004-05	\$175,577	\$111,859
2005-06	\$361,474	
2006-07	\$316,174	
2007-08	\$197,384	\$112,249
2008-09	\$301,531	
2009-10	\$291,112	
2010-11	\$293,555	
2011-12	\$285,896	

Literacy Grant

	PARTNERSHIP	FAMILY
1986-87	\$29,691	
1991-92	\$50,400	
1994-95	\$54,500	\$34,000
2001-02	\$68,280	
2002-03	\$66,690	
2003-04	\$65,000	
2004-05	\$65,000	\$35,000
2005-06	\$65,000	\$35,000
2006-07	\$65,000	
2007-08	\$58,000	
2008-09	\$52,000	
2009-10	\$43,000	
2010-11	\$45,000	
2011-12	\$45,000	