

Thunder Bridge

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

Happy Holidays!

Dec. 15, 2006

DuckBytes

snack-size news

- The campus will be **closed from Dec. 23 to Jan. 1** for the winter break. Enjoy the holidays!
- **Winter Hours** for the Mail Room and Print Shop will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Dec. 18 through Jan. 12.
- **Color copies in the RLC Print Shop** are normally 65 cents per copy but for a limited time, they will be 25 cents. Call ext. 6278.
- 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.
- The **RLC Knitting Club** meets from 12:30-1:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Friday of each month outside C150. Call ext. 3784.
- 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

PSS EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



Photo by John Pollock

From left, **President Steve Mittelstet** celebrates with **Babs King**, Institutional Research, and **Carolyn Lindeman**, WLCC. Babs was named the Part-Time Professional Support Staff Employee of the Year, and Carolyn was named the Full-Time Professional Support Staff Employee of the Year on Dec. 6 at the annual PSSA Holiday Luncheon.

Holiday Greetings from Richland College!

www.richlandcollege.edu/holiday2006

May peace prevail on earth.

Strategic Planning Priorities for Student Learning


Response to Community


Student Success


Employee Success


Institutional Effectiveness

'TIS THE SEASON



Photo by John Pollock

Hungry Thunderducks line up for appetizers at the 2006 Holiday Lighting Party. Because of chilly temperatures, the annual feast was moved indoors this year.

RLC featured in report

RLC's Academic Enrichment program will be featured in the Association of American Colleges and Universities' (AAC&U) forthcoming report, *College Learning for the New Global Century*, as a leading example of Seven Principles of Excellence that form the core of that new report.

Focusing on the aims and outcomes of a 21st century college education, the report is about the promises the academy needs to make – and keep – to all students who aspire to a college education, especially to those for whom college is a route, perhaps the only possible route, to a better future.

The AAC&U told RLC officials they are particularly pleased to highlight the work Richland does as part of this important national movement to improve higher education across the country.

Because Richland is one of only a few

specific campuses highlighted in the report, the AAC&U has invited RLC representatives to attend the Jan. 10 release of the report. ✎

Advisor's article published

Tara Thompson, Academic Advising, wrote an article, "Get Back on Track: The Philosophy and Implementation of Richland College's Suspension to Probation Program," for the National Academic Advising Association's December 2006 edition of its quarterly e-publication, *Academic Advising Today*.

The article highlights the student intervention techniques and resources RLC's academic suspension advisors use to get students back on track and engage them in their learning success following academic suspension.

Read Tara's article by visiting http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/AAT/documents/29_4.pdf. ✎

Listening Outpost

The Listening Outpost provides opportunities throughout the semester for staff and students to visit informally with Richland's president, vice presidents and other leaders.

You are invited to bring your ideas, dreams, concerns and plans to the Outpost located in El Paso Hall near the cafeteria.

Participants for the week are listed at the Outpost. Evening Outpost participants can be reached from 5-9 p.m. in Adjunct Faculty, A110.

Evening Outpost

Monday, Jan. 15

Campus Closed, MLK Holiday

Tuesday, Jan 16

Zarina Blakenbaker, ACCESS

Wednesday, Jan. 17

Joyce Williams, Program Dvlpmnt.

Thursday, Jan. 18

Martha Hogan, Business & IT

Monday, Jan. 22

Thomas Adams, Multicultural Center

Tuesday, Jan. 23

Debbi Richards, Edu. Transitions

Wednesday, Jan. 24

Steven Richards, Corp. Services

Thursday, Jan. 25

Adriana Rodriguez, Teacher Prep. ✎

With Deepest Sympathy

- Longtime Richland College Adult Resource Center staff member **Mary Joe Ingram** passed away. Viewing will be Dec. 17 at Williams Funeral Home in Garland, and the memorial service will be Dec. 18 at Garland's First United Methodist Church.

- The father of **Debi Ruiz-Esparza**, John Anderson, passed away on Dec. 9. Services were in Lufkin, Texas.

PROFESSIONAL

★ ThunderStars ThunderWelcome ★

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



Randy Jensen
Multimedia Graphics Designer
Information Services
Ext. 6840



Jon Felmet
Instructional Associate
Physical Education
Ext. 3735



Adriana Vega
Secretary
Administration
Ext. 6192



Maria Perry
Instructional Specialist
WLCC
Ext. 6338



Alfred Banks
Captain
College Police
Ext. 6174



Jason Pierce
Sergeant
College Police
Ext. 6174



Pedro Hernandez
Coordinator
Media Technology
Ext. 6094



Bill Dial
Assistant Director
Human Resources
Ext. 6747



Coleman Crawford
College Director
Physical Education
Ext. 6244



Jerri Arredondo
Sr. Data Entry Operator
Facilities
Ext. 6392



Danielle Plauche
Instructional Associate
WLCC
Ext. 6943



Barbara Thomas
Accountant
Financial Services
Ext. 6036



PROFESSIONAL

★ ThunderStars ThunderWelcome ★

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



Marisa Patlan
Accounting Clerk
Business Office
Ext. 6275



Athena Payne
Department Assistant
Multicultural Center
Ext. 6139



Gregory Rife
Testing Assistant
Testing Center
Ext. 6160



Marisol Sena
Case Manager
Rising Star
Ext. 6122



Ramon Martinez
Accountant
Business Services
Ext. 6275



Tonya McMillion
Instructional Associate
Journalism/Student Media
Ext. 6067



Robert Benavidez
College Police Officer
College Police
Ext. 6174



Bryan Ward
College Police Officer
College Police
Ext. 6174



Joanne Vaillancourt
College Police Officer
College Police
Ext. 6174



Cesar Sena
College Police Officer
College Police
Ext. 6174



Judith Prueitt-Prentice
Academic Advisor
Academic Advising
Ext. 6332



PROFESSIONAL/PEOPLE

GREENRichland's Sustainability @ Home a success; Duke's proposal selected

A big thanks from GREENRichland to all the Thunderducks who helped make the first "Sustainability @ Home" event such a success! Here's what we accomplished together:

- We learned about readily available products and services – like insulation, solar water heaters, "green" electricity, and toilets – that can save money and precious natural resources while making us more comfortable in our homes and offices.

- We found out what's happening to the air North Texans breathe and what we can do to make it cleaner instead of dirtier.

- By receiving 100 free compact fluorescent light bulbs from GE and pledging to install 545 more, we took the first steps toward taking 516,000 pounds of greenhouse gas CO² out of the air and saving ourselves \$32,250 on our electricity bills.

We also awarded a free Home Energy Audit to **Gary Duke**, Library, for submitting the best idea for getting Richlanders involved in sustainability efforts.

Here is Gary's proposal:

Ever since reading David Orr's explosive 1992 book on the relationship between education and environment, I've been wishing that someone would take up the banner and

offer the kind of course that he proposed in that book. The book was *Ecological Literacy: Education and the Transition to the Modern World* (Albany: SUNY, 1992).

The essays in this volume represent an extended reflection on the crisis of sustainability now looming before the modern world and what this portends for the theory and practice of education. Part

I seeks to clarify the concept and implications of sustainability, and Part II addresses related issues of curriculum and pedagogy. All the essays originate in the conviction that the ecological crisis represents, in large measure, a failure of education.

One of the "assignments" Orr suggested was to undertake a hands-on study of how resources (food, energy, water, materials, and waste) flow into, through, and from the campus and a change-centered discussion of how those flows could be impacted in order to reduce the ecological footprint of the college.



My specific proposal could take either of two forms:

A learning community with Sustainability as its central theme. Economics, Biology, Government and English (or others) might be the core disciplines, and activities would involve the usual readings and class work supplemented by field work actually on campus.

A capstone experience for our Associate of Arts/Sciences programs, as recommended by THECB. President Mittelstet has already indicated that the theme of that experience at Richland would be Sustainable Community.

Resources for either option could include:

Robert Nadeau's *The Environmental Endgame: Mainstream Economics, Ecological Disaster, and Human Survival* (New Brunswick: Rutgers, 2006).

David Orr's "What is Education For? Six Myths about the Foundations of Modern Education, and Six New Principles to Replace Them." Winter, 1991. In *Context* 9 Nov. 2006. (<http://www.context.org/ICLIB/IC27/Orr.htm>)

Dee Fink's *Creating Significant Learning Experiences: an Integrated Approach to Designing College Courses*. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003).



GREEN Thanks, Thunderducks

To: **Richland College**

From: **Sara Perez-Ramos, M/S/BS**

On behalf of GREENRichland, I would like to thank all of you who went by the exhibits on Nov. 21. Fluorescent light bulbs, super cool toilets, solar water heaters, ways to insulate your home, a chance to switch energy providers, even a way to become politically involved were represented there. The presenters were very enthusiastic about the turn out. So were we. Thank you!

To: **GREENRichland**

From: **Steve Mittelstet, Administration**
Sustainability @ Home was a superb way to lead into Thanksgiving! I regret that my being off-campus prevented me from dropping by.

Please share my gratitude to all members of our GREENRichland group for this, and all the other green initiatives this year, in helping Richlanders learn to live more sustainably in this universe!





ThunderSports!

Did you know that Richland College has national championship athletic teams? Did you also know that you can see Thunderduck sports action for free? Show your Thunderduck spirit by supporting RLC's athletic teams! Visit www.richlandcollege.edu/sports/latest_scores.htm.

PEOPLE

Thanks, Thunderducks

To: **Steve Mittelstet**, Administration

From: **Raj Seekri**, M/S/BS

It is with great appreciation and a deep sense of satisfaction that I write to express my profound admiration for the excellent job **Mary Frances Gibbons** and **Carole Johnson** do with the QAC Committee. Since this process began more than two years ago, I have seen them channel the energies of a diverse group of campus employees and hone them into a lean, mean Thunderduck team.

In addition, they have trained each and every team member through their diligent effort and caring encouragement. They have created a mechanism for the transfer of excellence from one generation to the next. In essence, they are securing the college's future and with it, the futures of untold number of students who may never know them. They need to be commended for their work and the far-reaching impact it will have on our campus. Their impact and legacy on Richland College will be felt for decades to come.

At the University of Texas at Dallas where I teach in the evenings, we have been going through the process of SACS assessments and reporting. They have an excellent system for the filing of assessment reports, but they do not have Mary Frances and Carole. That makes a huge difference. Thank you for blessing us with the services of Mary Frances and Carole and for allowing me to participate in this grand, fun endeavor.

To: **Steve Mittelstet, Janet James, Rick Walker** and **Kris Hyttinen**

From: **Susan Barkley**, WLCC

Thanks for your diligence and hard work in producing an outstanding DVD for Richland's entry in the 7th National Satellite Video Conference for Community Colleges sponsored by the League for Innovation, ACIIE, CCID, and the American Association of Community Colleges. The two-hour program addressed the presidential challenge to increase U.S. capacity and expertise in critical world languages as well as providing information and resources on the teaching of languages in community colleges.

Richland was one of only six community colleges across the nation selected as a Best Practices. **Rick Walker** and **Kris Hyttinen**, with coordination and assistance from **Janet James**, did an outstanding job of assembling footage and incorporating a script that featured Richland's initiatives and innovations. We were particularly grateful to **Steve** for his segment which stressed Richland's commitment to providing oral and cultural skills necessary to communicate with the diverse clients of the global workplace. Our video appeared last in the program – saving the best for the last – and was introduced by the moderator Rob Frost who commended Richland for our role in interna-

tionalizing the community college by integrating international awareness into all disciplines and work groups on the campus.

To: **Richland College**

From: **Jay Wooldridge**, SPAR

Double thanks at Thanksgiving:

1. Thanks and great job to Richland and all the people who helped with the Oct. 27 Kenya 5K run/walk! We had 101 participants, the largest group participating was the women's soccer team, the new national champions. We raised over \$3,000 for food relief for Kenya.

Julius Mawathe, organizer of the event, said we can buy 90 kilo bags of maize (200 lbs. of corn) for about \$31 each which will be distributed to the Kenyan villagers.

2. Thanks again to everyone involved with the 8th Annual Richland College American Indian Pow Wow on Nov. 18. The DISD American Indian Parent Advisory Committee said it was a big success and they are very grateful that they could share their culture with the Richland community.

Richlanders are changing the world for the better, as Margaret Mead once said: "A small group of determined individuals can change the world, indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

To: **Richland College**

From: **Gail Donaldson**, Horticulture

A big thank you to those who came and purchased floral arrangements on Nov. 21. The sale was a huge success!

Also, thank you very much for your purchases at the poinsettia sale. Your generosity in purchasing poinsettias and the floral arrangements helps support our Horticulture program and I am very grateful! It is a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn greenhouse crop production with the poinsettias and allow our floral design students to show off their talents with creating Thanksgiving arrangements.

As always, the Richlanders made it a successful venture. Thank you! Have a wonderful holiday season!

To: **Gail Donaldson**, Horticulture

From: **Kathy McFatter**, LeCroy

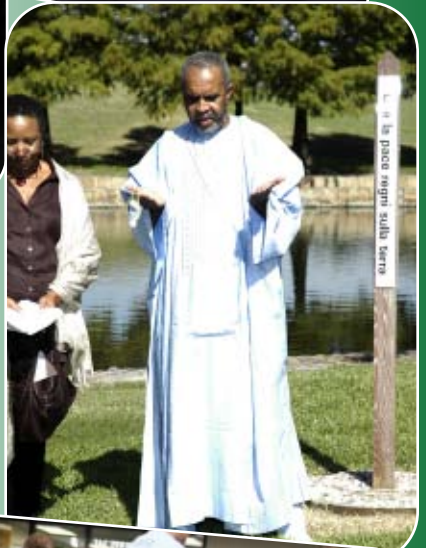
Thank you! I buy a poinsettia each year for a neighbor who is house bound. Your sale always reminds me to take the time to go by and visit with her when I bring her the plant. Tuesday night I made the trek over to her house and we had the nicest visit. She so much appreciates the poinsettia and the visit. Thank you for having the sale and offering me the opportunity to do this for this lady each year. Happy Holidays!



THE YEAR IN PICTURES 2006



**Richland Collegiate
High School**
of Mathematics, Science, and Engineering



ATTACHMENT

Richland College Spring 2007 Cooperative Learning Schedule

Cooperative learning will be defined, demonstrated and modeled during this workshop series. Participants will learn practical procedures for using cooperative learning and a conceptual structure to guide the planning of cooperative lessons and meetings. Sessions focus on the leader's role in implementing cooperative learning, the research support, ways to structure positive interdependence and individual accountability, and strategies for teaching social skills and conducting group processing and assessment. Faculty, staff and administrators are encouraged to attend.

FOUNDATION WORKSHOP SERIES:

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Part 1 | Tues., Jan. 9 | 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. |
| Part 2 | Wed., Jan. 10 | 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. |
| Part 3 | Thurs., Jan. 11 | 12:30p.m. to 4 p.m. |

15 hours of TOLI credit are awarded for completion of the series.

FOUNDATION WORKSHOP SERIES:

| | | |
|--------|----------------|----------------------|
| Part 1 | Sat., Feb. 10 | 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Part 2 | Sat., Feb. 24 | 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Part 3 | Sat., March 24 | 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Part 4 | Sat., April 7 | 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. |

15 hours of TOLI credit are awarded for completion of the series.

To register, contact Becki Williams at ext. 6362 or bwilliams@dcccd.edu.

Cooperative Learning Facilitators

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--|
| June Cheatham | ext. 6306 | jcheatham@dcccd.edu |
| Gwen May | ext. 6269 | gmay@dcccd.edu |
| Mary Osentowski | ext. 6221 | maryo@dcccd.edu |
| Becki Williams | ext. 6362 | bwilliams@dcccd.edu |

