

The ASSOCIATE

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Don Brown Field

In honor of his years of dedication to Redlands Community College and his many accomplishments, during their October meeting, RCC's Board of Regents voted to name RCC's baseball field the Don Brown Baseball Field.



Brown dedicated 14 years of service to RCC, serving as an instructor, athletic director, and baseball coach. He led the Cougars to three consecutive berths (1996-1998) in the NJCAA Division II College World Series and, in 1998, received NJCAA Division II College World Series Coach of the Year honors; he also was named American Baseball Coaches Association Division II Coach of Year for the third straight year in 1998.

A more than 30 year coaching veteran at the university and community college level in Oklahoma, Brown has been inducted into the Oklahoma City University Athletic Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame, and the Oklahoma Officials Hall of Fame.

Plans currently are underway for construction of appropriate signage for the Don Brown Baseball Field. For more information, contact Rhonda Gillikin at 405.354.0141.

A Growing Campus

The Earth has been moving at RCC! During the past year, ground has been broken on numerous construction projects, including those on the main campus, as well as at Darlington Agriculture Education and Applied Research Center and the Redlands Royse Ranch.

RCC's Arts and Sciences Building, which is slated to open for the fall 2007 semester, is one of two projects currently underway on the main campus. Capital bond money from the Oklahoma Higher Education Promise Act of 2005 will provide the majority of the funding for the academic facility. The Arts and Sciences Building is being constructed just south of the Learning Resources Center.

Ground was broken on Cougar Crossing, RCC's first-ever student housing project, in November. The four-unit, apartment-style complex, will feature 160 bedrooms and numerous amenities, including wireless Internet accessibility, a community center, and much more. Cougar Crossing will open for residency beginning in August 2007.

At Darlington, work is nearing completion on both Ag Hall and on the DeLaval Building. Ag Hall is an academic facility that will provide additional classroom space and a covered arena. The DeLaval Building is being built through a partnership with DeLaval, a milking company based in Sweden; it will serve as a milking and demonstration center. Students should begin using both facilities in January.

Numerous construction projects are occurring at the Redlands Royse Ranch, including the addition of new round pens for RCC's Equine Program. Students began using the facilities at the Royse Ranch during this past semester and their utilization continues to grow.



RCC Foundation Board Members at the Cougar Crossing Ground Breaking Ceremony November 17 - Bruce Haynes, Joan Mueggenborg, Nadyne Burruss, Larry Devane (RCC President), Jimmy Bounds, Burrel Gambel, Valerie Musser, Kirstein Haydon, Stanley Youngheim, Eric Anderson, Carlene Hoefler and Betty Johnston

Cruisin' on Route 66: Sample the Good Life

For the fourth year in a row, Redlands Community College offered individuals the opportunity to learn more about Route 66 during their continuing series with "Cruisin' on Route 66: Sample the Good Life." RCC's 2006 Route 66 presentation, which was held on October 27,



Jim Ross and Shellee Graham

featured presentations by Jim Ross, renowned Route 66 author, and Shellee Graham, noted Route 66 photographer, as well as lunch, live music from Brian Dunning and the Rockabilly Trio, and an art exhibition by Graham. More than 300 community members attended the event, which was developed as part of Oklahoma's Official Centennial Celebration. Details regarding RCC's 2007 Route 66 event will be announced soon!



Brian Dunning and the Rockabilly Trio

Phi Theta Kappa Accomplishments

Each year, RCC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa devotes numerous hours to service projects. This year has been no different, as Phi Theta Kappa has been busy with projects benefiting RCC, El Reno, and the surrounding communities.

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society for two year colleges. Its mission is to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of students and to provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service, scholarship, and fellowship activities.

According to Joel Figgs, who along with Mindi Mitchell serves as Co-Advisor to RCC's chapter, members stayed busy throughout the year.

"Every year, we (Phi Theta Kappa) try to remain very active and perform as many service-type activities as possible to impact the campus and the community as a greater whole," Figgs said. "I'm very proud of our students for all of their hard work and dedication."

Members represented RCC during the Oklahoma Higher Education Day at the Capitol, the Phi Theta Kappa Oklahoma-Arkansas Honors Institute, the

Phi Theta Kappa Leadership Conference, and the International Phi Theta Kappa Convention in Seattle, Washington.

Community service activities included working with Habitat for Humanity during September and making presentations to students at Webster Elementary School. RCC's chapter also continued their tradition of hosting Phi Theta Kappa's satellite seminar series, which is offered each fall.

Phi Theta Kappa members also assisted with numerous activities on RCC's campus, including the interscholastic meet, freshman orientation, the Cougar Bash, and more. They participated in Project Graduation, during which members collected canned food items to donate to the less fortunate and books to donate to area schools.

RCC's chapter plans to continue their service throughout the year.

"Our members continually are involved with projects. We've got some ideas in the works for the coming semester and we're very excited to continue working with Redlands and the El Reno community," Mitchell said.

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LPN to RN Program

Whether they hail from Chicago, Dallas, western Oklahoma, or just down the street, the students in Redlands Community College's LPN-to-RN program have one thing in common – upon completion of their program of study, expanded career opportunities await them. RCC's LPN-to-RN program provides current Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) the opportunity to earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing in a year, which then, in turn, allows them to sit for the national licensure exam (NCLEX-RN) to become a Registered Nurse (RN).

According to Lori Vicsek, RCC's Nursing Program Director, RCC's fifth class is slated to begin the program soon. "In January, our fifth class of LPNs will begin our LPN-to-RN program and they will graduate in October of 2007. Right now, we anticipate starting about 30 students in January, which will make this our largest LPN class to date," Vicsek said. "We're very excited about the opportunities that await all of our students!"

Students take classes at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City, as well as on RCC's campus. In addition, each semester students complete independent study, lab, and clinical hours. Subjects covered include Advanced Medical-Surgical Nursing, Psychiatric and Community Based Nursing, and a Leadership Practicum.

Courses in RCC's LPN-to-RN program are taught by a team of faculty members, which includes Vicsek, Jennifer Simmons, Megan McClintock, Belinda Lechtenberg, and Brenda Kossuth. Upon graduation and successful passage of the NCLEX-RN, students will find expanded career opportunities.

"There's a significant earning potential for RNs in the market and I don't expect it to decrease anytime in the near future. In addition, RNs have nearly unlimited opportunities to expand their careers; not only can they work in a variety of nursing settings, but they also can go into pharmaceutical sales and several other fields," Vicsek said. "There are several hospitals that are no longer hiring LPNs, so the hiring potential is huge for RNs."

RCC's LPN-to-RN program is funded through a Title III grant.



Center of Excellence Scholars

As part of the \$2.3 million Center of Excellence Grant that RCC received from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education last year, six students have been named Center of Excellence Scholars and Ambassadors. Kristin Killion, Chickasha, Kayla McCullough, Union City, and Charles Nelson, Dibble, were named scholars for the 2005-06 academic year, while Tyler Peck, Sentinel, Austin Douglas, El Reno, and Cortney Epton, Anadarko, were named scholars for 2006-07.

According to Dr. Penny Coggins, Title III Coordinator/Grants Developer and Center of Excellence Director, RCC is excited to award these scholarships.

"The first reason for the scholarship is to help students with the costs associated with attending college. The Center of Excellence Scholars and Student Ambassadors will serve as role models for our current and future students. We have selected six fine young people as our scholars and ambassadors and all of us at Redlands look forward to working with them," said Coggins.



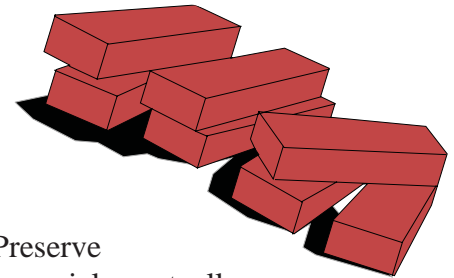
Center of Excellence Scholars: (left to right) Cortney Epton, Austin Douglas, Kayla McCullough, Tyler Peck, Kristin Killion and Charles Nelson

The Center of Excellence awards are based upon the student's scholastic success, extracurricular activities, and their ability to serve as a Center of Excellence Ambassador for the college and its agriculture programs. The scholarships are awarded to exceptional agriculture students who are interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree following graduation from RCC.



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Paving the Way for Student Success



Construction of RCC's student housing, Cougar Crossing, is underway! With the beginning of this unprecedented project comes your chance to become part of history by purchasing a personalized, engraved brick, to be placed in the walkway leading to the Community Center at Cougar Crossing. Preserve your name, commemorate a loved one, honor your favorite team, or celebrate a special event, all with a personalized brick that will withstand the test of time.

Each brick is only \$100! Your purchase is tax-deductible and all proceeds go directly to the RCC Foundation to assist students through scholarships, as well as other RCC programs. Please help us pave the way for student success through the purchase of an engraved brick today.

To order your brick, visit <www.redlandsc.edu> to download an order form, or contact Joel Drury, Vice President of Student Services and Institutional Advancement, at 405.422.1257 or <druryj@redlandsc.edu>.



Cougar Athletes Successful in 2005-06

Both in the classroom and on the playing field, RCC student athletes found great success during the 2005-06 academic year!

RCC's women's volleyball team played a tough schedule. During the regional tournament, they advanced to the Region II semi-finals and had two players named as all-region selections.

The Cougar basketball teams both saw national rankings during their seasons. RCC's men's team was ranked as high as third in the nation and was first in the nation on defensive average per game. They reached the Region II championship game, where they lost by one point to the eventual National Champion; four team members were selected as all-region picks. RCC's women's team, ranked sixth in the nation, finished as the Region II Champion and District B Runner-Up. Five players were named as

all-region selections, including one who was named MVP, and Coach Laci Tompkins was named Region II Coach of the Year.

RCC's women's golf team won two tournaments during the fall season and four tournaments during their spring season, including the 2006 NJCAA National Women's Tournament. All five players on the national tournament team finished in the top 12 at the national tournament and for the second year in a row, one of RCC's golfers won the individual title.

RCC's baseball team finished the year as Region II Champion, with Coach Matt Newgent being named Region II Coach of the Year. Five players were named as all-region selections, including one who was selected as Region II MVP. Five players also were selected to the all-conference team

