

Dec. 17, 2004

## DuckBites

### snack-size news

- **Star shows for December:** "Season of Light" multicultural holiday program at 2 p.m.; and "Richland Skies," which teaches how to locate constellations, planets and other celestial objects visible in the night sky, at 3 p.m. on Dec. 18. The planetarium is in Room S116. Call 972-238-6013 for information.
- **Register now for Spring 2005.** Registration is open until Jan. 15. Classes begin Jan. 18. Schedule is at: [www.rlc.dcccd.edu/sched/spring/schedule.html](http://www.rlc.dcccd.edu/sched/spring/schedule.html). Or you can access schedules from the RLC homepage by clicking, "Class Schedules."
- Want to squeeze in an extra class over the holidays? Register now for Winter Term through Jan. 7. **Winter Term** classes take a one-week break for the holidays from Dec. 24 to Jan. 2.
- The Classical Acting Company brings O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi* to life on stage this holiday season. The show runs through Dec. 24 in Arena Theatre at Richland College. Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays; 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; and at 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Call 214-505-1655 for reservations and ticket prices.

## EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



Photo by John Pollock

**Sandy Groom**, Business & Professions, (left) and **Karen Johnson**, Continuing Education, show off their commemorative plaques for being named the Professional Support Staff Employees of the Year. Sandy received the full-time award and Karen received the part-time award. Congratulations! ★

## Richland, UTD sign agreement for transfer of journalism degrees

Officials signed a transfer agreement at 10 a.m. on Dec. 17 for the acceptance by the University of Texas at Dallas of Associate's Degrees in Journalism, Broadcast Journalism and Advertising/Public Relations from Richland College into UTD's Bachelor of Arts Interdisciplinary Studies program with a concentration in Communications.

UTD also agreed to teach at least one upper-level Communications course at Richland College each year.

The transfer agreement is effective immediately. 🌿 🌿

### Strategic Planning Priorities for Student Learning

  
Response to Community

  
Student Success

  
Employee Success

  
Institutional Effectiveness

# NEWS

## Spanish lunchers unite

Join the Spanish lunchers! They meet Thursdays from 12-1 p.m. in the staff lunch room by the cafeteria.

The idea is that Spanish speakers and non-speakers get together for lunch (bring your own), and speak only Spanish.

It's not a class, there's no teacher, and there'll be no grades – just fun, food, and eventual fluency. If all you know is “hola,” you'll be in good company. You'll be amazed how quickly we'll learn to say “Pass the salt” en espanol.

If you speak the language, the group needs you. If you don't speak it, they need you, too. Sign language allowed, fledgling Spanish actively encouraged, English absolutely banned. Your sandwiches will taste better in Spanish!

Also, there is an e-mail group called 8Espagnol for Spanish learners and would-be-learners to get in a bit of practice, and for Spanish speakers to graciously help out - which they do.

E-mails are in Spanish, though some writers like to add either a translation or some vocabulary at the end of their messages to help those who struggle.

There are no real rules for the group except “be nice!” and, as with the Spanish lunches, please feel free to try, and don't worry if you make bloopers. Call **Scarlett Hill** at ext. 6159 for more information. ★

## New furniture delivered

Starting last Monday, a total of 11 tractor trailers will begin delivering approximately 3,000 pieces of new classroom furniture. During this delivery and distribution process, trailers may be parked for short periods along the east, west and Guadalupe circle drives.

Facilities Services staff along with

## SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER



*Photo by John Pollock*

Hungry Thunderducks line up for holiday treats at Richland's annual Holiday Lighting Party on Dec. 2. The party was sponsored by SPAR.



Richland's contract custodial personnel will be removing old furniture and assembling and placing items throughout the campus. ✎

## Repair, replacement for east side HVAC system

Buildings on the east side of campus will be without heat through Jan. 6.

Some of the original piping from 1972 needs to be replaced and re-routed on the east side of campus due to soil movement and piping erosion over the years.

While this is a temporary hardship for students, faculty, and staff, having a more dependable heating and air conditioning system that is environmentally sound is worth

the cost and temporary inconvenience.

Until Jan. 6, all restrooms, hallways, entrances, and access for buildings on the east side of campus (except Bonham Hall) will remain open. However, there will not be hot water to the sinks and showers.

This temporary inconvenience is to ensure that all buildings on the east side are operational in time for the return of the faculty on Jan. 10 and return of students on Jan. 18. ✎

## Campus tours available

Did you know that the High School and Community Relations department conduct tours on a daily basis? Call Campus Tours at ext. 6720 or stop by C150. ✎

Send your professional and personal items for the *ThunderBridge* to Jenni Smith at [jensmith@dcccd.edu](mailto:jensmith@dcccd.edu).

# NEWS/PROFESSIONAL

## December 2004/January 2005 Outstanding Employee

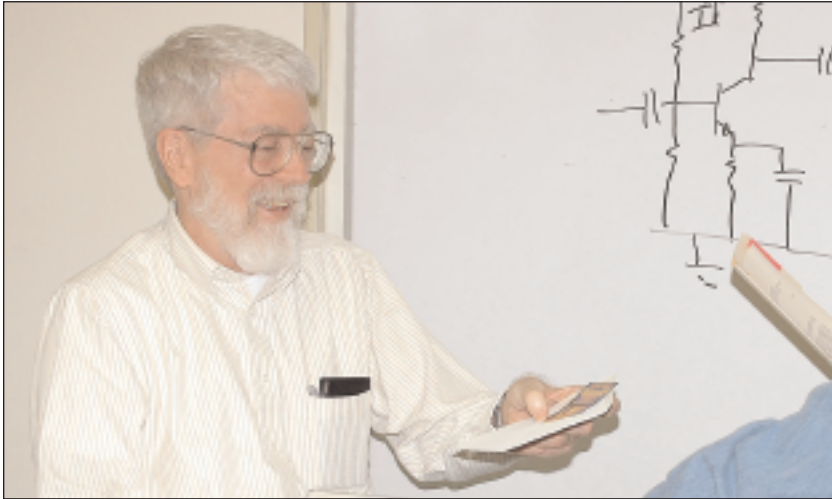


Photo by John Pollock

**John Horne**, Engineering Technology and Emerging Programs, receives complimentary cinema tickets for being named the the Employee of the Month. Click here to see a list of previous Employees of the Month: [www.rlc.dcccd.edu/employees/eom.htm](http://www.rlc.dcccd.edu/employees/eom.htm). 


## Thunderducks make history with three national titles

Sports fans would probably mention the University of Texas or Stanford University if asked about powerhouses in college athletics. They might not expect Richland College to make national sports records.

But in November, the Richland College Thunderducks did something no other college or university athletic program has ever done – it became the first institution in the history of both NCAA and NJCAA college athletics to hold simultaneously the national title in men's soccer, women's soccer and baseball.

With the win over Herkimer County Community College on Nov. 14, Richland's men's soccer team clinched its third-straight NJCAA Div. III national title. The Thunderduck baseball team also has a "three-peat," with back-to-back NJCAA Div. III national championships in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

It's not a boy's club any longer, though. The Lady Thunderducks soccer team made Richland history with its first NJCAA Div. III national title by defeating Mohawk Valley Community College on Nov. 7.

The success of the Thunderduck athletic program is even more impressive considering that Richland's athletes are non-scholarship. 

## Thanks, Thunderducks


To: **Jenni Smith**, Information Services; **Barbara Burns**, Advising  
From: **Kay Eggleston**, Administration

*Jenni, Barbara and your committee, what a wonderful PSSA Holiday Luncheon we celebrated! This was our best ever. The theme, decorations, food, and gift drawings were so celebratory. The PSSA Employee of the Year award winners were so inspiring in their accomplishments and dedication to Richland. Great job! I was honored to be a part of the program in announcing the honorees, while our president was out of town. Again, thank you for all of your hard work to make this event such a special occasion.*




To: **PSSA Officers, Holiday Luncheon Committee**  
From: **Brenda Womack**, ACT

*The Holiday Luncheon was a success. It takes an enormous amount of effort to make these special endeavors materialize. It was evident those involved put in a great deal of time and imagination. Keep up the good work! FYI: Lee Anne was a hoot in the grass skirt.*

To: **Richland College**  
From: **Mohammed Rahman**, Health Professions

*It has been great five years working with you but all good things must come to an end. I made wonderful friends at Richland and will remember you for a long while.* 

*Happy Holidays  
and  
Happy New Year  
from  
Information Services*

 Richland College will be closed   
from Dec. 24 to Jan. 3 for the holidays. 

# PROFESSIONAL/PEOPLE



## Publication Schedule

### Upcoming issues:

ThunderBridge	Fri., Dec. 17
<b>Thunder E-Bridge</b>	<b>Fri., Dec. 17</b>
ThunderBridge	Fri., Jan. 7
ThunderBridge	Fri., Jan. 21
<b>Thunder E-Bridge</b>	<b>Fri., Jan. 28</b>
ThunderBridge	Fri., Feb. 4
ThunderBridge	Fri., Feb. 18
<b>Thunder E-Bridge</b>	<b>Fri., Feb. 25</b>



## Hawaiian Hula-day



Photo by John Pollock

Lee Anne Stevens, Advising, (right) teaches Fred Wittel, M/S/BS, to do the hula at the Professional Support Staff Association Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 10.



## From the President...

Richland has received its 2004 Feedback Report from the Consensus Review stage of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award process. This year only 34 organizations nation-wide (manufacturing, small business, service, health care, and education) were included in this Consensus Review stage; Richland was the only community college to be included (for the second consecutive year). CONGRATULATIONS!

Our scores in all seven categories either improved over the previous year or maintained a previous high level. Cited among the most important strengths were:

- Our sustained use of KPIs (key performance indicators) to track progress on our comprehensive Strategic Planning Priority Goals, with monthly progress reviews to take in-process corrective action when needed and to maintain an upward trend in all our strategic measures over the past five years;
- Systematic use of our PIIP (Process Implementation - Improvement Plan) approach to increase efficiency in key processes;
- Our sustained use of the QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) for the past four years with all employees to stay focused on student learning success;
- Our use of environmental scanning and external partnerships to ensure that our programs are responsive to current community and workforce educational and training needs;

- Our TOLI (Thunderwater Organizational Learning Institute) professional development program participation from all employees (with nearly 80 percent exceeding minimum expectations), specifically our annual Intercultural Competence series for all employees;
- Our whole-person approach to teaching, learning, leading, serving, and building community and the many other programs we have to support employee success and morale;
- Our many, inter-linked successful outreach and student success efforts with under-represented segments of our service area population.

Most important opportunities for improvement tended to focus on even more widespread deployment of KPIs and QEP participation to ensure all work groups and individuals are participating meaningfully, sustained over time to yield measurable trend progress toward goals.

- Our use of benchmark data to learn from "best practice" organizations (both internally and externally) was cited for improvement, primarily as we are still at early stages of implementing this effective approach.

All the detailed opportunities for improvement are being reviewed to determine which ones to include in an update of our annual operational action plans at appropriate organizational levels to continue our improvement.

It is gratifying, as we end this calendar year, to receive this national affirmation that our diligent work is seen as exceptionally effective in helping us meet our goals in helping students, community, and employees succeed. Again, CONGRATULATIONS!

— Steve