

Thunder Bridge

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

April 23, 2007

DuckBytes

snack-size news

- **The RLC Yoga Club** meets Wednesdays from 4:30-5:45 p.m. in Room E076. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a towel or mat. Call Amy at ext. 6112 for info.
- **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.
- **Looking for driving directions to Richland?** Check out new driving directions online at:
<http://www.dcccd.edu/About+DCCCD/Our+Locations/Richland/directionsRLC>

THUNDER-RIFIC!



The Disability Services Office presented Thunderation Awards to faculty on April 17 for their exceptional innovation and consideration in working with RLC students.

Fulbright-Hays grant to send faculty to India for curriculum development

The U.S. Department of Education awarded Richland College a prestigious Fulbright-Hays Groups Projects Abroad Grant. Richland is partnering with Austin College in the Globalization and Societal Change in South India project. Richland Humanities Professor Aditi Samarth is serving as the co-director of curriculum development. Sixteen community college faculty, high school teachers, and Austin College faculty will spend July 16-August 19 in southern India and New Delhi. The program, which focuses on the development of curriculum units to be disseminated through the U.S. Department of Education, also involves an international serving learning component. ★

Strategic Planning Priorities for Student Learning


Response to Community


Student Success


Employee Success


Institutional Effectiveness


A SNOWY WHITE AFFAIR



Photo by John Pollock

Close to 90 employees were inducted into the Snowy White Fillet on April 12. The honor goes to employees who have been with the District from ten to 40 years. 

Poetry in Motion


A trip on DART becomes a poetic adventure as the agency and Richland College launch this year's Poetry In Motion series. Fifteen poems will be on display on DART buses and light-rail vehicles giving commuters a more pleasurable and enlightening experience. 



Dr. Mittelstet and adjunct English instructor Martha Heimberg visit during the Poetry In Motion kick-off party at the Borders Books and Music in Uptown Dallas.

Writing Scholarship deadline

The Ann Priest Writing Scholarship is awarded to a deserving Richland College student each fall and spring semester. Writing students are encouraged to apply for the Fall 2007 \$500 scholarship. The deadline for submission is Monday, April 30, at 5 p.m.

Students may obtain copies of the Ann Priest Scholarship Announcement and the required DCCCD Foundation Scholarship Application forms in the Financial Aid office, room T130 in Thunderduck Hall. Applications, writing samples, and faculty recommendation letters should be submitted to Janet James, room A218 in Alamito Hall. The required faculty recommendations can be submitted by e-mailing jjames@dccd.edu. The scholarship committee will then review applications and determine the scholarship recipient. 

Art at Richland

The Richland College Humanities Division presents two exhibits this month. Each exhibit continues through May 11.

"Parallel Communities"


Lago Vista Gallery (Library)

Gallery hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fridays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturdays, noon-4 p.m.


Annual Student Photo/Imaging Exhibition

Brazos Gallery (C140)

Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information, contact Randall Garrett at 972-238-6339. 

Mittelstet and Elder-Jones lobby at state level


On March 26, Dr. Steve Mittelstet and Delores Elder-Jones traveled to Austin, Texas to appear before the Higher Education Committee of the Texas State Legislature for testimony at a hearing on H.B. 2302. This Bill, to be entitled an Act, relates to the pilot African American/Black Studies program at Richland College and course work at other public community colleges. This Bill was introduced by Representative Helen Giddings from Dallas, who is also a member of the Higher Education Committee. Letters of testimony and support from the AABS faculty, coordinated by Dean Cindy Castaneda and compiled by Maria Chobany, were also distributed to the committee. With the necessary full vote, this Act will become effective immediately. 

NEWS/PROFESSIONAL

Richland recruits adjunct faculty at annual fair

Richland hosted the 7th Annual District Adjunct Faculty Recruitment Fair on March 31 in Thunderduck Hall as part of the DCCCD's continuing diversity priority. Planned with and conducted by District Human Resources and representatives from all our colleges (HR staff, program coordinators, and deans), nearly 50 DCCCD volunteers spent most of the day Saturday interacting with 305 participants about adjunct teaching opportunities across the District. All but eight of the participants

completed applications and voluntary information surveys. The robust turnout resulted from advertising in such area news publications as the *Dallas Morning News*, *Al Dia*, and *El Hispano* and from a target mailing of 4,000 postcards. This event followed a similarly successful Richland-specific adjunct recruitment fair this past October. Other DCCCD colleges also conduct college-specific fall fairs to complement the spring District-wide fair, which rotates among the colleges. As with Richland-

specific fairs, the planning committee will follow-up with each academic division to ascertain who among the attendees is subsequently hired to teach as adjunct faculty at Richland. This and other adjunct recruiting/hiring strategies are reported in a thrice-annual progress report to Richland's president. It is also forwarded to the Chancellor, with copies to the Chancellor's Cabinet to exchange success strategies to meet our college-specific and District-wide hiring expectations. 

ThunderStars **ThunderWelcome**

When you see new Thunderducks on campus, greet them and welcome them to Richland College.



Carmencita Pagano
Project Leader-
Visiting Scholar
Resource Development



Cheryl Green
Sr. Dean, Resource
Development
Resource Development



Sheree Porter
Financial Aid Student
Services Specialist
Financial Aid



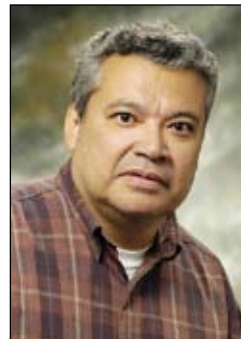
Anitra Cotton
Marketing & Advertising
Coordinator
Information Services



Kresha Morgan
Cashier
Business Office



Binaya Paudyal
Cashier
Business Office



Mauro Rodriguez
Testing Assistant
Testing



Kellie Pollock
Department Assistant III
Testing



PROFESSIONAL

Thunderduck Awards and Achievements

- **Bobbie Harrison**, Richland's Director of Student Programs & Resources, was selected as the 2007 Student Government Advisor of the Year by the Texas Junior College Student Government Association at their 37th convention, held April 12-15, 2007 in Austin, Texas. Bobbie is a two-time recipient of this award.


- Congratulations go to the husband/wife duo, RLC Drama/Theater professor **Debi Ruiz-Espara** and Adjunct Drama/Theater instructor **Arturo Ruiz-Espara**. They produced and directed the full-length feature film "Veritas, Prince of Truth." The film had its World Premiere at the 2007 AFI Dallas International Film Festival at the Magnolia Theater, March 31-April 1. The film stars Sean Patrick Flannery, Amy Jo Johnson, and Grey's Anatomy's Kate Walsh.

- On February 11, **Roy Bond** (Associate Dean, Staff & Organizational Development) achieved perfection. He bowled a 300 game in league play at Plano Super Bowl. Roy started off his night with 12 strikes in a row to become only the second bowler in the Plano Sundowners League to roll a 300 game this season. He followed up this game with scores of 223 and 233 for a career-high 756 series. For his effort he received a '300-Game' ring, as well as a '100 pins over average' watch, from the United States Bowling Congress (USBC). Roy serves as the secretary of the Sunday night league and carries a 196 average.

- **Susan Wehe** was recently selected as a delegation leader for the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of Children's International Summer Villages organization. She led four outstanding eleven-year-old students from the Metroplex to participate in a "Village" camp for one month in a small town in Sweden.

The 12 delegation leaders planned team-building, communication, and cultural activities for 48 children from 12 countries. Each delegation presented a "National Night" about its country. CISV is a fifty-year-old non-governmental, non-religious, non-political program whose purpose is to promote peace and friendship among children of different countries. Every year it sponsors 200 villages around the world. For more information, go to: www.cisv.org.

ThunderHealth Tip



Move More!

Make it a daily challenge to find ways to move your body. Climb stairs if given a choice between that and escalators or elevators. Walk your dog, chase your kids, toss balls with friends, or mow the lawn. Anything that moves your limbs is not only a fitness tool, it's a stress buster. Think 'move' in small increments of time. It doesn't have to be an hour in the gym or a 45-minute aerobic dance class or tai chi or kickboxing. But that's great when you're up to it. Meanwhile, move more!

Source: <http://www.health-fitness-tips.com/>

- The Richland chapter of **Phi Theta Kappa**, the scholastic honor society for community college students, attended the Texas Regional Convention March 22-25 and brought home several awards. Representing the Phi Theta Kappa chapter were: Asia Cirigliana, Keome Rowe, Dharmesh Patel, Megan Erickson (RCHS), Lee Dinh, Tien Nguyen, Nancy Corona, and Bhavini Desai. Regional awards received include:

- The Richland PTK chapter was a Top Chapter (Top 25 in the state)
- Elected District II Vice President

(representing Dallas County, Tarrant County, Collin County, Grayson County-18 chapters). This is one of only 6 regional leadership positions held by students.

- Keome Rowe was inducted into the Texas Hall of Honor for students.
- The chapter was recognized as a 5 Star Chapter (the highest recognition by the International Office of PTK, with more than 1200 chapters).
- Co-Advisor Aliene Pylant received the Horizon Award for New Advisors.
- Advisor Larry Polk received the Horizon Award for Continued Excellence as well as the Distinguished Advisor Award.



- Richland students flexed their creative muscles in **League for Innovation Student Literary Competition**

This competition gives student writers an opportunity to share and publish their poems, essays, one-act plays, and fiction writings. Competition winners are awarded up to \$500. All entries will appear in *Parallax*, so students may become published authors even if they don't win competition prizes. Richland College Winners are:

Essay

Lauren Davis, Abby Taylor, Omar Benhalim, Brittini N. Estes, Adrienne McCann

Fiction

Libby Block (Treat), Peggy J. Richard, Rebecca Neitzel, Catriona Stokes

Play

Garrett Samuso, Ben Parlapiano, Lori Theis, Robert Patchen

Poetry

Lori Theis, Micah Allen, Ben Parlapiano, LoriTheis, Micah Allen



PROFESSIONAL

Employees accept five-year awards

Richland employees who have completed five years of full-time service were honored at an awards ceremony and reception on April 12. Almost 60 Thunderducks were presented with a marble paperweight.

Because the Five Year Awards reception was postponed last fall, this spring two classes were honored--those hired full-time from September 1, 2000, through August 31, 2001 and from September 1, 2001 through August 31, 2002.

Recipients were:

Class of 2001

Robert Baker, College Police
Randy Barnes, Facilities Services
Clark Buerk, Physical Education
Corine Burnett, Continuing Education
June Cheatham, Humanities
Gail Donaldson, Engineering/Technology
Angela Edwards, Business/Information Technology
Pedro Escobar, Facilities Services
Genevieve Espinosa, Business/Information Technology
Sarah Gillen, TRIO/SOAR
Lisa Graef, Educational Transitions

Jamie Hardy-Chaney, Health Professions
Lisa Henson, Information Services
Tyrone Hollins, Accounting Services
Michael Iachetta, Humanities
Stanford Kohan, Engineering & Technology
Terry Lefler, Financial Services
Debra Lockhart, Employee Services
Janie Lossman, Emeritus Program
Whitney Martinez, Continuing Education
Kimberly Mims, Skills Training Center
Jobickson Modi, Accounting Services
Kimberly Montes, Financial Aid
Lea Ann Munkres, Richland Collegiate High School
Mark Murray, Information Services
Felicia Nunez, Financial Aid
Ruelona Overby, Center for Teaching/Learning Connections
Mary Petterborg, Registrar's Office
Lee Pham, Mail Room/Print Shop
John Pollock, Information Services
Annie Ross, Library
Jerelyn Smith, Continuing Education
James Spigner, Upward Bound
Rose Stanley, Continuing Education
Patricia Williams, Skills Training Center
Vicki Wood, Academic Advising
Dan Worth, Computer Lab

Michael Wright, Academic Advising
Linda Wroten, Skills Training Center
Zeke Zepeda, Accounting Services

Class of 2002

Audra Barrett, World Languages/Cultures/Communications
Pamela Binkley, Financial Aid
Doris Bush, Engineering & Technology
Rosalie Conoly, Continuing Education
Phyllis Cook, Center for Teaching/Learning Connections
Marcy Duarte, Enrollment Planning
Anna Engert, Humanities
John Horne, Engineering & Technology
Alice Lee, World Languages/Cultures/Communications
Gloria Marek, Accounting Services
Steven Moore, College Police
Jeanette Murphy, Financial Aid
Noeli Piccoli-Biggs, Multicultural Center
Judith Prueitt-Prentice, Enrollment Planning
Raj Seekri, Math/Science/Behavioral Sciences
Sharon Shaw, Financial Aid
Tanisha Shorter, Upward Bound
Xiang Song, Math/Science/Behavioral Sciences
Brian Ward, College Police



With Deep Sympathy

- Physics adjunct instructor **Rick Lewis** died on Tuesday, March 13 when his plane, a Beechcraft Musketeer, crashed in clear weather at 9,100 feet in the mountains of New Mexico. Rick taught at Richland since the summer of 2000, and also taught at Collin County and Tarrant County Community Colleges. He also taught at Northlake and Brookhaven. Lewis served in the U.S. Navy as a submariner. Rick was 61.

- Jack Stone** died on March 22 in San Antonio surrounded by loved ones including his wife Jackie, daughter Allison, and friend Lee Paez. He was 71.

Stone began his DCCCD career as music faculty member and dean of humanities at Eastfield College. He later joined RLC's founding staff in the same roles before becoming Richland's vice president of instruction. He left the DCCCD to become president of Galveston College until DCCCD Chancellor, Jan LeCroy, invited him back as RLC's Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. He retired as interim president of Brookhaven College. In retirement, Stone accompanied his wife and Richland's Vice President of Student Learning, Jackie Claunch, to San Antonio. Together they helped launch the Alamo Community College

District's new Northwest Vista College.

- Corporate Services' **Nicole Reed's** daughter, Delaney, died on April 15. Cards and notes may be sent to:

Nicole and/or Parris Reed
c/o Kelley Bounds
1807 Morning Star
Richardson, TX 75081

- Lisa Henson**, Information Services, lost her ex-husband last month. Bill was 48.

- Dean **Martha Hogan's** son, Bryan, died in a car accident April 2. He was 35.

PEOPLE

Thanks, Thunderducks

To: Richland College
From: Brenda M. Womack, Educational & Administrative
Computer Technology

My recent surgery and recuperation have permitted me the opportunity to cherish many priceless treasures of my world. I can't begin to count how many co-workers, friends, and family members have up-lifted me with their acts of kindness, prayers, and concern. This support and the Great Healer have contributed to my ability to keep an optimistic spirit through the medical marathon I've encountered the last several months. I began chemotherapy treatment on Friday, April 13. I wasn't really that eager about being a member of the "Chemo Guild." However, I know I'll have the encouragement necessary to maintain the power of positive thinking and my sense of humor.

Thanks so much for the beautiful flowers, cards, gifts, visits, phone calls, verbal and e-mail well wishes, and love. I am so fortunate to be surrounded by a community of such wonderful caring of people.

To: Mark Murray and Leslie Wendling, Web Office
From: Cindy Berry, Academic Advising

Zina Gardner, Marcia Champion and I, thank you so much for everything you have done to get the Advisor of the Year information up on our Web site so quickly. You guys do an awesome job and we appreciate all your hard efforts.

I know Marcia enjoys working with you both very much.

To: Grounds
From: Steve Mittelstet

I know you will want to join me in thanking Richland's superb grounds personnel for the bright display of spring tulips, daffodils, and other spring bulbs which sent off our faculty and students to spring break and welcomed them back with equal joy, while others of us have enjoyed them throughout these past few weeks. Every turn through the campus has been a breathtaking delight!

In addition to all the other ways they serve our college day-in and day-out, these individuals



Photo by John Pollock

worked extremely hard digging in our challenging Dallas "gumbo" months ago to bring smiles to our faces this spring: Raymond Choice, Austin Longacre, Jose Resenes, Silvano Saucedo Pedro Escobar, Anthony Buckley, and Sonny McDonald.

Our thanks also to John Pollock and the Thunder e-Bridge staff for the beautiful colorful photo of one of the massive tulip beds in the last staff newsletter edition.

To: Sarah Gardenhire, Administration
From: Phyllis Cook, Center for Tutoring and Learning Connections
Thank you all so very much. We do know how hard you all work, but we never say thank you enough....so THANK YOU.

To: Everyone involved in the Health Professions Information Days
From: Neal Abramson

I want to acknowledge everyone involved in the Health Professions Information Days. The panel and guest speakers were incredible. I was completely impressed with all of the presenters. All of them were key administrators in their fields--many of them directly responsible for who gets into medical, dental, and pharmacy school and who doesn't.

My hats off to everyone involved in the planning and implementation of this event. You deserve a huge thanks from all of us, including the students who attended. There will be more health care workers in the state Texas because of the information you made available.

A particular thanks goes to Jackie Reynolds, Mike Bell, Ray Canham, Lorrie Anderson, and Vickie Wood. If I am leaving anyone out, let me know.

Great job! Thanks for the difference you make for the students here. I recommend that people attend the Health Profession Information Days in the future even if they're not planning to be a doctor, nurse, dentists, or pharmacist. I personally learned a great deal about interviewing skills and what it takes to be a doctor, dentist, nurse, and pharmacist in the United States today.

To: Jeremy Haldeman, Rick Walker and Kris Hyttinen, Joe Perea
From: Dru Bookout and the Council for Community Building

Shout it from the rooftops, you guys rock! Thank you for making the Student Wall of Honor a wonderful event. Jeremy, not only did you arrive early to set up the mike and speakers, you immediately assessed the layout of the area, rolled up your sleeves and helped rearrange the

see pg. 7

PEOPLE

Thanks, Thunderducks continued cont. from pg. 6

space for maximum visibility. You brought your personal library of CD's for background music. What a great addition. It set the festive tone.

Rick and Kris, thanks for filming this ceremony and burning DVD's for our archives and to give to each student honoree. This is a great souvenir for our students and gives us a way to review and improve our event.

Joe, your musical fanfare made each honoree feel like queen/king for the day! What a special treat.

Thanks for your special attention to this ceremony and our honored students.

To: Steve Dupuis, Shannon Steel, Joe Vines, Dan Dao, Ken Starzer, Genny Espinosa, Debbie Smith, Mary Benedicto, Multimedia; Jeremy Haldeman, media; Media Distribution; Rosemary Meza, Omar Hernandez and Eddy Rawlinson from El Centro; Yeni Gutierrez and Matt Hinkley from the Richland Chronicle; Randall Garrett, Gallery Director; Robert Galindo; Artist Thornton; Joe Perea, music; and others.

From: Dwayne Carter,
Multimedia Learning
Center

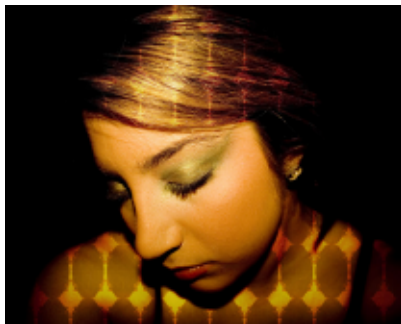
I want to give my special thanks to those who helped make the 2007 Computer Arts Festival (Parallel Festival) a success. Events were generally well attended and students have responded very favorably to speakers. We will be adding pictures and more video to the blog (www.parallelcommunities.blogspot.com). So stay tuned.

A very special thanks goes to Bobbie Harrison, Jay Wooldridge and SPAR for their sponsorship.

To: Richland College

From: Wilfred Manyago for SPAR

SPAR wishes to thank everyone for making this Intercultural Festival a success. Whether you took part in the parade, helped with the set-up, served the delicious food or performed, you are a part of the puzzle that made this celebration a success. We are especially thankful for our wonderful student participants. We look forward to next year's festival and your participation. Again thank you.



Student artwork currently on display at the Lago Vista Gallery

Letters

Dear Richland,

My heartfelt thanks to the people of Richland College for bringing Jack Stone home and helping to honor his memory with his memorial service held at Richland on March 31. I especially want to thank:

The Early Brass group, members past and present, for playing in honor of Jack, who formed the group in 1983 and conducted until 1998.

Fred Martinez, long time friend and supporter, for serving at our wedding, this memorial service, and other family weddings and funerals.

Luke Barber, Jack's and my friend of over 30 years, for writing and delivering the eulogy.

Steve Mittelstet, for the beautiful message he wrote following Jack's passing and for all he has offered to honor the man Jack was and the spirit that remains with us.

Phi Theta Kappa students and the student theater crew for their services.

Janet James, Jennifer Owen and Maria Chobany for coordinating all the arrangements at the College.

The Richland College custodial staff, building maintenance staff, facilities operations staff, grounds crew, and college police for their efforts.

The Humanities Division and Library faculty and staff for help with the service and reception.

The following individuals—Cris Bay-Anderson, Kyra Ayres, Alfred Banks, Michael Brantley, Anthony Buckley, Doris Bush, Raymond Choice, Sherry Dean, LaBeth Hall, Jeremy Haldeman, Gary Hearn, Kris Hyttinen, Carole Johnson, Patti Lanier, Jerry Owens, Larry Polk, Debbie Ruiz-Esparza, Patricia Sandoval, Jim Stover, Michael Brantley, and no doubt many others we may have overlooked.

Sincerely,

Jackie Claunch



CELEBRATING OUR WORLD

Photos by John Pollock



A wide variety of cultures were represented during the RLC Intercultural Festival on April 11.



Earth-friendly scooters were on display during Richland's Sustainable Transportation Fair on April 19. The display was part of GREENRichland's Earth Day celebration.



Students, faculty, and staff dressed in their traditional garb to celebrate during the Intercultural Festival, held April 11. The event included a parade, Peace Pole planting, and a variety of cultural food, music, and dance.