

ThunderBridge

RICHLAND COLLEGE THUNDERSTAFF NEWSLETTER
Information Services 972-238-6194 Dallas, Texas

May 4, 2007

DuckBytes

snack-size news

- **What's on the DCCCD Board of Trustees meeting agendas?**
www.dcccd.edu/About+DCCCD/Board+of+Trustees/Board+of+Trustees+Meeting+Agendas/2005+Board+Agendas.htm
- **Richland Collegiate High School of Mathematics, Science, and Engineering (RCHS)** is still accepting applications for fall 2007. Applicants must be students who will enter the 11th grade. For more information, visit www.richlandcolleged.edu/rchs.
- **Need publicity for your upcoming events?** Information Services has a variety of outlets to help you get the word out including the RLC Web calendar, campus electronic signage, and the ThunderBridge. Submit information online at www.rlc.dcccd.edu/events/submit
- **Evening Outpost participants** can be reached from 5-9 p.m. outside the ACCESS Office in Alamito Hall (A110). For a list of Evening Administrators, click [here](#).

PTK WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARDS



photo by John Pollock

Phi Theta Kappa wins several coveted awards at the international conference in Nashville, TN last month. Pictured are: Advisors Larry Polk and Aliene Pylant and students. See story on page 4.

Mittelstet named top innovator

Dr. Stephen K. Mittelstet was recently awarded the Terry O'Banion "Innovations" Award at the League for Innovation's Spring Conference, held March 4-7 in New Orleans. Named in honor of Dr. Terry O'Banion, President Emeritus and Senior League Fellow of the League for Innovation in the Community College, the award is given annually to an individual who has greatly influenced a transformation in teaching and learning, or to a college that best exemplifies the ideals and characteristics of a learning college as established by O'Banion and the League. This honor is sponsored by the Educational Testing Service (ETS).

Strategic Planning Priorities for Student Learning


Response to Community


Student Success


Employee Success


Institutional Effectiveness



FOLLOW THE LEADER



Photo by John Pollock

Momma Thunderduck leads the way as her 16 ducklings follow in a symmetrical formation. According to Wikipedia.org, this hen can lay between 8-16 eggs, which incubate for about 35 days before hatching.

RLC featured as top community college in NY Times

Richland College was featured in The New York Times Education Section in an article, "For Achievers, A New Destination: A guide to some of the country's best community colleges." A copy of the article can be purchased here: www.nytimes.com/2007/04/22/education/edlife/bestccs.html?_r=1&oref=slogin



Stamp costs on the rise again

Effective Monday, May 14, the cost of a first-class stamp will increase to \$0.41. The RLC Business Office will sell \$0.39 stamps in books of 10 until the supply has been depleted. After May 14, \$0.02 stamps will be added and will cost \$4.10 per 10-stamp book. The Business Office will not sell \$0.02 stamps separately.

Engaging discussion in store for RLC book club

The Uncommittee is currently signing up members for the 2007-2008 year until Monday, May 14. This group allows the chance for its members to read an array of interesting and thought-provoking books, both fiction and nonfiction, as well as the opportunity to exchange interdisciplinary ideas with your colleagues from across the college. The group will meet at 4-6 p.m. one day each month. Three discussion days and one make-up discussion day per month are offered for convenience.

By joining, members commit to reading the selected book each month and attending one reading discussion per month for which you will receive Thunderwater Organizational Learning Institute credit for participating. The Uncommittee will enhance personal and professional growth as well as the relationships with RLC colleagues and students.

The first book selected for 2007-2008 are:

September - *The Glass Castle: A Memoir* (the Richardson Reads One Book Selection)

Book selections for October 2007 through April 2008 will be determined by an Uncommittee Selection Committee.

To join, pay \$25 at the cashier's window (made payable to Richland College Uncommittee), and deliver or forward one of the official copies of your receipt to Janet James. New employees may have one year of their Uncommittee dues waived within the first three years of work at Richland. Please contact Roy Bond, TOLI, at x6239.

For additional information about Uncommittee, as well as a list of the books that we have read through the years, visit www.rlc.dcccd.edu/uncommittee/uncomite.htm

Once all current stamps are sold, the "Forever Stamp" will be the only kind available for purchase on campus. They will be sold in booklets of 20 for \$8.20 per book. "Forever Stamps" ensure that regardless of future postal increases, no additional postage is needed. "Forever Stamps" are already available for purchase at your local post office.

For more information, call Zeke Zapeda at ext. 6271 or Kresha Morgan at ext. 6326.

Thunder Tip



"Remembering your personal colleague ID number helps protect you from identity theft.

Even if you are using an old DCCCD form that has a place on it asking for your social security number, you should use your Colleague ID number instead.

If you are asked for your social security number by anyone or anything in our college-question it."

Debra Lockhart, Human Resources

PROFESSIONAL

March 2007 Outstanding Employee



photo by John Pollock

Winona Whited is all smiles while displaying her certificate for the March Outstanding Employee.

lunch! Your dedication to the needs of our students is demonstrated in the numerous evenings you work beyond scheduled hours to be available in case last-minute students in Advising need someone to talk to if advisors notice a problem on their TSI status.

You are dependable and can be counted upon to complete all tasks, whether part of your assigned duties or undertaken of your own initiative. With an inquisitive mind, you question the status quo and look for ways to change systems for the better. Colleagues especially appreciate the way you respect everyone's rights and opinions and greet all you meet with a smile and friendly manner.

Yet another contribution to the benefit of Richland College and our students is your teaching all levels of keyboarding in our Business Office Systems and Support program. Your expertise in word processing often lands you in the "Can I get your help with something?" seat as you eagerly assist others in making documents and forms more effective. Speaking of effective, you also guide the Admission/Registrar/and Student Records staff with Quality Enhancement Plan institutional effectiveness and success. When we think of individuals who take joy in their work and who embrace and embody the Thunderduck culture and spirit, you are certainly among the best.

Winona, symbolic of our deep appreciation of your efforts, you will receive Richland's Certificate of Recognition, complimentary cinema tickets, special parking privileges through March 2007, a plant from our Horticulture department, and a coveted Thunderduck mug. An announcement of your selection will appear in the *ThunderBridge*.

Congratulations, Winona!

Yours sincerely,

Stephen K. Mittelstet




Information Services recognized for superior designs

Texas Association of Continuing Education Administrators (TACE) has awarded Information Services the following honors for their statewide marketing awards:

First Place - Print Ad (for 'Workforce Development') by Patricia Benter for Corporate Services

Second Place - Community Partnership Effort (for OSHA 10-Hour Marathon) by Lisa Henson for C.E.

Third Place - Flier II (for 'Successful Youth Programs for Ages 17-21') by Dianna Kozlowski for C.E.

Honorable Mention - Something Unique (for 'Your Future...Your Choice' DVD Sleeve) by Patricia Benter for Outreach 

Romero, Bowman recognized for community service

The Women in Community Service (WICS) organizations recently recognized Manny Romero and Ron Bowman at an awards dinner for volunteers on April 27, 2007. Romero was given a plaque for his individual efforts with the organization and Bowman received a plaque representing Richland College. The two contributed to WICS' book drives and reading programs. This national organization serves low-income women, families, and youth who are in transition as well as providing services for Job Corps youth.



PROFESSIONAL

April 2007 Outstanding Employee



photo by John Pollock

Carole Lester presents Steve Dupuis with a Thunderduck mug. Dupuis was named the April Outstanding Employee.

but also, through recent training, the MAC lab. You are another of our “go to” employees whom colleagues seek out to fix something gone wrong. At the first sign of trouble the first words are, “Get Steve!”

Your “real world” experience as a professional musician and sound specialist highlights the importance of sound in so many aspects of creating multimedia projects. Various Multimedia faculty ask you to address students in their classes because of your extensive knowledge of sound sampling and insights into the world of sound editing. Your dedication to our students is apparent in your willingness to stay late to help them, and you do so often. We also often find you working behind the scenes to provide music and sound effects for a variety of Richland projects, including several Convocations, the District Conference Day hosted at Richland, and various conferences at which you ensured sound quality for Richland presenters. When we think of individuals who take joy in their work and who embrace and embody the Thunderduck culture and spirit, you are certainly among the best.

Steve, symbolic of our deep appreciation of your efforts, you will receive Richland's Certificate of Recognition, complimentary cinema tickets, special parking privileges through April, a plant from our Horticulture department, and a coveted Thunderduck mug. An announcement of your selection will appear in the *ThunderBridge*.

Congratulations, Steve!

Yours sincerely,

Stephen K. Mittelstet



Dear Steve:

Congratulations on being selected the Richland College Outstanding Employee for April 2007. Your award is well-deserved recognition of the exemplary service you have provided Richland College.

Through the years, your knowledge of multimedia programs and systems has enabled you to successfully assist faculty, students, and staff in the Multimedia department. Your colleagues praise you as an excellent co-worker and professional, known for your creativity, hard work, and thoroughness in your technical support of the department. They don't know what they would do without your expertise in supporting not only PCs

Phi Theta Kappa garners international awards

The Alpha Alpha Xi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Richland College attended the 89th International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. With more than 1,200 chapters in the international organization and nearly 500 competing, the Richland Chapter received the following awards during the Awards Gala on April 1:

- Scholarship Hallmark Award. Only 25 chapters in the international organization are recognized for superior achievements in this category.
- Top 100 Chapter
- Distinguished Chapter Advisor Award - Larry Polk
- Distinguished Chapter. The top 25 chapters in the organization receive this honor.

Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society of the Two-Year College, has recognized academic excellence in the two-year college since 1918. The Society is comprised of more than 1,200 chapters at community, technical and junior colleges internationally.



photo by John Pollock

The Toyota Prius, a hybrid car, was featured at the Sustainable Transportation Fair, held April 19. This car is powered by computer-controlled gas and electric motors, and it generates its own electricity. The Fair was part of a series of events at RLC in celebration of Earth Week.

PROFESSIONAL/PEOPLE

May 2007 Outstanding Employee

Dear Felicia:

Congratulations on being selected the Richland College Outstanding Employee for May 2007. Your award is well-deserved recognition of the exemplary service you have provided Richland College.

Your dedication to our students and commitment to excellence is evident daily as you arrive early each day to tackle tasks at hand with a positive outlook and the students' best interests in mind. Most of those tasks involved your processing loans valued at over \$2.4 million for about 1,000 students for the 2006-2007 academic year. Even with this busy and intense daily work schedule, you quickly resolve any issues that arise, either in the Financial Aid office or at District, as you monitor all the student loans. In resolving issues you ensure that a student is served courteously and with the utmost proficiency.

Your colleagues see you not as a bystander but as a community builder. You readily translate English to Spanish for the benefit of others, and you are especially essential to our visitors during our Financial Aid Help Sessions by translating into Spanish information that the presenters are sharing. Your work speaks volumes of the many lives you impact for the good each day. When we think of individuals who take joy in their work and who embrace and embody the Thunderduck culture and spirit, you are certainly among the best.

Felicia, symbolic of our deep appreciation of your efforts, you will receive Richland's Certificate of Recognition, complimentary cinema tickets, special parking privileges through May, a plant from our Horticulture department, and a coveted Thunderduck mug. An announcement of your selection will appear in the *ThunderBridge*.

Congratulations, Felicia!

Yours sincerely,



Stephen K. Mittelstet



photo by John Pollock

Felicia Nunez cheers as she is presented with the Outstanding Employee Award for May.

Contenders for EIT awards set

The 2007-2008 Richland semifinalists for Excellence in Teaching Awards have been announced. Nomination forms were collected and sorted into categories by a Richland Student Government Association (SGA) committee. After the forms were sorted, the SGA committee selected 10 semifinalists in each category and turned their selections over to the Excellence in Teaching (EIT) Selection Committee.

The EIT Selection Committee is comprised of representatives from full-time and part-time faculty, Continuing Education faculty, students not serving as SGA officers, non-teaching administrators, and presidents of the Faculty, Adjunct Faculty, and Professional Support Staff Associations. The EIT Selection Committee will choose three finalists and the award recipients from each category. The winners will be announced at Convocation in August.

The 2007-2008 semifinalists are:

Full-Time Faculty

Young Choi
Matt Henry
Ye Luo
Miguel Marrero
Fred Newbury
Lois Parrott
Raj Seekri
Trudi Swedlund

Adjunct Faculty

Caren Tate

Continuing Education Faculty

Jasmina Fahrendorf



In Deepest Sympathy

Please keep Ellen Bell, DMAT Instructional Specialist, and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Ellen's mother died April 4 after a lengthy illness.

PEOPLE

Thanks, Thunderducks

TO: Randall Garrett, Roy Cirigliana, Maribel Villacres, Jeremy Haldeman, Susan Stolarczyk, Mary Savage, John Pollock, Kyra Ayres, Shaquesha Wideman, Adriana Vega, and All 5-year Employee Supervisors

FROM: Maria Chobany

Thank you for your help with the 5-Year Awards Reception. From locating rooms and making C-140 available, readying the microphone, organizing the awards table, serving as hostess at the refreshment table, keeping track of reservations, and providing heartfelt introductions of each employee, you pitched in to make the event memorable for our five-year employee award recipients. In true Thunderduck style of our Cooperation ThunderValue, you emulate what is best about Richland College.

TO: Richland College

From: David Henry

Thank you, colleagues, for the cards, letters, and other remembrances I received following my mother's recent death. They have meant more than you can know and bring it home to me, as they have many others, that Richland is so much more than a workplace. We're a community.

TO: Donna Crenshaw and Lea Ann Munkres

From: Rick Garcia

Thank you all for helping me get this first orientation aligned and set up. If I were bringing my child to RLC/RCHS, I know I would be feeling quite welcomed and comfortable due to the caring individuals at this school. I loved the way all students received a folder containing their personal information and handouts related to RCHS/RLC...you're awesome! There is no public high school in the metroplex that offers such service to prospective students and their parents.

Again, thank you for all your hardwork...especially, while Kristyn and I were away. And know that because of our team efforts, next year is looking very promising.

Letters

Dear Ms. Dean,

Recently the American Ceramic Society, to universally enthusiastic reviews, published my book "China Paint & Overglaze." A member of your faculty, Mr. Fred Sweet, was indispensable in its production. Mr. Sweet served as my official proofreader and unofficial editor throughout the three and a half years it took me to finish the project.

It's not just that I could not have done the book as well without Fred's help. I was aware of the other books, perhaps half a dozen so far, that Mr. Sweet has edited and proofread for the American Ceramic Society, and had been very impressed with their quality. I had always prided myself on my ability as a writer, but in almost every instance, Fred's suggestions made my writing better. I have since learned from my publisher that Fred is their first choice as a freelance editor when an author approaches them with a book proposal.

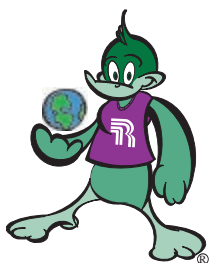
I felt I should let you know, in case you were not aware of it, that you have a truly gifted editor and proofreader on your staff. I can never adequately repay him for his help on this.

Sincerely, Paul Lewing

Dear Dr. Castañeda,

I attended the Emeritus program on immigration yesterday. It was informative, humorous, inspiring, and very thought provoking. After hearing your presentation, I can only believe that whatever opportunities you have been afforded in your life have been richly deserved. Thank you for contributing your time to the Emeritus program.

Sincerely, Joan Parent



Take Action to Cool Global Warming

Action #1: Turn Off Your PC and Monitor

Screen savers don't save energy! Turn off your computer and monitor anytime you won't be using them for an hour or more. You'll not only save energy and money, you'll reduce related CO₂ emissions by up to 80 percent--and no, you won't shorten your PC's useful life.

submitted by GREENRichland