

Jan. 27, 2006

DuckBytes

snack-size news

- **Art exhibit:** "John Wilcox: Twenty-Five Years", until March 3, in Brazos Gallery and Lago Vista Gallery. For info, call ext. 6339.
- The **Entrepreneur Club needs an advisor.** The mission of the Entrepreneur Club is to teach students what it takes to start their own businesses. If interested, call Gerald Napoles at ext. 6133.
- Rebound! Richland College's **men's basketball team** plays Eastfield at 2 p.m. on Feb. 4 in the Gym. Call ext. 6260 for info.
- Renowned architect Rosalyn Elder speaks on "**The Art of the Harlem Renaissance**" at 11:15 a.m. on Feb. 6 in Fannin Performance Hall. Call ext. 6130 for info.
- Batter up! See the three-time world champion **Richland College's baseball team** in their home opener vs. Eastern Oklahoma at 12 p.m. on Feb. 7. Call ext. 6260 for info.
- Keep up with the DCCCD's **Board of Trustees.** See their meeting agendas: www.dcccd.edu/About+DCCC/Board+of+Trustees/Board+of+Trustees+Meeting+Agendas/2005+Board+Agendas.htm.

'Keys to Success' event targets high school juniors, seniors and parents

IRS employees on site for free Tax Form preparation

A free, one-day event for Dallas-area high school juniors and seniors, as well as their parents, will help students obtain the keys to success during Las Llaves del Exito from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 11, in Fannin Performance Hall at Richland College.

Las Llaves is sponsored by the Dallas County Community College District, the Dallas Independent School District and the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with area colleges, universities and non-profit groups.







The program includes hands-on workshops during which students will learn how to fill out applications for admission to DCCCD and area colleges and universities, as well as paperwork for financial aid and scholarships. Bilingual volunteers will be available to assist parents with their 2006 federal income tax return, which will enable them also to complete their Senior Students' FAFSA form (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Note: Parents who would like help with their income tax and the FAFSA form should bring their W-2 forms to the workshop that day.

College representatives, admissions specialists and financial aid advisors will talk to families about the steps they need to take to be considered for admission and financial aid. Lunch will be provided.

Las Llaves was started several years ago by a committee of community members who wanted to encourage high school students to graduate and continue their education. For information, call DISD at 972-925-3970 or the Spanish Line at DCCCD office of community development at 214-860-2432. Assistance in Spanish is available at 214-860-2432. 🌿

Strategic Planning Priorities for Student Learning

-  Response to Community
-  Student Success
-  Employee Success
-  Institutional Effectiveness


NEWS

Free FAFSA event

Financial aid is available to help you go to college, but you have to apply for it! Learn more at the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)-Made-Easy program presented by Richland College at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 2 in Fannin Performance Hall.

This free program will give you all the information you need to file the FAFSA form and get on your way. High school seniors who attend will be eligible to win prizes, including a complete computer system or \$500 scholarships.


The FAFSA-Made-Easy program also will be conducted in Spanish on Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the R. Jan LeCroy Center for Educational Telecommunications in Room R012.

For more information about this program, call Richland's Financial Aid office at ext. 6188. 

Survey on custodians

Facilities Services is requesting that RLC employees assist in re-evaluating the current custodial cleaning priorities.

A voluntary, brief survey for GCA Services, Richland's contracted firm, which will be left in offices on Monday, Jan. 30.


Facilities asks that RCL employees leave the completed survey on their office chairs to be picked up by a Richland employee. Surveys will be picked up nightly through Thursday, Feb. 2. The Research Office will then tabulate and print the results. 

Wall of Honor

The next Richland College Student Wall of Honor ceremony will be March

30. Twice a year Richland selects current and/or former students to receive the Student Wall of Honor Award. Nominations are accepted throughout the year. Renominations are accepted with updated information.

Each winner is recognized in a ceremony in the foyer of Crockett Hall and has their accomplishments and achievements installed on the Wall of Honor.

Any current or former Richland student, credit or continuing education, who has made a unique contribution to the college or the community is eligible for nomination. Former awardees are ineligible. For more information, call **Jenni Gilmer** at ext. 6022 or **Dru Bookout** at ext. 6040. 


Advising Open House

RLC's Academic Advisors extend an invitation to full-time and adjunct faculty to attend an Open House on from 1-2:30 p.m. March 1 in the Advising Center (T180). Refreshments will be served.

Faculty will have the opportunity to sign in using the new "Who's Next" system, tour the Advising Center, visit the eConnect Registration Center, view the Power Point Presentation and get a glimpse of the processes the students experience when coming to the Center.

Join line dancing

Get into shape, make new friends and try something new with line dancing for wellness!

New wellness line dance lessons for this semester begin on Jan. 30 in the small gym (G140) on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:15-1:15 p.m. Call **Kay Coder** at ext. 6294. 



Publication Schedule

Upcoming issues:

Thunder E-Bridge	Fri., Jan. 27
<i>ThunderBridge</i>	Fri., Feb. 3
<i>ThunderBridge</i>	Fri., Feb. 17
Thunder E-Bridge	Fri., Feb. 24
<i>ThunderBridge</i>	Fri., March 3
Thunder E-Bridge	Fri., March 31
<i>ThunderBridge</i>	Fri., April 7
<i>ThunderBridge</i>	Fri., April 21
Thunder E-Bridge	Fri., April 28
<i>ThunderBridge</i>	Fri., May 5
<i>ThunderBridge</i>	Fri., May 19

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.

Daytime Outpost

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 10-11 a.m.

Ron Clark, Financial Services, and Twelve Oaks Manager **Mark Holloway**

Evening Outpost

Monday, Jan. 30

Donna Walker, Outreach

Tuesday, Jan. 31

Jim Weinstein, Testing Center

Wednesday, Feb. 1

Joyce Williams, Program Development

Thursday, Feb. 2

Fred Wittel, M/S/BS 


NEWS/PROFESSIONAL

Conference Day on Feb. 23

The 40th Anniversary Combined Conference Day event will be Feb. 23 at the Garland Independent School District Special Events Center (4999 Naaman Forest Blvd. in Garland.).


The event is sure to provide opportunities for reflection and celebration, professional development, fellowship, fun and maybe even a few surprises!

So that the committee will have a correct spelling for your name and an adequate headcount for meals and other surprises, please use this link to register for the conference: http://www1.dcccd.edu/conference_day_2006/registration.cfm.


The Conference Day Web Site is located at: <http://www.dcccd.edu/Employees/Tools+and+Resources/Conference+Day+2006/>. 

Volunteers needed for Conf. Day

The Hospitality Committee is looking for 30 volunteers to serve on this committee for Conference Day.

If you are interested please respond via e-mail to Cindy Risher by Feb. 2. Conference Day is Feb. 23 and the District will be closed so that all employees may attend. 

De-stress with Yoga Club

Join the Yoga Club for our weekly free classes from 4:30-6 p.m. on Wednesdays in Room E076. For more info, visit <http://InfoLitLibrarian.blogspot.com>. 

Learn to knit

The RLC knitting class will begin meeting on Fridays in Crockett Hall, Room C150. TOLI credit is available. Beginners welcome.

If you have any questions, please contact **Claudia Goodson** at ext. 3784. 

Send your professional and personal information for the *ThunderBridge* to cgilmer@dcccd.edu.

Letters

Dear **Pablo Pascal**, (Multicultural Center)

Thank you so much for your hard work! You are truly a blessing to me and my family! Thanks for all your help, advice, etc! Keep up the excellent work!

Gena Gutierrez
Former RLC Student

Dear **John Harwood** (Academic Advising):

Thank you, John. We look forward to working with Richland and all of your staff. Your visits (early admissions days at SGHS) get better every year. I love the Richland philosophy.

Ann Duncan
Career Technology Specialist Counselor at South Garland High School

Dear **Hilda Della Sera**, (Rising Star Program)

On behalf of the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) Program of the Dallas Concilio we are grateful for your wonderful work and coordination of the Dec. 3, 2005, PIQE College Day event hosted by Richland College. The welcome received by the 93 parents and students from Rosemont Primary and John Ireland Elementary Schools was wonderful.

The positive experiences at Richland have been noted in conversations with families who participated in the event including Mary J. Dallas (Rosemont Primary grandparent): Mary became introduced to the PIQE Program at Rosemont during the fall of 2005. Mary, who's father was of Hispanic heritage, does not speak Spanish nor does she understand very much of it. She was educated in the U.S. and values education. Though, unlike for most other PIQE parents Mary's challenge is not in understanding English, her story mirrors a challenging history and strong hope for the future. Mary is a surrogate mother for her grandchildren and has had to re-enter the challenge of motherhood having lost her daughter a few years ago. Regardless of her responsibilities and challenges, Mary maintained perfect attendance throughout the full nine-week PIQE program at Rosemont. It was during a Saturday PIQE College Day event to Richland College that Mary, with tears in her eyes, shared with the PIQE program manager what a wonderful experience she had thought the PIQE course and College Day visit. She ended by saying she would never forget the experience.

*It is experiences such as these that remind us how much of a difference leaders such as you, **Luz Villegas** and **Maricela Aguilar** make in the lives and motivations of our families by the simple gesture of sharing time, effort, experiences and knowledge. you literally create the energy that fuels the minds and motivation of our PIQE Program's families!*

Thank you on behalf of our PIQE families and those of us who understand the importance of education and guiding them through what can be an overwhelming Road to College.

Martha A. Zapata
PIQE Program Coordinator



PROFESSIONAL/PEOPLE

Letters

Dear **Steve Mittelstet** (Administration):

I am writing to acknowledge the wonderful job **Fred Martinez** has done as a mentor in AACC's national project, Community Colleges Broadening Horizons through Service Learning, funded by the Learn and Serve America program of the Corporation for National and Community Service. As you know, more than half of all community colleges in the U.S. offer service learning to their students. As a leader in AACC's three-year, \$2.5-million project, Richland College gains great exposure and stands out in the nationwide movement to integrate service into community college curricula. Learn and Serve America is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year, and the Horizons colleges are playing a major role.

As one of only four Horizons mentors, Fred has worked closely with two of AACC's Horizons mentee colleges – Northern New Mexico College, NM, and Prince George's Community College, MD – helping them tremendously as they strive to build strong service learning programs. Through Fred's advocacy, Richland serves as an excellent example for these two colleges, as well as for the nine other Horizons colleges. Fred provides significant assistance to Horizons participants through telephone and e-mail consultations, site visits, and numerous workshop and conference presentations. He has also arranged for important professional development opportunities for faculty and staff at Richland, due in part to the Horizons mentor college grant. Fred's hard work and tireless commitment to service learning are commendable.

Additionally, **David Canine** has attended AACC's annual Summit on Service Learning Institutionalization for Chief Academic Officers and contributed significantly to our national conversation. And **Carole Lester** has helped guide all of our current mentee colleges in her role as Horizons history consultant.

Although the AACC grant will end next fall, Richland can remain involved in the project through national Learn and Serve American conferences and trainings, AACC conferences, the CAO summits, and institutional mentoring and consulting. I hope you and your faculty will stay involved and continue to incorporate service learning into your institutional missions statement, strategic plan, student learning outcomes, and accreditation reports.

Thanks again for your leadership role in advancing service learning in community colleges. I appreciate Richland's investment in AACC's initiative by sharing Fred's talent and skills.

Gail Robinson

Manager of Service Learning, American Association of Community Colleges

Dear **Steve Mittelstet**, (Administration)

I just wanted to let you know I've talked with Daniel Morgan, the CEO for Lambert's. He bragged on you and the school, and what you've done for the landscape business. He thought it was great that one of our local colleges took an interest in this industry and has helped us tremendously. This is another good mark for you and your college.

Bob Ferguson


Community Member




Thanks, Thunderducks

To: **Richland College**

From: **Jay Wooldridge, SPAR**

Thank you, Richlanders, for hosting the recent DISD PAC American Indian Pow Wow. It was a successful event which made a special contribution to the community, to education, the human spirit, and an enduring American Indian culture. Tribal elders approved of the event. "It is good know that we can still share with Richland the educational resources, our heritage, and cultural traditions." The DISD PAC group was especially glad Richland could accommodate them since they had been turned down by another DCCC college. They hope to come back to Richland next year, thanks again for your help. 

ThunderWork

A recent report estimated that more than 7 trillion e-mails circulated worldwide in 2004. Spam messages jam inboxes across the globe, and the average office worker now receives between 60 and 200 messages a day. How can you make your very important business communication stand out from the crowd? 

Strategy: Keep e-mail messages short. Most recipients will immediately read and comprehend a 10-sentence e-mail. But if you send them a 10,000-word document, they'll likely scan the highlights and then save it for when they have more time. That means your message may never be fully read.

– 8 Tips for More Effective
E-mail Communication



PEOPLE

Thanks, Thunderducks

To: **T.J. Roberts**, Bookstore, **Warren McNurlen**, College Police, **Robert Baker**, College Police, **Ron Clark**, Financial Services
From: **Gay Ricks**, Dual Credit

Special thanks for making it possible to deliver college algebra textbooks to Highland Park High School and pick up the personal checks for those books.

T.J. went far beyond his job requirements to obtain the used books and to personally deliver them to the high school. Of course, HPHS asked for 56 textbooks but by the time we were allowed to deliver them the number had dropped to under 30. T.J. learned a great deal about the fluidity of dual credit-related issues. Moving targets are very hard to hit! He managed all of my requests with a smile.

*Thanks to **Ron** for "suggesting" that T.J. and I have an officer with us since we were picking up over \$3,000 in personal checks. **Robert** was gracious in agreeing to assign an officer. It was a comfort knowing that **Warren** was right beside us all the way. His uniformed presence did create a great deal of interest among the high school.*

All individuals involved demonstrated superb external and internal customer service in support of an off-campus academic program. I greatly appreciate each and everyone of you. It is such support from all of my Richland colleagues that truly makes dual credit a relational program. Thanks, guys! ☆

RLC employee loses home in recent fire *Thunderducks rally to support her and two sons*



Monica Vazquez

The home **Monica Vazquez**, Facilities, shares with her two sons was destroyed by the six-alarm fire in north Dallas on Jan. 12. They were able to salvage nothing.

In typical Thunderduck fashion, Richland employees rallied to support Monica, with offers of financial support and/or goods.

Below are two letters of thanks from Monica to Richland:

Jan. 19 – I just wanted to say THANK YOU again for the overwhelming response from all of you at Richland. At this point, tonight we are about to secure a semi-permanent place to stay for the next three months, while we wait for a house that someone is kindly arranging for us. So far we have received plenty of clothes for both children and myself, as well as a mattress set for each of us. I had my own full-size washer and dryer stored at a friend's house which is ready to be picked up. Also, a microwave and a stove has been offered to us. As for the rest of the furniture and household items, as soon as we get settled, I will certainly let everyone know what our needs are. At this time we don't have a place to store more than our personal items.

This coming weekend, I am planning to take the clothes that did not fit us, and we are not able to wear, to the Management Office at Richland Trace Condominiums. They are NOT currently taking any donations, but have planned to assist some of the residents this Saturday, since none of us have been able to claim any personal property (if any) yet. As you might have heard in the news, there were about 100 other people that lost everything also, and probably are not as blessed as we are. I hope you don't mind me doing this. Thanks again for all you have done for us in the last two years.

The adventures continue..... (I should write a book, who knows, I might get the Pulitzer!!!)

Jan. 23 – We got our own place!!! Very nice townhome around the corner from Richland. **Tim Shane** has been very kind to offer us a place to stay at a great and affordable price, due to the circumstances, until we can make a more permanent arrangement. I am making my list and checking it twice... to evaluate our immediate needs for furniture and household stuff.

The biggest need right now is a working refrigerator for our new home, if anyone is trying to get rid of theirs, please let me know. I'll be happy to trade it for a very special homemade Mexican dinner, tamales and all.... ;) and some little cash..... Thanks again!!! 🙏

With Deepest Sympathy

• **John Cox**, retired Religion professor, died Jan. 24 of a heart attack. His funeral will be held at Parkside Baptist Church in Dennison at 11 a.m. on Jan. 28. Graveside service will be in McKinney at 2:30 p.m.

• **Perry Carter's** brother, Edwin has passed away in December. The funeral was Dec. 8 at Mt. Valley Funeral Home in Joshua, Texas, and the burial was in Jefferson, Texas.

• **Eddie Hueston's** father passed away in November. Services were held in Oklahoma.