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ROOSEVELT

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

REVIEW SUMMER 2006



ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY:

OVERLOOKING 60 YEARS OF CHANGE IN CHICAGO'S SOUTH LOOP

MAKING A DIFFERENCE in the lives that follow

Estate Gift Endows Bernard Gordon Fellowships

Mr. Gordon's estate gift will be used to endow fellowships for first-year, first-time graduate students, to be known as Bernard Gordon Fellows. This is a fitting tribute to a man who placed a high value on learning and education, and felt a special kinship with the mission of Roosevelt University.



Although his degree came from Roosevelt University's predecessor, Central YMCA College, Bernard Gordon strongly identified with Roosevelt's mission. He was a regular donor over many decades and, when he died in June of 2005, he left the University a significant percentage of his estate, resulting in a gift of more than \$400,000.

Mr. Gordon's story is similar to many Central YMCA College graduates. He received his AB degree in economics from Central YMCA in 1941. When President Edward J. Sparling walked out of Central Y over several contentious issues, the primary one being the directive to provide the YMCA board with demographic data that he feared would be used for racial and religious quotas,

most faculty and students moved with him to found the upstart Roosevelt College in 1945.

After Central Y closed, Roosevelt "inherited" its alumni and records, and many graduates adopted Roosevelt University as their alma mater, giving generously to the University.

Mr. Gordon was a private man and a bit of a mystery. According to attorney Marc Alan Goldstein, Mr. Gordon's parents were Russian immigrants who never learned to speak English, but Mr. Gordon became a voracious reader and an excellent student. After serving in World War II, he returned home and completed his master's degree at the University of Chicago in 1948, and became chief economist for the City of Chicago.

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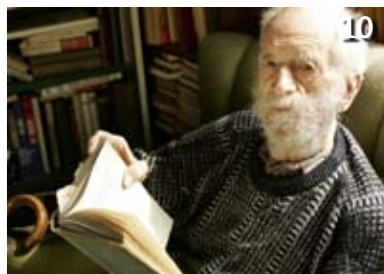
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ON THE COVER:

Roosevelt University theatre major Steve Smidl, 21, is among a growing number of traditional-age students who are choosing to study and live in the South Loop, changing its face forever. Smidl, a University Center of Chicago resident, is pictured studying in one of UCC's student lounges, which overlooks the South Loop's Congress Parkway and Harold Washington Library.

EDITOR'S CIRCLE



Senator Richard Durbin



Professor Allida Black

Dear Readers,

Commencements at Roosevelt University have always been festive occasions, but recent changes have added to the enjoyment of the day.

We now hold two commencement ceremonies each semester in the 4,000-seat Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University. As a result, we no longer limit the number of tickets graduating students can give to their family and friends.

The first ceremony recognizes arts and sciences and University College graduates. A second ceremony is for business, education and performing arts students.

The day of the week for commencement was also changed. The ceremonies are now held on Friday afternoons, rather than on Sundays.

To further personalize commencement, President Chuck Middleton publicly recognizes one graduate from each of the University's five colleges. These exemplary students overcame obstacles to earn their degree or contributed a great deal to the University through their academic or extracurricular accomplishments. See pages 14 to 16 to learn more about these students.

Two other touches have added much to the celebration. At the end of commencement, a music student leads the audience in the singing of Roosevelt's new alma mater. And after the ceremony, Middleton is available to visit and have pictures taken with graduates and their families.

On May 12, more than 1,200 students became the newest Roosevelt alumni. Graduates in the first ceremony heard an address by U.S. Senator Richard Durbin, while Allida Black, a history professor at George Washington University and an expert on Eleanor Roosevelt, spoke at the second ceremony. Both speakers challenged graduates to put the goals and beliefs of the University's namesakes into practice.

"How does one sustain hope in a fearful world?" Durbin asked. "You have already made a very good start by attending this distinguished institution, where the ideals of Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt endure. I hope that you will never stop seeking knowledge. Knowledge and understanding are some of the most powerful antidotes to fear."

Good advice for today's graduates, and for those of us who graduated many years ago.

Sincerely,

Tom Karow



Dear Editor:

I've been meaning to call you for a long time to compliment you and your staff on the *Roosevelt Review*. When I received the latest issue yesterday, I just had to make a point to get in touch.

I'm a 1995 Roosevelt grad. I am also a graduate of another Chicago area college and of the two publications I receive—theirs and Roosevelt's—I have to say I read Roosevelt's cover-to-cover.

Your magazine does a great job of communicating the mission of Roosevelt. As someone who attempts to do the same thing for another school (the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago), I know how difficult that can be.

Sincerely,

Jan Boden (BGS, '95)

Last issue we invited Roosevelt alumni who met Eleanor Roosevelt during one of her visits to Chicago to write us with their recollections. Jerome Gordon of Reseda, Calif., kindly sent this note:

Dear Sir,

I believe it was at the end of 1948 that Mrs. Roosevelt visited Roosevelt College, though I cannot recall the specific purpose.

As a member of the Student Council and a minor editor of the *Torch*, I was privileged to be one of a small group of students allowed to meet semi-privately with her. I remember that she was a very warm, welcoming woman, answering our questions easily without holding back, and her voice was not the shrill thing that mimics made it out to be. One of the girls in the group asked her about her hearing aids (she had one in each ear, somewhat hidden by her hair). She responded that they were necessary and helpful and that she did not feel embarrassed by the fact that they could be noticed.

That was almost 58 years ago, but I still cannot forget how I was impressed by her "likeability."

Yours very truly,

Jerome Gordon (BA, '49)

We welcome your letters. Please send them to:

Editor, *Roosevelt Review*
430 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605

Letters may be shortened due to space considerations.



The Loop Is Alive with Students

On one of my many rewarding trips to visit alumni and friends this past year, I met several individuals who were there at the inception of Roosevelt. Their stories, and many more written by graduates from each of the six decades of our history, are now told in the Roosevelt festschrift that we unveiled at Alumni Weekend in April.

One of those stories dealt with the acquisition of the Auditorium Theatre Building, our landmark, but by no means, only facility on Michigan Avenue across from Grant Park in Chicago. I am certain that President Edward J. Sparling, when he signed the papers deeding the building over to the fledgling college, had no idea of the pioneering nature of that foundational experience.

Today, the Loop is a hot college town, the second largest concentration of college students in the country, surpassed only by the University of Texas at Austin. I like to think of Roosevelt's purchase of the Auditorium Building as the initial step in the process that has brought 25 institutions of higher education and over 50,000 students going to class daily into the Loop. Thousands more attend universities both north of the River and west of the Loop.

Chicago is my kind of town and yours, not just in commerce and the arts but in education as well, and Roosevelt led the way in helping to make it so. We are proud of that leadership and are working to expand upon it.

While enrollment growth slackened and then began to decline at our Schaumburg Campus over the past few years, an issue to which I will return in the next *Review*, in Chicago we are bursting at the seams. At least two things have contributed to this phenomenon.

First, led by a resurgence in interest in the liberal arts, we are enrolling more and more students between the ages of 18 and 24. Many of these students are coming to us fresh from high schools across the city, the region and the nation. Others continue the tradition of strong enrollments from transfer students who have taken advantage of excellent educational opportunities provided by our community college partners.

Second, more students are completing their degrees. Graduation rates are rising and the numbers we graduated surpassed 2,000 each of the past two years for the first time in decades.

The presence of these full-time undergraduates changes the "feel" of the place. In response, we are changing with them as they help to define where Roosevelt is going both academically and in terms of student success in other aspects of their daily



lives on campus. More lounges, big screen TV sets, wireless connections, and computer kiosks adorn the building these days. Students by the dozens, some of them our adult learners if truth be told, "hang out" just like the old days.

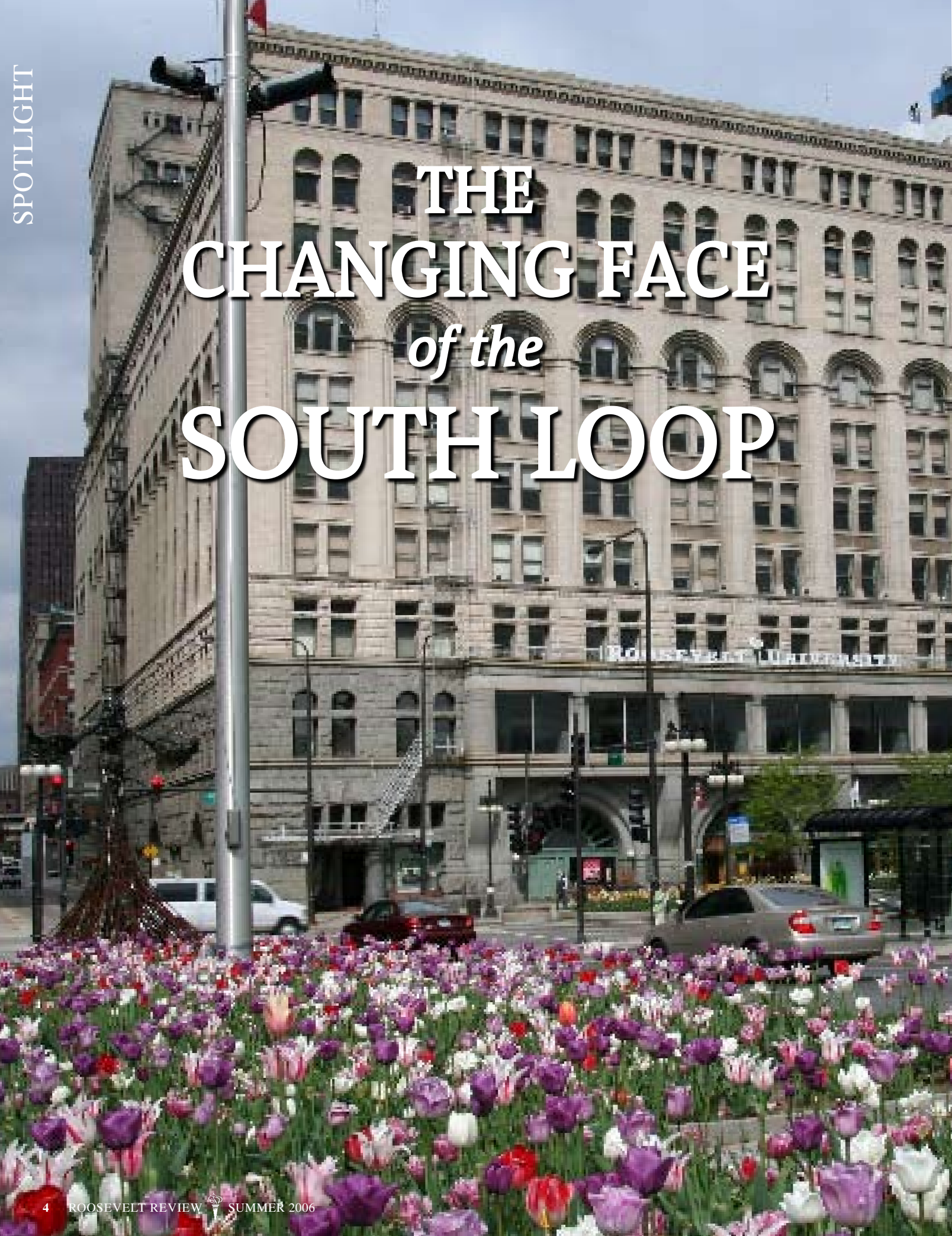
Roosevelt has always been a place of hope and aspiration. You can feel it today just like always when you ride the elevators, all modernized but not without waits (some traditions die hard). You can overhear it in individual conversations in the hallways. You can see it in the eyes of touring prospective students and their families. And you can imagine it applying to yourself when you come to work or to teach or to enjoy a public event.

To the extent that we continue to be a place where all are welcome and everyone who comes here does so with the prospect of transformation in their lives generated by their experience here, we will continue to keep the faith with President Sparling and other visionaries who not only created the University, but were bold enough to locate it in the Loop so that others could come and join us here.

Now that's real leadership.

ABOVE: University Center of Chicago in the South Loop houses students from Roosevelt University, DePaul University and Columbia College Chicago.

THE CHANGING FACE *of the* SOUTH LOOP



BY LAURA JANOTA

When 21-year-old Steve Smidl began taking classes at Roosevelt University's Chicago Campus in the fall of 2003, he rarely ventured south of Congress Parkway.

At the time, he felt no need to cross the busy street that for years was the southern boundary of Chicago's Loop.

"If I was looking for things to do, I always went north," said the undergraduate theatre major who lived in the University's Herman Crown residence hall during his freshman year.

A lot has changed since then for Smidl and other students attending colleges and universities in Chicago's South Loop area.

For one thing, their numbers are becoming a significant population mass.

There are now more than 54,000 students attending approximately 25 higher education

Another thing that has changed since then is the increasing volume of students choosing to live on campus in the Loop and South Loop.

There are now nearly 4,000 college students — more than ever before — living in Loop-area student housing facilities, according to the "Higher Education in the Loop and South Loop: An Impact Study" report.

"The city of Chicago had a vision and a master plan for the area," said Tabing. "By investing in that plan, the city has been able to create a critical mass of residences and students, which is getting larger with each passing year."

At Roosevelt, a record number of 494 students lived on campus last academic year at the Herman Crown Center and the University Center of Chicago (UCC). The record will be broken again this fall with the addition of 150 beds for Roosevelt students at



THERE WAS A TIME WHEN CONGRESS PARKWAY WAS THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF CHICAGO'S LOOP. NOW, IT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF A BUSTLING COLLEGE TOWN.

institutions in an area bounded by Wacker Drive, Roosevelt Road, the Chicago River and the lakefront, according to a recent study by Loop business groups.

"There's a growing attraction and sense of prestige about going to school these days in the Loop area," said Ty Tabing, executive director of the Chicago Loop Alliance, the group responsible for the 2005 study.

IT'S ALL IN THE NUMBERS

In particular, numbers of traditional-age students who are 18 to 24 years old and attending college in the Loop are growing.

At Roosevelt University alone, the traditional-age undergraduate population has grown by nearly 11 percent since Smidl arrived on the Chicago Campus from Johnsbury, Ill., in the fall of 2003. Even more dramatic, the traditional-age undergraduate population has grown by 43.1 percent since 1997.

UCC. In all, approximately 650 Roosevelt students are expected to live on campus during the 2006-2007 academic year.

PREPARING FOR FUTURE GROWTH

What's more, demand for student housing is expected to continue rising, leaving the University to look for new ways to relieve a coming, projected housing crunch.

"We are transforming the Chicago Campus into a place where traditional-age students can be comfortable and will excel," said Roosevelt University President Chuck Middleton, who is currently exploring a number of options for future growth.

Since 2000, the University has renovated many classrooms in its Auditorium Building, 430 S. Michigan Ave., and has created student-friendly spaces for socializing and studying in that building on its second floor, ninth floor and, most recently, the Michigan Avenue lobby.

FAR LEFT: Roosevelt University has been a presence in the South Loop since 1946, when it purchased the Auditorium Building, located at Michigan Avenue and Congress Parkway.

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During that same time period, the University also opened a second Chicago Campus facility at 18 S. Michigan Ave., and ushered in UCC, the 1,700-bed student residence hall for Roosevelt, DePaul University and Columbia College Chicago students, which is considered by many to be the major impetus for South Loop development.

"Somebody had to go first to spur all of the development we're seeing," commented Janice Johnson, the UCC executive director who notes that new condo towers, restaurants, banks and other businesses are sprouting up all over south of Congress Parkway in the vicinity of UCC. "And the UCC was that spark," she said.

While business and residential development has followed UCC, building renovations and new construction by higher education institutions in the Loop and South Loop area have been commonplace for some time, according to the Chicago Loop Alliance study.

Ten institutions experiencing growing pains spent more than \$159 million on renovations and new construction between 1997 and 2002 and another \$339 million is likely to be spent for high-

er education growth in the Loop by 2009, according to the study.

"Every year, we are seeing more and more students and a greater number of institutions planning for growth and development," said Tabing.

A CHANGING STUDENT BODY

Growth planning is based in part on national projections by the U.S. Department of Education and other research groups, which suggest full-time, undergraduate, college enrollment will be on the rise through 2010, and even beyond, as children of the Baby Boomers reach college age.

Known as the "Baby Boom Echo," the phenomenon has left an imprint on Roosevelt's Chicago Campus, where traditional-age students increased from 35 percent of the undergraduate student body in 2002 to 41 percent of all University undergraduates by 2005.

"We are seeing a dramatic change in our student body," said Mary Hendry, vice president for enrollment and student services, who began planning for the change in student body makeup about eight years ago.

BELOW FROM LEFT: When class is over, political science major Ty Thompson is on the move outside Roosevelt University.

Biology major Linzey Becker enjoys a break at an outdoor cafe in the South Loop.

The new Roosevelt Lakers baseball team practices in Grant Park.



"It doesn't matter what night of the week it is. There's always something to do." **LINZEY BECKER, 22**

“Our undergraduates are getting younger,” she said. “And as a result we are seeing more full-time undergraduates who are taking traditional, liberal arts courses and majors during the day.”

That’s the case with 18-year-old Jessica Ruka and her three Herman Crown Center roommates, 19-year-old Lisa Butler, 19-year-old Amanda Veldkamp and 22-year-old Linzey Becker—College of Arts and Sciences undergraduates who are part of the College’s explosive 31 percent growth in enrollment during the last four years.

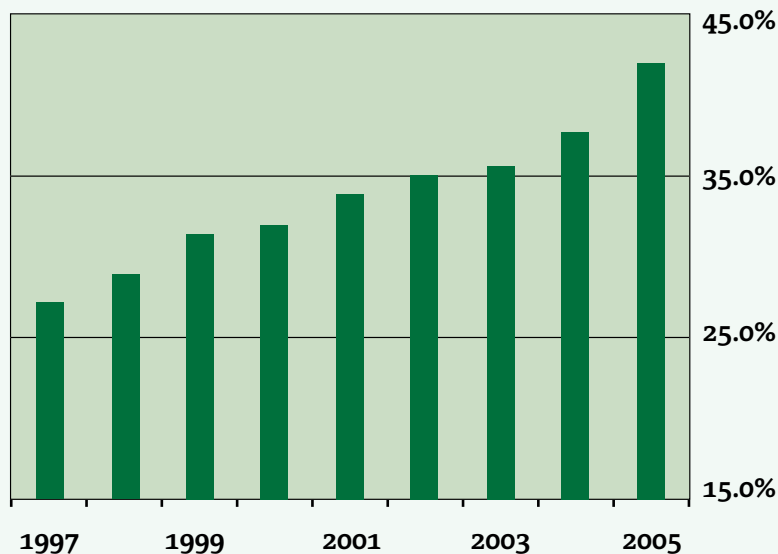
During a recent interview, the four said they wake up late most mornings, but still have time to make it to their morning or afternoon classes.

“I get up maybe 20 minutes before class, throw a brush through my hair, and I’m there,” said Butler, an undergraduate psychology major from St. Louis. “I just love being able to do that, and I also love living in the big city,” she said.

When classes are over, fun-filled afternoons follow in which walks on the lakefront, a game of capture the flag at Buckingham Fountain or a visit

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TRADITIONAL-AGE STUDENTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL UNDERGRADUATES, FALL 1997-2005



“It’s a totally changed place. And that’s a good thing for people my age who want to get their education, want to get a taste of urban life and want to just have fun hanging out.” **STEVE SMIDL, 21**

continued from previous page

to area coffee shops and bookstores often are possible.

"I think of it as a vacation every day. I can always find something to do, and it's never the same thing," said Veldkamp, an integrated marketing communication major from Michigan.

"It doesn't matter what night of the week it is. There's always something to do. It's never boring," added Becker, a biology major from St. Louis.

LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

One of the Loop study's main points has been to show that higher education institutions, their employees and their students are vital to the Loop and South Loop economies. Students alone spend as much as \$25 million a year at restaurants and stores near their universities and colleges, according to the study.

However, as Ruka, an English and secondary education major from Minnesota, notes, there's more reason to live and hang out in the Loop than just dining and shopping.

"What I've found is that for anything I've learned in class, I can find an application. Sometimes it

means going to a museum or a concert. Other times, it involves connecting up with students from other universities and colleges," she said.

For traditional-age students at Roosevelt, going to school in the Loop also has meant getting more involved with student life on campus.

"The number of students in our leadership program has doubled, the number of student clubs and organizations has almost doubled and more students are engaged in community service than ever before," said Patrick Green, director of student activities.

"Students are increasingly interested in social organizations, such as fraternities and sororities, and recreational programs such as intramural sports and fitness classes," added Eric Tammes, assistant vice president for student services.

Ashley Kehoe, a 21-year-old undergraduate English major and Roosevelt Scholar who is also secretary of the Student Government Association (SGA), is very aware of the rise in student participation on campus.

"There's a stereotype of our students that makes it seem like they don't want to be involved, but



"I just think it's a very critical time for Roosevelt to move forward with student activities on campus." **ASHLEY KEHOE, 21**

we're seeing the exact opposite," said Kehoe, who has seen participation at SGA meetings increase from a handful of students to a room of 50.

Kehoe and Matt Gebhardt, 20, an undergraduate history major at the Chicago Campus, recently have been working to start college club sports teams, including a men's baseball team, which has been practicing weekly in Grant Park.

Gebhardt said plans are to play competitively against teams from other colleges and universities in the area. The effort to start other teams in basketball, flag football and other sports will continue in the fall, he said.

"I just think it's a very critical time for Roosevelt to move forward with student activities on campus," added Kehoe, who was part of SGA's success last spring in convincing students to vote on and approve a new student activity fee.

POSITIVE CHANGES FOR THE COMMUNITY

As students at Roosevelt and other higher education institutions in the Loop and South Loop become more and more visible, there's no doubt

they are permanently changing the look and feel of Chicago's urban landscape.

Of course, a changing demographic means a changing geography: To boot, Congress Parkway is no longer the outer limit of Chicago's Loop area.

"The area around the University is becoming much more commercial, much more residential and much more busy," notes Smidl. As a senior at Roosevelt and a former resident assistant at University Center of Chicago, he travels less frequently up north these days in search of action.

As the Chicago Loop Alliance report has noted, the Loop and South Loop area has become the biggest college town in the state. And as a changing student demographic and growth continue, the Loop and South Loop area may be on the road toward becoming one of the largest and most desirable places to go to college in the nation.

"It's a totally changed place," says Smidl. "And that's a good thing for people my age who want to get their education, want to get a taste of urban life and want to just have fun hanging out."

BELOW FROM LEFT: Traditional-age students walk along Michigan Avenue outside Roosevelt's Center for Professional Advancement.

English major Jessica Ruka is among a growing number of students taking classes during the day in the South Loop.

University Center of Chicago is home to more than 1,700 students.



"What I've found is that for almost anything I've learned in class, I can find an application. Sometimes it means going to a museum or a concert. Other times, it involves connecting up with students from other universities and colleges." **JESSICA RUKA, 18**

DALE PONTIUS

100

STANDING STRONG FOR A CENTURY

BY LAURA JANOTA

For nearly a century, Dale Pontius has stood on principle.

For instance, when the now-retired Roosevelt University professor heard Sen. Joseph McCarthy falsely accuse Democratic presidential hopeful Adlai Stevenson of having ties to Communists, Pontius stood up during the Palmer House speech and heckled McCarthy.

Then there was the time in 1962 when Pontius, a political science professor from 1947 through 1971, argued for global peace before the World Congress for Disarmament and Peace in Moscow.

During his opening-day address, Pontius made waves around the world—and the front page of *The New York Times*—for daring to criticize both the United States and the Soviet Union over their nuclear testing policies.

And when a Roosevelt student, who was also a deputy precinct captain in Chicago, allegedly bragged to Pontius in 1956 that he could get traffic tickets fixed, the professor proved to be something of a whistleblower by sharing the information with legal authorities.

“Dale Pontius is an independent thinker who never minded going against the mainstream,” remarked Roosevelt University President Emeritus Rolf Weil.

“He’s one who was always willing to fight for what he believed in,” added Weil. “And that has made him one of the most controversial faculty members we’ve ever had,”

Not just controversial, Pontius also has been enduring.

As the University’s oldest living faculty member, Pontius celebrated his 100th birthday on July 27, a little more than a month before the University’s second oldest living faculty member, Professor Emeritus of History Helmut Hirsch celebrates 100 years on Sept. 2. To mark the occasion of Pontius’ birthday, the University held a party in his honor.

“This is an important milestone for Professor Pontius as well as for the University,” said President Chuck Middleton.

Born on a farm near Columbus, Ohio, in 1906, Pontius received his earliest education in a one-room schoolhouse, and remembers as a four-year old attending a rally in Ohio where his grandfather lifted him above the crowd to shake hands with President William Howard Taft.

Pontius also recalls as a young boy meeting President Woodrow Wilson at a public reception in the Ohio statehouse and later as a professor chatting with President Harry Truman in Chicago’s Blackstone Hotel in an effort to get Truman to speak to a class.

Pontius earned a bachelor’s degree from Ohio State in 1927, a master’s in economics from Harvard University in 1928 and a Ph.D. in political science from Harvard in 1940. After working on a public employment survey in Philadelphia, he became an editor on the National Resources Planning Board in Washington D.C. He was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II, serving in New Guinea with the 44th tank battalion before being sent to the Philippines where he was assigned to the Army headquarters of General Douglas MacArthur. He worked in the Army’s research and information section, and received the Bronze Service Medal.

After the war, he taught for a year at Tulane University in New Orleans, before joining the faculty in 1947 at the newly formed Roosevelt College, now known as Roosevelt University.

In 1948, Pontius was at odds with some members of the Roosevelt community over a decision to disband the faculty’s town-meeting form of government in favor of a faculty senate. Pontius argued President Edward J. Sparling and others had “forced through a change in the constitution which destroys faculty governance at Roosevelt,” according to the *Chicago Daily Tribune*. He charged Sparling had rounded up “ringers,” including part-time teachers and administrators, to sway the 109-56 vote, a charge the College’s administration denied, the *Tribune* reported.

In 1952, Pontius shook things up further by heckling McCarthy during a nationwide radio

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DALE PONTIUS: Standing Strong for a Century

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and TV address. Walking to the Palmer House after class, Pontius wasn't sure he'd get into the ballroom, but the entrance was open and Pontius stood in the back of the crowded room. When McCarthy intimated that Stevenson had ties to Communist organizations, Pontius shouted "It's not true!"

Removed by a Chicago policeman, Pontius explained, "I happen to be teaching political science and I am trying to teach my students what democracy means," which he asserted before a judge after the arrest, according to the *Chicago Daily News*.

Pontius was publically rebuked by Sparling, who told the *Chicago Daily News* that he believed McCarthy, "in line with the principle of free speech, has the right to present his views without interference from anyone." Of particular note, the *Daily News* also reported that Pontius had acted

as an individual, and not as a representative of Roosevelt College.

In the fallout that followed, there were some who didn't appreciate Pontius' actions. Indeed, consider the contents of an anonymous, handwritten, two-sentence letter sent to the University in May 1953: "Get rid of your Red professors, especially Dale Pontius," the yellowing letter states. "I won't contribute a dime until you clean house."

Even today, such a charge disturbs Pontius, who still lives on his own in an apartment in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood.

"There's never been anything secret about my politics," he says, frowning. "I was never a Communist. I have always been a believer in democracy."

Suffice it to say that after being convicted of disorderly conduct and fined \$1 for heckling, Pontius says he had to fight to keep his job.

"I was told that the political science department was overstaffed," recalls Pontius. "But I saved my job because the history and sociology departments gave me some extra courses to teach."

Later, Pontius would be on the hot seat again when he revealed during a traffic court appearance for a speeding ticket that ticket fixing "characterizes a great deal that goes on in Chicago," the *Chicago Sun Times* reported. At the time, Pontius also told the assistant state's attorney he had talked with a precinct captain about ticket fixing, according to the *Sun Times*.

Those comments landed Pontius and two of his students, including one who was an assistant Democratic precinct captain, before a Cook County grand jury. The three took lie detector tests to determine who was telling the truth about a conversation the group had about ticket fixing in a car while driving to Springfield, the *Chicago Tribune* reported. However, the tests showed "confused findings" and no charges were ever brought by the grand jury, the *Tribune* said.

The case opened old wounds with the University.

"I was accused of violating the trust of a student," recalls Pontius. "And I had to get a lawyer and fight to keep my job again."

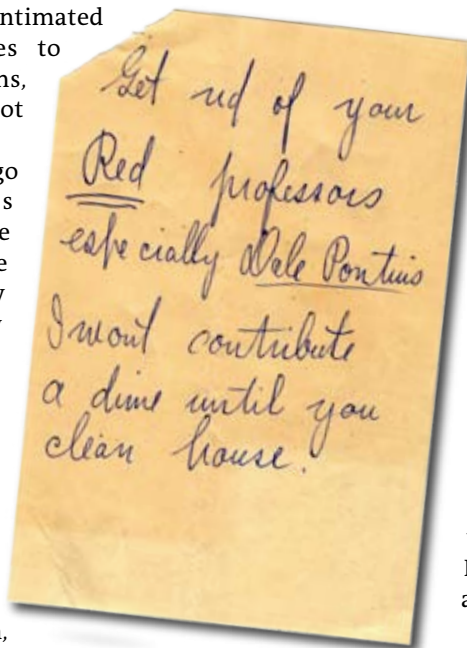
Wayne Kennedy (BA, '63), who was in the car with Pontius and the other student during the conversation that the grand jury probed, was among many students

ABOVE: Dale Pontius during his tenure as a Roosevelt University political science professor.

RIGHT: Anonymous letter decrying Dale Pontius that was sent to the University in 1953.



ABOVE: Helmut Hirsch, Roosevelt's second oldest faculty member, recently was made an emeritus professor of history. Hirsch and his wife, Marianne, now live in Düsseldorf, Germany.



DALE PONTIUS: THE CENTURY OF A LIFETIME

who wrote letters and signed petitions in Pontius' defense.

"Dale Pontius was courageous in expressing his opinions and he was very effective in getting students to think for themselves," said Kennedy. "If you can't do that at a university, where can you do it?"

Kennedy believes Pontius did the right thing in reporting what had been said during the car ride.

"I think standing up to McCarthy and standing up against government corruption are good issues to be involved with," said Kennedy. "And I think it's a credit to Roosevelt University that Pontius wasn't fired."

Landing on his feet, Pontius went on to become internationally known for chiding the world's two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—in 1962 over their nuclear testing policies.

The New York Times reported that Pontius said the Soviet Union "was in error in unilaterally breaking a moratorium" and that it was the first time "an American had spoken in such a manner at a meeting designed...to advance the Soviet point of view."

The Chicago Daily News made Pontius into a local hero with its editorial comments: "Usually we manage to restrain our enthusiasm for Professor Pontius and his eccentricities...This time it seems he not only pumped a little life into a dull meeting but may even have succeeded in getting a point through the Russian hide."

Time magazine concluded that what "stunned the pro-Communist audience" was when Pontius remarked: "If you continue calling one power a warmonger or wild beast of imperialism without denouncing your own governments when they pursue activities that endanger the safety of the world, you may get emotional satisfaction...but you are not helping the cause of peace."

In a nutshell, that's what Pontius says he was doing—advancing the cause of peace. And that's what he did in the twilight of his Roosevelt career during the Sixties, protesting the Vietnam War as a peaceful street demonstrator and running as an unsuccessful but self-styled "peace" candidate for Congress.

Pontius retired from Roosevelt in 1971 at age 65. Since his retirement, he has enjoyed a number of hobbies including reading and birding. A birdwatcher since he was a teenager, Pontius became president of the Chicago Ornithological Society, a local birdwatching club.

"One of the things you learn when you get my age is that your friends aren't around anymore, but I feel lucky to be here and I haven't changed too much," said Pontius.

1906: Dale Pontius born, Groveport, Ohio, July 27

1947: Pontius hired by Roosevelt College

1952: Pontius heckles Senator Joseph McCarthy



1956: Pontius and two students testify before a grand jury on ticket fixing conversation

1962: Pontius criticizes the United States and Soviet Union in Moscow speech



1965: Pontius is arrested for disorderly conduct in San Francisco during Vietnam War protest

1968: Pontius runs as peace candidate for Congress

1971: Pontius retires from Roosevelt University

1986: Pontius becomes president of Chicago Ornithological Society

2006: Pontius celebrates his 100th birthday



EMILY BROOKS (BS, '06)



LORNA ELAM-JACKSON Ed.D, '06



AUGIE HAAS (BM, '06)

ROOSEVELT STUDENTS

EMILY BROOKS

Roosevelt University is a special place for the Brooks family. In May, Emily Brooks (BS, '06) became the fifth member of her family to graduate from Roosevelt and word is her brother is coming here in the fall. A biology major and chemistry minor, Brooks earned all As in her coursework. She plans to become a doctor, and has been admitted to three medical schools and is waitlisted at two more. She chose Roosevelt because of the small-size classes, diverse student body and Scholars Program. The fact that her father, uncle, aunt and sister all graduated from Roosevelt also played a role in her decision. During junior year, Brooks was an intern at Weiss Memorial Hospital. There, she observed patients and rotated through the hospital's specializations. "The two weeks I spent in the intensive care unit opened my eyes as I realized how difficult it is to properly diagnose a patient," she said. As a senior, she founded the University's Premed/Preprofessional Club, and as its president, she organized weekly review sessions for the MCAT test. Throughout her Roosevelt career, she also has tutored biology and chemistry students. "I feel that my undergraduate curriculum has prepared me for medical school," she said.

LORNA ELAM-JACKSON

Receiving her doctoral degree in education in May, Lorna Elam-Jackson (Ed.D, '06) credits Roosevelt University with changing her life.

Unhappy with her job, Elam-Jackson moved from the state of Washington as a single mother in 2002 to enroll in the University's educational leadership and organizational change program. Since then, she has served as a graduate assistant in the College of Education, welcomed home her son who served in Iraq, gotten married, given birth to two daughters, received straight As, worked in the University of Chicago's Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, and has written a 500-page dissertation based on a project for the U.S. Department of State. Because of her training as a mental health therapist in Washington, Elam-Jackson was asked to create a curriculum teaching Iraqis how to provide community mental health services to thousands who were tortured during Saddam Hussein's regime. The curriculum she wrote with Iraqi physicians has been translated into Kurdish and Arabic, and has been used to train new community mental health workers in Iraq. In fact, it is so successful that a version of it may be used in Cambodia and Rwanda.

AUGIE HAAS

One of the University's most talented and successful students is Augie Haas (BM, '06), a 21-year-old jazz trumpet player who received his bachelor's degree in jazz studies from the University in May. A Wisconsin native, Haas had not achieved the same academic success as many other incoming students when he first came to Chicago College of Performing Arts in 2002. That's



DIVYA KAPADIA (BS, '06)



MARK MINTON (BFA, '06) AND MOLLY LAYTON (BFA, '06)

SUCCEED & INSPIRE

because Haas has dyslexia. This reading disability, however, didn't stop Haas from excelling at most everything he's done at Roosevelt. As a sophomore, he was selected to perform four shows with the legendary Philly POPS Orchestra. The summer after his junior year, he was chosen as lead trumpet for the 2005 Disney Collegiate All-Star Band. Last fall, he performed a solo rendition of the national anthem at a Green Bay Packers game. He also served as a student trustee on the University's board of trustees, and was instrumental in founding the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity which has been engaged in service activities including a canned food drive and a fundraiser for Alzheimer's disease. Haas received a full scholarship at the University of Miami where he will be a teaching assistant and begin his graduate studies in the fall.

DIVYA KAPADIA

The University's international student union wasn't very active or visible when Divya Kapadia (BS, '06), a native of India and Oman, arrived at Roosevelt in 2002. Four years later, however, the international student union is engaged and thriving with new members thanks to Kapadia's organizing efforts. A May graduate with a bachelor's degree in hospitality and tourism management, the international student union president has distinguished himself as one of the University's most active student leaders. Among accomplishments, he has increased camaraderie and gotten international students involved

in the University's International Day, movie nights, ice-skating parties, pizza parties and free dance classes. "I believe the skills I've learned in organizing student activities will be helpful to me in the hotel industry," said Kapadia, 21, who hopes to gain experience as a hotel manager in the United States within the next 10 years before returning to India where he wants to own and operate a hotel. At Roosevelt, Kapadia also was a resident assistant at the Herman Crown Center and an active volunteer and student recruiter for the University's annual New Deal Service Day.

MOLLY LAYTON AND MARK MINTON

Molly Layton (BFA, '06) and Mark Minton (BFA, '06) met as freshmen in 2002 while moving into University housing. "I heard someone moving in on my floor and I wanted to say hi," recalled Layton, 21, a theatre major and Roosevelt scholar who knew it was love at first sight. "Absolutely," agreed Minton, 21, a theatre major who has been dating Layton ever since. They didn't know back then that they would support each other as cancer hit in both of their families. "Mark knows how to live life to the fullest, and he helped me loosen up and not be so stressed," said Layton, who lost her mother in April 2005. About the same time, Minton's 24-year-old brother was diagnosed with cancer. "There have been a lot of times when I just wanted to leave the theatre program, but Molly gave me the strength to stay," said Minton. After staying the course for four years, the two graduated

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MATTHEW VANDRUSH (BSBA, '06) AND SON ANDREW



JENNIFER VLK (BS, '06)

SUCCEED & INSPIRE

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together with bachelor of fine arts degrees in May. They're not talking marriage yet, but plans are for the two to stay together and to start a theatre company in Chicago. Also, Roosevelt will remain a family affair as Molly's father, a high school teacher, enters The Theatre Conservatory's fast-track master's program this summer.

MATTHEW VANDRUSH

When business student Matthew Vandrush (BSBA, '06) came to Roosevelt in 2002, he didn't realize that getting through college would be such a struggle. He didn't count on his son, Andrew, becoming maladjusted at school with Asperger Syndrome, a form of autism. Vandrush tried three different public school settings before opting to homeschool his son. Spending seven hours daily for the last three years instructing his son in math, science, English, reading, writing, history, physical education and basic life skills, Vandrush has had a full-time job with homeschooling. He's been unable to take a job because of it, leaving his wife to be sole breadwinner and making it difficult for Vandrush to afford to finish college. He had only two free hours a day to prepare for a full-time evening class load at Roosevelt. Still, he graduated with honors, receiving a bachelor's degree in accounting in May. A two-time recipient of the Walter E. Heller College of Business Administration's merit scholarship, Vandrush earned a 3.96 grade point average. He also put his son, who now reads at the 12th grade

level, on track for fall when he will start at a new school in Olympia, Wash., where Vandrush hopes to find a job as an auditor.

JENNIFER VLK

After hospitalization for complications from a concurrent bout of flu and food-borne hepatitis A, Jennifer Vlk (BS, '06) had time to think about her future. A 1990 Bradley University international studies graduate, software consultant and website manager, Vlk, 37, decided during her recovery to pursue her childhood dream of becoming a medical doctor. In May, the Roosevelt Scholar and prestigious Share Fellow graduated with a 3.9 grade point average, a bachelor's degree in biology and University awards. Vlk began pursuing her dream in fall 2003 after learning through research that many students in medical school are 30 years of age or older. An assistant laboratory manager and teacher's assistant for biology and chemistry classes, Vlk won the University's student employee of the year award and the Roosevelt library's undergraduate research award for "The Impact of Plant Diversity, Soil Moisture, and Soil Temperature on Bacterial Decomposition of Boreal and Moist-Tropical Forest Litter," a research paper with more than 50 sources. She is doing a clinical research internship at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., and will take placement tests and apply to medical schools in the fall.

MY 70-MILLION-YEAR-OLD DISCOVERIES

FACULTY ESSAY

By Associate Professor Gregory A. Buckley

Madagascar, the fourth largest island in the world and located approximately 250 miles off the southeast coast of Africa, has long been known as one of the greatest mysteries in the world of natural history.

This status stems primarily from the unique plants and animals that inhabit the island, with the vast majority found nowhere else in the world. The most famous of these endemic groups are the lemurs, primitive primates that, in many cases, are one step away from extinction.

Even though biologists have devoted a great deal of effort to studying and preserving the fauna of Madagascar, little is known about the origins of the inhabitants. Scientists do know that Madagascar separated from mainland Africa around 160 million years ago, and was connected to the Indian Subcontinent until about 90 million years ago, when India split off and began its trek north until its eventual collision with Asia, raising the Himalayan Mountains in the process. It is this long period of isolation that has allowed the animals of Madagascar to not only evolve into the wondrous forms we see today, but also to be shielded from an easy influx of animals from elsewhere that might have competed with the natives and driven them to extinction.

It is unclear when the ancestors of today's inhabitants made it to the island since the fossil record of Madagascar has been extremely poor, preventing any attempt to explore this question. It was the desire to address this very issue

of the mammals living in Madagascar today.

That initial group in 1993, under the leadership of David Krause of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, included primarily experts in fossil mammals. In addition, we were joined by colleagues from Madagascar, including several Malagasy students.

Very rarely does a trip like this live up to the adventurous hype that people normally envision when they think of a fossil-collecting expedition, but this one certainly qualified. It began with a three-day, 300-mile drive from the capital of Antananarivo to our field area outside of the seaport of Mahajanga. The time it takes to make this drive now has decreased tremendously with the improvement of the roads and the increased dependability of vehicles—it now takes us about 10 hours. Still, that initial

three-day journey was an incredible initiation into the sights, sounds, smells and culture of the island.

Once the team finally arrived at its destination and made the appropriate petitions to the local villagers to gain permission to work in their vicinity, the search for the elusive mammal fossils could begin. As luck would have it, the first mammal tooth, by far the oldest mammal fossil ever found in Madagascar, was discovered only 15 minutes into our first day. It would also turn out to be the only mam-



As luck would have it, the first mammal tooth, by far the oldest mammal fossil ever found in Madagascar, was discovered only 15 minutes into our first day.

that led a small group of paleontologists, including myself, to apply for a research grant in 1993. Our plan was to explore an area in northwestern Madagascar where fossils, primarily dinosaurs, had been discovered in the past, with the hopes of finding mammal fossils. If our expedition was successful, not to mention lucky, we would be able to shed some light on the origins of some

ABOVE: Gregory Buckley, associate professor in the Bachelor of General Studies program, holds 70-million-year-old fossils of the back of the skull and front of the snout of a long snout crocodile he discovered in Madagascar.

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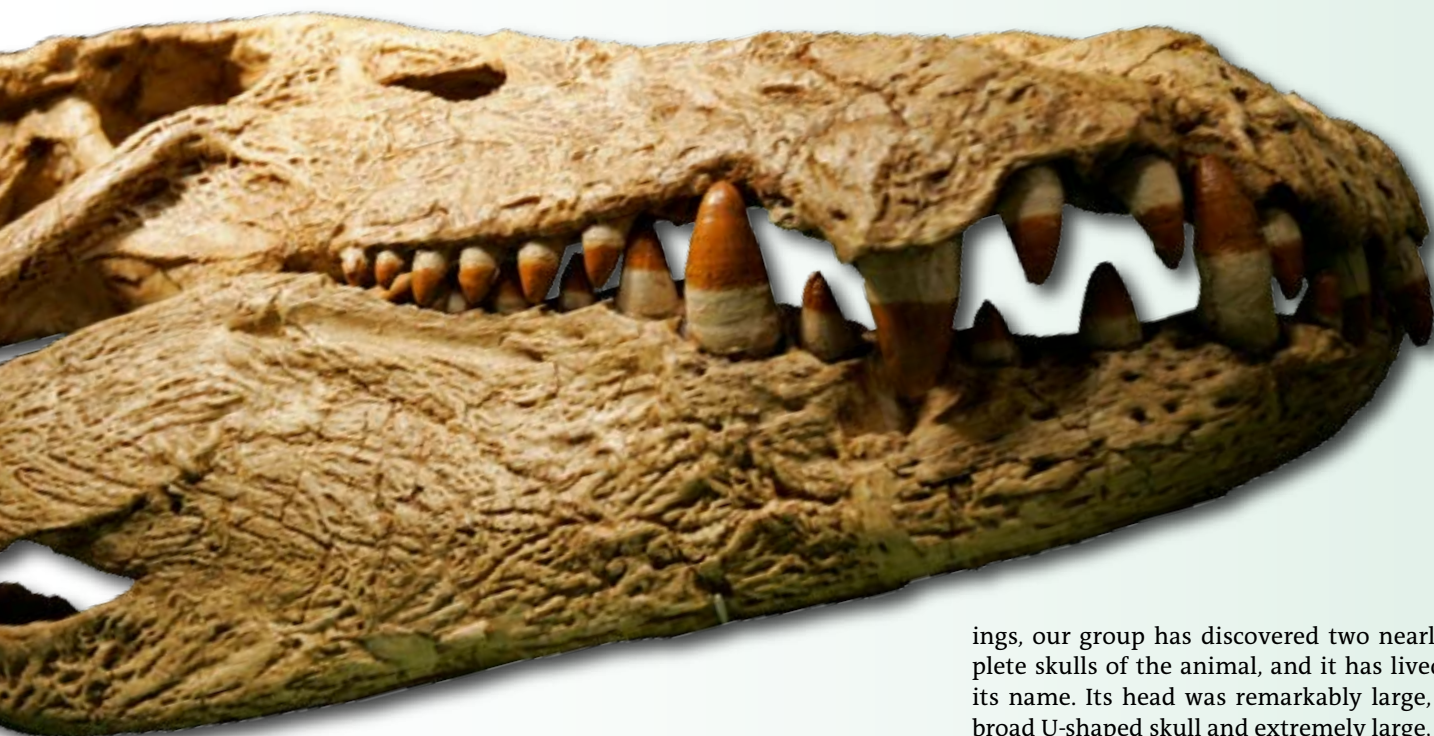
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mal fossil we would find for the next three years. Despite the frustration of not finding as many mammals as was hoped, the team was overwhelmed with the other fossil material discovered that first year, and so several of us applied for and received a large grant from the National Science Foundation to continue our work.

Some of the most abundant animal fossils recovered were those of crocodiles. Since our initial expeditionary crew didn't have anyone working on this group of animals, and since mammals were in such short supply, I quickly changed my

the same prey item, the competition would have been fierce and surely not all of them could have cohabitated in the same vicinity. Such diversity can be seen in the crocodiles our team has found in Madagascar.

One of the first species I described from the area was a large crocodile, reaching up to 15 feet in length. At first all I had to work with was a beautiful complete skeleton, lacking only the skull. Based on this material, I named the species *Mahajangasuchus insignis*, or "the remarkable crocodile of Mahajanga." Since these initial find-



area of focus and began working on the crocodiles. It would turn out to be one of the most fortunate decisions I could have made.

Before our team started our research there was a total of nine fossil species known from the area in which we were digging. After six trips since that initial survey in 1993, we now have almost 60 species. Almost all of those 50 additional species are new to science, never before discovered in Madagascar or the rest of the world. As far as the crocodiles go, we have a total of seven different types, six of which were previously unknown.

This diversity of crocodiles is unprecedented in the fossil record. In order for the ancient Madagascar environment to be able to support that many different forms, it was necessary for the crocodiles to take on a wide array of physical features adapted to deal with different food sources. If they were all similar, and all eating basically

ings, our group has discovered two nearly complete skulls of the animal, and it has lived up to its name. Its head was remarkably large, with a broad U-shaped skull and extremely large, carnivorous teeth. When its mouth was agape it resembled a hippopotamus, but one that was capable of capturing and drowning any of the dinosaurs that inhabited the shoreline of the ancient streams in which it lived.

In addition to *Mahajangasuchus*, the crocodile fauna included a small terrestrial crocodile named *Araripesuchus*. Although this diminutive form was only about three feet long at maturity, it presumably spent little time in the water where it could have fallen prey to larger crocodiles. Based on its teeth, *Araripesuchus* ate primarily insects or other small land animals. Perhaps the most important bit of information that can be gleaned from this species is its close relationship to other species known from South America. This same relationship, linking the animals of Madagascar to the animals known from the same time period in South America, is seen in our other crocodiles



as well as in the dinosaurs, snakes, mammals and other identifiable fossils.

Probably the most exciting crocodile discovery was made in 1999. When it was chanced upon, most of it was still encased in rock. All that I knew on the day I collected it was that it was a crocodile and that it was going to be in pretty good shape. Once it arrived at my lab at the Field Museum I began slowly clearing away its encasing shroud of rock and discovered that it was something on which I wish I could end my career, because I'll never find an animal as bizarre and interesting as this one. What was revealed was a short-headed, pug-nosed crocodile in absolutely pristine condition. What made the animal even more bizarre was the battery of clove-shaped teeth that filled its mouth. Most crocodile teeth consist of just a tall, single point that pierces and holds its prey. These teeth were flattened side to side and had multiple little cusps in a row. Based on this information, I was left to assume that this crocodile, which I named *Simosuchus*, or "pug-nosed crocodile," was also a vegetarian.

Our most recent expeditions continue to yield spectacular fossils. In 2003 our team ventured to an area outside of that in which we had been working for 10 years.

Much of what I study in Madagascar has made its way into my classroom where I'm teaching the Seminar in the Natural Sciences course in the Evelyn T. Stone University College. Many of

the topics that are discussed in that class, such as evolution, geologic time, the diversity of life through time and life's relationship to the changing positions of the earth's continents, are illustrated with examples arising from my Madagascar research. It is so much easier to explain some of these concepts, most of which are pretty abstract to the average student, using real-life research where I can actually let the students touch a 70-million-year-old fossil.

Work still continues in Madagascar, with another expedition planned for the summer of 2007, and there is still much to discover. Each trip yields new treasures, but our "shopping lists" remain long. Heading my shopping list are skulls of the three species of crocodiles for which we have very little material. Whether or not they are found, I know that our team will find something that increases our knowledge of what the end of the Age of Dinosaurs was like on this remote island of Madagascar, and that these discoveries will continue to find their way into my classroom at Roosevelt.

Gregory A. Buckley, associate professor in the Bachelor of General Studies program, joined Roosevelt University in 1999, five years after earning his Ph.D. in geology from Rutgers University. He also is a research associate at Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History.

OPPOSITE: A cast of the skull of *Mahajangasuchus insignis* (the remarkable crocodile of Mahajanga), discovered by Gregory Buckley in 2001.

ABOVE: Buckley's crocodile discoveries are on display in the Field Museum of Natural History.

University **NEWS**



DEAN GEORGE LOWERY STEPS DOWN

George Lowery, dean of the College of Education, has stepped down after nine years at the helm. As head of the College since 1997, Lowery is credited with presiding over a number of successes including major increases in College of Education enrollment, re-establishment of a special education program and the award of grants totaling \$6.5 million, said Pam Reid, executive vice president and provost, who thanked Lowery for his many years of service. While Lowery returns to teaching as a full professor in the College of Education, the University will embark on a search for a new dean to replace him. During this period, James Gandre, dean of Chicago College of Performing Arts, will serve as interim dean of the College of Education. Meanwhile, Sharon Grant, associate professor of education,

has been appointed associate dean of the College of Education and will assist Gandre with College of Education administration.

10-YEAR ACCREDITATION RECOMMENDED

In April, a nine-member accreditation team from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association was on campus to meet with members of the Roosevelt community and representatives from the Board of Trustees. Following its two-day visit, the team announced two major recommendations, both of which are great news for the University. First, Roosevelt will be recommended for re-accreditation, without qualifications, for 10 years, the maximum period allowed. Second, the University's request to extend accreditation to include fully online degree programs will be recommended for approval. The Higher Learning Commission is expected to officially approve the team's recommendations in July or August.



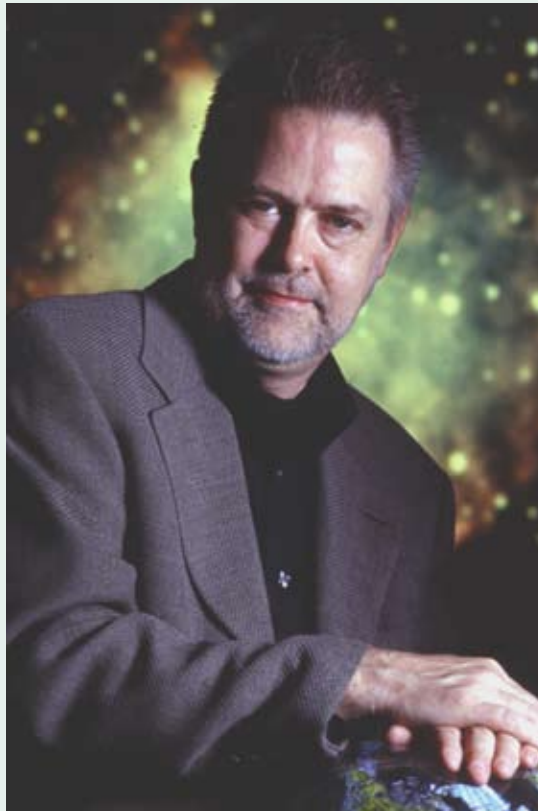
NEW DEAL SERVICE DAY ATTRACTS 300

In early April, nearly 300 students, faculty and staff members went to six locations in the city and northwest suburbs to lend a hand for the

fourth annual New Deal Service Day. Volunteers in Chicago helped out at either Jane Addams Hull House, Albany Park Community Center or the House of Mary and Joseph Shelter. In the suburbs, the sites included Friendship Village, a residential facility for Alexian Brothers and Clearbrook Center.

RU DECREASES TUITION FOR MANY

Last year, Roosevelt reduced tuition for most full-time undergraduate students. During the 2006-2007 academic year, the University is decreasing or holding the line on tuition for graduate and part-time undergraduate students. "Our new tuition schedule will make it financially advantageous for many students to take more courses each semester, thereby reducing the time it will take them to earn their degree," said President Chuck Middleton. Tuition for full-time graduate students in the College of Education will be \$12,384 during the upcoming year. This is a 25 percent decrease for students taking 12 semester hours. Full-time graduate students in the business and liberal arts colleges will pay \$13,374 per year. This is a 19 percent decrease for students taking 12 semester hours. There will be no tuition increases for part-time undergraduate and graduate students in these colleges. Tuition in 2006-2007 for full-time undergraduate students in these colleges will increase, but still will be below Roosevelt's 2004-2005 tuition levels. Full-time undergraduates in Roosevelt's business, liberal arts and education colleges will pay \$15,314 per year for 12-16 semester hours, an 8 percent increase for those taking 12-15 semester hours and a 1.3 percent increase for those taking 16 hours. Meanwhile, tuition for full-time undergraduate and graduate students in the Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA) will be \$21,590 per year. While this reflects an increase, the college's tuition will remain attractive compared with tuition at most of the competing performing arts colleges.



PROFESSOR WINS TOP AWARD IN BRITAIN

Gary Wolfe, professor of humanities and English at Roosevelt and one of the world's foremost critics of science fiction, has received an award from the British Science Fiction Association for his non-fiction book *Soundings: Reviews 1992-1996*. "It's quite an honor and kind of unusual for an American to win an award of this kind from the British science fiction community," said Wolfe, who was named the winner of BSFA's top award at an annual conference in Glasgow, Scotland. The World Science Fiction Association also has nominated the book for a Hugo Award.

7-YEAR ACCREDITATION FOR PsyD

Roosevelt's doctoral (PsyD) program in clinical psychology was re-accredited by the American

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Psychological Association for seven years, the longest period that the Committee on Accreditation will award. This is the second time that the program has been accredited. "This recognition and validation of the PsyD program will reap many rewards and also move the department into national consideration," said Pamela Reid, provost and executive vice president. There are currently 60 students in the PsyD program, and at least 15 new students are expected to join the program in the fall.

CCPA STUDENTS PERFORM WITH TONY AWARD WINNER MICHAEL CRAWFORD

Twenty classical voice and musical theatre students in the Chicago College of Performing Arts performed May 24 with Tony Award winner Michael Crawford (of *Phantom of the Opera* fame) during a special gala concert held in honor of the opening of the newly restored and renovated LaSalle Bank Theatre in Chicago, (formerly the Shubert Theatre). "The students were ecstatic after the performance and so happy to be a part of this historic event. It was an honor for the College to be chosen by Broadway in Chicago and The Nederlander Organization to participate," said James Gandre, dean of CCPA.



STUDENT TEAMS FROM BUSINESS COLLEGE DECLARED CHAMPS

Business Strategy Game declared two student teams from the College of Business grand champions in their industries in the Best

Strategy Invitational Competition for season one of 2006. Business student competitors included Nick Tague and Denis Tarakanov of the Essential Shoes team and David Bate, Cerene Bowen, Rafal Kubas and Kimberly Phillips of the Chucks team, which destroyed its competition. In addition, adjunct business instructor Dennis Tucker was inducted into the Business Strategy Game-Online Hall of Fame as a master professor for shepherding the two grand champion teams.



ROOSEVELT BASEBALL TEAM FORMS

Approximately 20 students have been practicing since early spring to start a Roosevelt Lakers club baseball team. They are expected to play this summer and fall against club teams from Columbia College Chicago, Northwestern, Northeastern Illinois, DePaul, Loyola and Marquette universities. The Schaumburg Flyers, a minor league franchise in the Northern League, has offered the Roosevelt team the opportunity to use its home park, Alexian Field, this fall for the games.

SCHAUMBURG CAMPUS

TO CELEBRATE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

BY LISA ENCARNACION



For a 10th anniversary, gifts of aluminum, tin or diamonds are considered appropriate.

So it seems fitting that Roosevelt University's Albert A. Robin Campus in Schaumburg includes in its 10th anniversary celebration a diamond—specifically, a baseball diamond.

On Sunday, July 30, Roosevelt University will celebrate a decade at its permanent campus in Schaumburg with a 12:05 p.m. birthday party at Alexian Field, hosted by the Schaumburg Flyers. The Flyers' mascot, Bearon, will kick off the party with cake and ice cream on the field, and lead the crowd in singing "Happy Birthday" to Roosevelt.

Although Roosevelt University has had a presence in the northwest suburbs for almost 40 years offering classes at satellite locations, no permanent campus was established in the area until 1996, when the University purchased the former international headquarters of Unocal Oil.

"Roosevelt University was the first, and continues to be the only, fully comprehensive university in the northwest suburbs," said Antonia Potenza, vice president and dean of the Schaumburg Campus.

Roosevelt hosted the official dedication for its new campus in Schaumburg on Aug. 17, 1996, which turned out to be a bright, sunny day. Potenza, then a faculty member in the College of

Education and chair of the University Senate, was part of the ribbon cutting ceremony.

In honor of that day, Roosevelt will host a community celebration of the campus' 10th anniversary on Sept. 6, beginning at 4 p.m.

"We look forward to welcoming the community and thanking them for their support here in Schaumburg and the northwest suburbs for so many years," Potenza said.

Potenza explained that plans are also in the works to present a lecture series in conjunction with the Institute for Continued Learning featuring talks by faculty members on timely topics.

The culminating event of the anniversary celebration will be the Torchlight Gala on Saturday, Oct. 21. The theme of the black-tie event will, of course, be the celebration of the Robin Campus' decade in Schaumburg.

"The Torchlight Gala will provide us with a wonderful opportunity to highlight many of the accomplishments which have occurred at the Schaumburg Campus during the past 10 years," said Roosevelt Trustee Joe Klein, co-chair of the event.

Invitations will be extended to those who were instrumental in the opening of the Schaumburg Campus, past and present community leaders as well as current Future Community Scholars and alumni of the program.

FROM LEFT: Roosevelt's torch welcomes visitors to the Schaumburg Campus.

The campus officially opened with a ribbon-cutting on Aug. 17, 1996.

The campus as it looks today.



GO GIRL!

**GAINING OPTIONS:
GIRLS INVESTIGATE REAL LIFE**

BY LAURA JANOTA





Querida Ellis has a very important question in mind as she stands before the class of 30 seventh-grade girls who are being trained at Roosevelt University to be comfortable in math.

"What's a hypothesis?" asks Ellis, a graduate secondary education major and one of eight Roosevelt University students who were mentors to the girls taking part last spring in the University's unique Gaining Options: Girls Investigate Real Life (GO-GIRL) project.

As Ellis pronounces the word slowly syllable by syllable, a hand pops up at the table where a group of girls who call themselves the Kreative Kats are perched over wireless computers.

"Oh, I know that!" shouts Ruthie Nash, a seventh grader from Deneen Middle School in Chicago, standing up to give the definition of "hypothesis" as Ellis looks her way. "It's an educated guess!" Nash says. Developing a hypothesis was one of many skills that the girls learned during GO-GIRL, a program co-created by Roosevelt University Provost and Executive Vice President Pamela Reid and Sally Roberts, who is an assistant professor at Wayne State University's College of Education.

"We developed the GO-GIRL program in response to some alarming trends which suggest that girls have been falling behind their male counterparts in math."

PAMELA REID, ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

"We developed the GO-GIRL program in response to some alarming trends which suggest that girls have been falling behind their male counterparts in math," said Reid, who received a National Science Foundation grant to run the project at Roosevelt and four other universities.

During the two-year project, 12 and 13-year-old girls recruited from middle schools are teamed with college student mentors who gain valuable teaching experience.

"Seventh grade is a very important time in a young girl's life, and I felt it was a very good opportunity for me to get some experience working with this age group," said Barri Schwartz, a junior psychology major and GO-GIRL mentor.

During daylong sessions held in March, April and May, the seventh grade girls who hailed from schools in Chicago, its suburbs and even north-west Indiana learned about everything from using a calculator to potential careers in math.

FROM UPPER LEFT: (Clockwise) Mentor Vickie Lewis assists Anna Bare.

Victoria Izaguirre and her mother, Mary Izaguirre (BGS, '02; MA, '04) solve math problems during class.

Erika Stevens and her daughter, Amber Weatherspoon, work together on the computer.

Maiysha Bell challenges student Bridney Ford to think big.

Querida Ellis works with student Stephany Rosa.

Linda Pincham, associate professor of secondary education, watches Ruthie Nash complete an assignment.

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What is the root of peer pressure in teenage girls?

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"I don't like that we have to get up early on Saturdays, but I like that we're learning new things that are good for me to know," said Mykhail Doss, a seventh grader at Heritage Middle School in Lansing, Ill. Doss hopes to become an obstetrician-gynecologist.

At a time when girls are shaping self images, seventh grade is the optimum period to introduce math as both interesting and accessible, said Linda Pincham, an associate professor of secondary education and an expert in adolescent development who is directing the GO-GIRL project at Roosevelt.

"We spend a lot of time in the program talking about gender issues and the importance of young women becoming more proficient in math, said Pincham.

That's because recent research on proficiencies in math at U.S. high schools has shown that high school boys are more likely than their female counterparts to take advanced math courses including trigonometry and calculus, said Pincham.

And even when girls do take the same high school math and science courses as their male counterparts, research shows that girls haven't kept up in pursuing math-related careers, she added.

"Math is probably my worst subject, but I feel that I can learn more and express myself much more freely than usual because there are no boys here," said Caroline Kenworthy, a seventh grader from Roosevelt Middle School in River Forest, Ill.

During the program, the girls developed a scientific survey looking for answers to why peer pressure occurs.

"We've learned a lot about peer pressure and we've worked a lot with computers," said Victoria Izaguirre, a seventh grader at Heritage Middle School in Berwyn, Ill. "What I learned is that math is really interesting and fun," she added.

Like many of the girls in the program, Izaguirre is being encouraged to delve into math by a parent, Roosevelt University history graduate student Mary Izaguirre (BGS, '02) (MA, '04). She is the behind-the-scenes coordinator of Roosevelt's GO-GIRL project.

"The most striking thing about the program is that it brings together girls from diverse backgrounds and encourages them to work both independently and as teams," she said.

"And I'm amazed and delighted at just how well this program is resonating with my daughter," Izaguirre added.

The girls, who were tested for math proficiency before beginning their coursework, also took exams at the end of their sessions to determine how well various components of the program worked.

"We intend to use the data from this project to determine what works and what doesn't when it comes to putting young girls on track toward careers in math, science and technology," said Pincham.

The GO-GIRL project, which will enter its second year at Roosevelt in the spring of 2007, also is being run simultaneously at Howard University, the University of Pennsylvania, Illinois Wesleyan University and Wayne State University in conjunction with the University of Michigan. "We are so proud of these girls, and believe, because of their training, that the playing field in math and technology is being leveled," said Izaguirre.

Four teams of seventh grade girls brainstormed among themselves and with their mentors to come up with a myriad of hypotheses on the causes and effects of teenage peer pressure.

Lack of self respect, insecurity and parental interference were among the theories the girls arrived at to explain why some teens cave in to peer pressure.

The hypotheses, which were proven—and in some cases disproven—after results of a scientific survey filled out by high school students throughout the region, included the following:

- Teenage girls don't have enough self respect dealing with boys.
- Peer pressure is caused by a change in a teen's life.
- Many teens think parents put them under pressure.
- Peer pressure mostly happens in school.
- Teens get peer pressured into having sexual relations.
- People with insecure lives are more prone to give in to peer pressure.

"These hypotheses were sophisticated and inciteful, and served as the basis—and one of the cornerstones—of the girls' work during the recent GO-GIRL project," said Linda Pincham, associate professor of secondary education and director of GO-GIRL.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO TV NEWS?

RU PROFESSOR QUESTIONS HIS FORMER PROFESSION

BY TOM KAROW

Peter Fallon, associate professor of journalism, spent 17 years as a news editor for NBC's *Today Show*. Now he almost never watches television.

"From my childhood I remember television being an instrument of social change. It opened windows on worlds that I hadn't seen," he says. "Today, unfortunately, it is an instrument of social stasis."

That bleak view of an industry he once loved is a major reason Fallon gave up a coveted job in Manhattan to become a university professor.

"On a daily basis my work was being seen by several million people, but in a classroom as a part-time instructor, I was making more of an impression on my 15 students than I was at NBC," he recalls.

A white-haired Irishman who wears sandals daily except when there's snow on the ground, Fallon has found his niche at Roosevelt University. Here he does the things that interest him the most: challenging journalism students to think critically, expressing through his "blog" IN THE DARK (<http://rujournalism.blogspot.com>) his observations on world events and writing books.

His most recent book, *Printing, Literacy and Education in Eighteenth Century Ireland: Why the Irish Speak English*, is a scholarly examination of how the English managed over time to break down Irish cultural barriers. In particular, he describes how the Irish, starting only in the late 1700s, (some 250 years after Ireland's development), were slow to adopt the newest technology—the printing press.

"Dr. Fallon is quite opinionated about politics and the field of journalism, but that is what I love about him," says senior Nicole Briggs. "I've taken three classes with him because he challenges my thought process and inspires me to think independently."



Fallon believes that people who get their news from television are just scratching the surface. "There are dozens of stories that are not being picked up by NBC, CBS, ABC, Fox, even PBS," he says. "I just happen to be by temperament the type of person who believes that some stories are really, really important. Take for example the story of Luis Posada Carriles, a former CIA operative linked to the 1976 bombing of a Cuban airliner who is now living free in Miami. Why aren't we talking about him, especially during a time when we are fighting a so-called 'war on terrorism'?"

Fallon is an expert in the field of media ecology, a study of how human perceptions and values are affected by the way we communicate

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ABOVE: Peter Fallon, associate professor of journalism, says that television networks no longer devote sufficient air time to serious issues.

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through books, television, newspapers, film, radio, the Internet, etc. "I like to look at new technologies and consider what they do for us and what they take away from us. For example, do we write differently on a pad of paper than we do on a computer?"

Janell Wrightsell, one of his graduate students studying journalism through the lens of media ecology, finds the topic fascinating. "I am learning how new media and technologies influence our daily lives and shape the world," she says.

During his NBC career, Fallon came to work at midnight to prepare news stories that were read in the morning by hosts Jane Pauley, Deborah Norville, Bryant Gumbel, and Katie Couric, among others. Of all the *Today Show* anchors he worked with, he had the greatest respect for Gumbel. "Bryant was the smartest and most professional person I worked with at NBC. He knew intuitively what were the right and wrong questions to ask."

Much to Fallon's displeasure, television news shows began changing in the 1980s. He says serious issues were trivialized and thought-provoking interviews, which occasionally lasted 30 minutes, were cut to seven minutes because producers felt the American public lost interest in long pieces.

In reaction to the changes going on at NBC, Fallon enrolled in the doctoral program at New York University in Media Ecology and began teaching part-time. "I discovered that I got 1,000 times more personal satisfaction in the classroom than at work," he says.

Finally in 1999, he accepted a buyout from NBC, and took a job as a full-time professor at Molloy College in Rockville Center, N.Y., where he worked before coming to Roosevelt in 2003.

"Peter's a terrific addition to our faculty because he's so versatile," says Linda Jones, chair of Roosevelt's Department of Communication. "With all of his broadcasting background, he can run a news broadcasting class—he can teach the technology of shooting and editing as well as the writing and producing parts. Then the next day—or the same day—he can talk Neil Postman in a thought-provoking and challenging class like media criticism."

Promoted to associate professor with tenure in April, Fallon is now at work on a new book called *The Metaphysics of Media*, a historical look at how different media promote and support different views of reality. "In the book," he says, "I ask the questions all journalists must consider: 'what's important, what's not important and what do we really need to know.'"



AN EXCERPT FROM *PRINTING, LITERACY AND EDUCATION IN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY IRELAND: WHY THE IRISH SPEAK ENGLISH*

BY PETER FALLON

"...Each new technology empowers us in some way. It allows us to do something we haven't done before, or to do something in a different, ostensibly better, way. The example of Ireland in the eighteenth century is a good example of this. No one would argue that the assimilation of the English language and literacy has been anything but beneficial to the Irish; indeed, Irish literacy in English has been beneficial to the entire English-speaking world. But we must be careful to choose those tools which give us the best return for our investment. Because, as I have tried to demonstrate, we can lose something very precious in the changeover from one technique to the next. We may find that, once the change is done, we are impotent to undo it."

In June, Fallon presented a paper based on Why the Irish Speak English at the first annual Conference on Irish Studies at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

THE CITY OF BIG STORIES

BY LAURA JANOTA



CREATIVE WRITING STUDENTS FIND THEIR INSPIRATION IN CHICAGO

From its lakefront views to its ethnic neighborhoods, Chicago is becoming a chosen stop for writers in the making.

"I knew I wanted to go to graduate school for creative writing, but I didn't want to be in the middle of nowhere. So, I moved to Chicago," said Krysl Buckendahl, an aspiring fiction and creative nonfiction writer in the University's master of fine arts in creative writing program.

Among a growing number of writers in the program, Buckendahl chose Roosevelt because it offers specializations in more than one genre—fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry.

Like nearly half of those in the graduate program, Buckendahl is not from Chicago or Illinois. He chose Roosevelt's creative writing program as much for its variety as its location.

"I like seeing the neighborhood flavors, all the political stuff going on, the immigration rallies," said Buckendahl, who is from Columbus, Ohio.

"These experiences are going to be fuel for my writing once I've had a few years to absorb and reflect," added Buckendahl, who moved to Chicago and joined the program in fall 2004.

That fall semester was the first time a significant number of writers began coming to the creative writing program from other parts of the country, according to Janet Wondra, associate professor of English and film studies and coordinator of creative writing.

"We've done a lot of outreach in terms of both local and national advertising," said Wondra, who has watched enrollment in the program triple in size since 2001.

"At the same time, we've worked to expand our reading series and have been successful in attracting high-caliber writers from all over the country," she said.

The reading series, held several times during the fall and spring semesters, has hosted noted novelists, essayists, non-fiction writers and poets. Those who have read from their work and led workshops with students include: novelist and screenwriter Richard Price, essayist Judith Kitchen and novelist Audrey Niffenegger, Pushcart prizewinner Michael Martone and poets Mark Doty, Albert Goldbarth and Deborah Cummins.

"These are top-notch writers who not only shared tips and critiqued student work, but who also were mentors and role models for our students," said Wondra.

Hailing from medium-sized cities and rural areas across the country, budding writers are choosing Roosevelt—and Chicago—in part because of the diversity of culture and life that the experience offers.

"When I got to Chicago, I wrote about my first big moments exploring the city and bumping into people that I made fast friends with," said Catherine Nienaber, a creative nonfiction writer from Portland, Ore.

ABOVE: Roosevelt University's creative writing students share their work in class workshops and at off-campus literary events. From left are: Emily Culella, Rebecca Tirrell, Catherine Nienaber and Krysl Buckendahl.

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JANET WONDRA



MARY ANNE MOHANRAJ



REGINA BUCCOLA



JOSEPH FEDORKO



LISA STOLLEY



FRANCINE SANDERS

CREATIVE WRITING FACULTY AT ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

JANET WONDRA is associate professor of English and film studies, coordinator of the creative writing program and an award-winning filmmaker whose poetry and creative non-fiction have appeared in the *Southern Review* and the *Michigan Quarterly Review*.

MARY ANNE MOHANRAJ is visiting assistant professor of English, author of the novel *Bodies in Motion* and a recent recipient of an Illinois Arts Council fellowship.

REGINA BUCCOLA is associate professor of English, a published poet and the author of original monologues that she has performed on stages all over Chicago.

JOSEPH FEDORKO teaches playwriting at Roosevelt University, is a long-time resident playwright at Chicago Dramatists and has had productions staged all over the country.

LISA STOLLEY teaches fiction writing at Roosevelt University, and is an award-winning writer whose fiction has appeared in *Hawaii Review* and *Passages North*.

FRANCINE SANDERS teaches screenwriting at Roosevelt University and recently received a fellowship for the project "Expanding History of Cinema Teaching & Learning Opportunities."

FRANK ROGACZEWSKI (not pictured) teaches poetry at Roosevelt University, is a featured poet in the book *Vectors: New Poetics* and has had poetry appear in *Denver Quarterly* and *Another Chicago Magazine*.

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One topic she wrote about recently was the city of Chicago's blue-bag recycling program and the malaise that some Chicago residents in her Bridgeport neighborhood have toward recycling — very different from the enthusiasm for recycling that many take to heart in Portland.

It's not just Chicago's differences, its urban sprawl and its rather realistic, and even cynical, attitude that appeal to Nienaber.

"I like the professors here. They're different than the ones I knew back home," said Nienaber. "They're honest when they critique your writing, they treat you like an adult and they're not afraid to offend if they believe a suggestion can help."

Rebecca Tirrell, a creative nonfiction writer from Morgantown, Pa., also has written about her impressions of her Chicago neighborhood, Uptown, since joining the program last fall.

"I've written about what the Uptown neighborhood is like now, what it could become if it is rebuilt and my struggle with what would be lost in the process," said Tirrell, who enjoys the camaraderie among the program's students who regularly attend poetry slams at the historic Green Mill in Chicago's Uptown.

Environmental character and camaraderie were not Tirrell's main reason for choosing the program though.

"It is the most practical program I found," said Tirrell, who considered programs in Chicago, Boston and on the West Coast before concluding that Roosevelt's offered the best opportunity for practical job training.

Enrolling last fall in the program's unique literary magazine course in which students design, edit and produce the University's annual *Oyez Review* literary magazine, Tirrell learned a lot about the magazine submission process.

"What happens to writers' submissions isn't mysterious to me any more," said Tirrell, who believes the course has primed her for submitting her own writing to literary magazines.

The award-winning *Oyez Review*, which has been around for nearly 40 years, features the best in new fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry. Since 2001, the magazine has been part of the creative writing program, offering students a chance to edit, design, publish and promote a magazine even as they continue to creatively write. Indeed, the course has been so productive that magazine circulation has doubled since 2001.

"My goal is to provide our students with as much practical knowledge as possible," said Wondra, a former editor for the *Georgia Review* and publisher of *Oyez Review*.

The magazine recently was redesigned with new and improved changes and will be unveiled during the upcoming academic year, said Nick

"These experiences are going to be fuel for my writing once I've had a few years to absorb and reflect."

KRYS BUCKENDAHL, MFA STUDENT IN THE CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY'S ASPIRING WRITERS DISCUSS THE CITY OF CHICAGO

"If New York City was Rent, Chicago would be Miles Davis. To some, New York is hip and fast paced, to others it is frantic and claustrophobic. Chicago is the center of my universe, the place full of things to do and see, but with space to think and room to breathe."

KRISTIN STRAW

Fiction student from Missouri

"There is no curbside recycling, rather we are supposed to assume that the city workers will pick through the garbage and fish out the recycling for us simply because of what color bag we dispose of it in."

CATHERINE NIENABER

Creative non-fiction student from
Portland, Ore.

"January in Chicago and I watch my breath trying to fill the empty places between the four-story apartment complexes."

NICHOLAS SMITH

Poetry student from Chicago

"The city is like that. Death in the newspapers, stains on the sidewalk, the vomit stink of a late-night Friday train... It gives me one more reason to fear."

REBECCA TIRRELL

Creative non-fiction student from
Pennsylvania

*"The city strains to hear
cranes its metal stone neck."*

*It likes this pain,
these nights the lovers write about."*

EMILY CULELLA

Poetry student from St. Louis



SPOTLIGHT ON ELIZABETH AIOSSA

A STUDENT BECOMES A TEACHER

Since graduating two years ago, Roosevelt University alumna Elizabeth Aiossa (BA, '02; MFA, '04) has put her master's degree in creative writing to good use.

Aiossa, who specialized in creative nonfiction at Roosevelt, is now teaching creative writing and English composition full-time at the College of Lake County, and is the first creative writing program graduate to get a tenure-track position at a University.

"I wouldn't be where I'm at right now without the degree," said Aiossa, who is also an editor on CLC's *Willow Review* literary magazine.

Aiossa, who has been doing some of her own writing since graduating, also recently had a creative nonfiction story entitled "Swell" published in the most recent issue of *Oyez Review*.

After publication of the story, Aiossa joined student editors of *Oyez Review* at several Chicago-area bookstores to celebrate publication of the literary magazine and to read from her work.

"I always wanted to teach creative writing," said Aiossa, who chose Roosevelt's creative writing program after doing research that suggested MFA graduates were getting college English teaching jobs. "But I never thought it would come together so quickly for me."

Aiossa said her creative writing internship at CLC actually paved the way for the full-time position she has there today.

"I learned a lot about writing and revising and critiquing in the program, which has helped me help my students," said Aiossa.

Smith, a poetry major and Chicago native who will become student editor of *Oyez Review* in the fall. As editor, Smith will also teach a portion of the *Oyez Review* course.

In the fall, the creative writing program will welcome new students from different parts of the country, including Oakland, Calif., Boston and Baltimore.

"We are seeing more students, in general, and more high-quality students, in particular, applying to the program," said Wondra. "And our goal is to have a full house in each of the specialties. We also hope to develop playwriting and screenwriting as additional program specialties," she said.

As the program continues to grow, the program's urban environment will likely continue to influence the program's aspiring writers.

"I've been writing a lot of poems about how spring in the city is harder to see than in the country," said Emily Culella, a St. Louis native and poet who joined the program last fall after completing her undergraduate degree in rural Arkansas.

"To me, the city feels mixed—old yet new, very big, yet not frantic," added Kristin Straw, a native of Springfield, Mo., who arrived in fall 2004.

Straw is currently at work on her final thesis. When complete, it will be a work of fiction in which the main character is a New York City native who lives in Chicago.

"I thought it would be a difficult transition to come to Chicago, but it hasn't been," said Prairie Markussen, a poet who moved from Tucson, Ariz., and entered the program in fall 2005.

"There are many opportunities here and a plethora of things to do," she added. "And I'm hopeful that everything I'm getting the chance to do here is broadening the scope of my writing."



THE TORCH *glows*

BY LISA ENCARNACION

Many journalists first tested the waters of their profession by writing for a student-run newspaper.

Over the years, Roosevelt University's *Torch* has been a training ground not only for journalism students, but for business majors, graduate students and even a few experienced professional journalists who were earning degrees at the University.

This blending of diverse backgrounds and experiences has had a positive effect on Roosevelt's publication, which earned awards for the second straight year from the Illinois College Press Association (ICPA).

Earlier this year, the *Torch* was honored with seven awards by the ICPA, including two first place recognitions. The awards reflect the range of talent and dedication to excellence in student journalism.

"The awards were the icing on the cake," explained Karen Ann Cullotta, *Torch* advisor and a journalism instructor at Roosevelt. "It was fun, but I don't think when anyone was working on the paper throughout the year they were thinking about whether a story or a layout would win an award. It's about integrity and quality."

Cullotta knows what she's talking about. A former staffer at the *Chicago Tribune* where she reported on education and social services, she also has worked at the *Daily Herald* and has contributed to *The New York Times*, *Time* magazine and *People*. She continues to freelance for the *Tribune*.

"We have had such incredible staffs," continued Cullotta, who has advised the *Torch* for the past three years. "The leadership of the paper has been excellent."

Cullotta, who likens her role as advisor to that of a coach or consultant, is quick to credit the *Torch*'s successes to her student editors.

She credits Marcia Wade (MJ, '03), her first editor, as taking the paper to a "new level," reporting more on social justice issues.

The next editor, Chicago native James Robinson (BA, '05), focused the editorial more on what was happening at Roosevelt University, and less on local and national news. "Why include news in the paper you could have read five days ago in *The New York Times* or the *Trib*?" said Cullotta. "No one can cover Roosevelt University better than its own newspaper."

A newspaper reporter in New York, Jean DerGurahian (MBA, '06) enrolled at Roosevelt to earn her M.B.A., and was the *Torch* editor during the 2004-2005 academic year.

The next two editors, Leslie Carol Boehms (MJ, '06) (2005-2006) and next year's editor, Ryan Asher, came up through the ranks, having worked on the paper as staff writers before assuming leadership positions.

"I'm a firm believer that the quality of the product draws leaders," Cullotta said. "While the quality of the students working on the paper has always been great, we're actually getting students to enroll at RU to work on the student newspaper. Excellence draws excellence."

Boehms, a Nashville native who earned her master's degree in journalism in May, credits journalism professors John McClelland and Linda Jones for making her decision to attend Roosevelt an easy one.

"During my last year of undergraduate study at Middle Tennessee State University, I searched

ENDOWMENT BENEFITS THE TORCH

The *Torch* student newspaper will benefit from one of the largest endowment gifts in Roosevelt University's history.

Ronald (BA, '52; MA, '54) and Jane (BA, '52) Anderson, both Roosevelt alums, bequeathed nearly \$1 million to the University. The majority of the gift will establish the Jane Anderson Endowment Scholarship, providing academic opportunities for English majors.

The bequest also established the Jane Anderson *Torch* Fund to support the school's newspaper.

Jane and Ronald Anderson graduated from Roosevelt in the early 1950s, and both became successful English teachers.

According to Jim Reichardt, the family attorney, "Jane told me she would have never had a career she loved if she hadn't received a scholarship from Roosevelt."

"Ron (Anderson) set that up to honor his wife and the benefits she received from the University," added David Pattee, interim director of planned giving at Roosevelt.



on the Internet for schools offering a master's degree in journalism," she recalled. "Roosevelt seemed like a good fit. My mom called the school and got John McClelland and they spoke on the phone for 45 minutes (he had spent a few years living in Nashville and chatted with my mom about the experiences). When my family and I came to visit in the fall of 2003, we met McClelland and Linda Jones. They were both so genuine and truly cared about me and my choice to attend graduate school."

She credits the paper's success to its partnership with the Department of Communication and the efforts of current and previous *Torch* staff.

"It's nice to have professionals in the industry at your fingertips whenever something questionable happens," said Boehms. "I also had a great predecessor in Jean DerGurahian—she guided me throughout my tenure as editor."

Cullotta attributes the sense of family felt by *Torch* staff members as the reason that alumni continue to remain involved in the paper. Robinson still contributes photography and DerGurahian continues to be involved as a staff writer.

Matt Reynolds, last year's managing editor, came to RU from Kenosha, Wis., where he had worked as a news editor for the *Kenosha News*.

"It was a great experience working with the *Torch*," he said. "The people were like minded and cared a lot about the paper. So when we left, it was like leaving a legacy."

He extended thanks to University President Chuck Middleton for his "open door policy." "Dr. Middleton has always been wonderful and very helpful in answering questions," Reynolds said. "He was always very quick in getting back to me."

"I'm a firm believer that the quality of the product draws leaders...we're actually getting students to enroll at RU to work on the student newspaper. Excellence draws excellence."

KAREN ANN CULLOTTA, *TORCH* ADVISOR AND ROOSEVELT INSTRUCTOR

Cullotta agrees that the University administration has been helpful to the *Torch*.

"People go out of their way to call the students back," she said. "No one from the administration has ever called to suggest a subject or question why we did a story."

In the past few years, the editorial content of the *Torch* has become more sophisticated, covering stories that may not necessarily be good news, such as drops in student retention rates, the cost of textbooks and double listed classes. The staff focus continues to be on accuracy and quality.

"There is no dynamic of 'gotcha' journalism with the *Torch*," emphasized Cullotta.

The diverse demographics of those who pick up the *Torch* contribute to what Cullotta terms a "sophisticated readership."

"We have a tough audience in terms of what they're willing to accept," explained Cullotta. "No one has extra time to waste."

Reynolds agreed, sharing that he was surprised this past year when the paper's coverage of the University's involvement with helping Hurricane Katrina victims received a negative reaction.

"But still, that's important, because it showed people were reading the paper," he said. "That's better than no reaction at all."

ABOVE: Matt Reynolds, managing editor of the *Torch*, and Jessica Marie Martin, layout and photo editor, work on the newspaper's final issue of the semester.

TAKING THEIR PLACES

RU's GROWING THEATRE PROGRAM
MAKES ITS MARK ON BROADWAY

BY LAURA JANOTA

ACT I

The story of Kala, played by Roosevelt University theatre graduate **Merle Dandridge** (BFA, '98) is the first the audience encounters in *Tarzan*, the new Disney musical that opened on Broadway in May.

Appearing in four Broadway shows to date, including several leading roles, Dandridge began her training at Roosevelt under Yolanda Lyon Miller who was head of the theatre program when it was part of the College of Arts and Sciences.

By the mid 1990s, the University opted to build a stand-alone, world-class performing arts conservatory, known today as Chicago College of Performing Arts, where professional career training in both music and theatre are offered.

Joel G. Fink, director of The Theatre Conservatory and associate dean of Chicago College of Performing Arts, was brought on board in 1996 from the University of Colorado.

"There has been the birth of an entirely new program, a new curricular structure, a new full-time faculty and a new dual-emphasis on training our students to be both visionary artists and practical show-business people," said Fink, who was director of the theatre program at University of Colorado and artistic director for Colorado Shakespeare Festival.

Graduating in 1998 as one of the conservatory's first alums, Dandridge is a trailblazer defining just how successful Roosevelt theatre alums can become.

"It's a long process, and we all know that it takes a long time for theatre students to move to the upper echelon of the theatre world," said Fink, who has grown the program from 75 to nearly 200 students and from two to 10 full-time

faculty members. "But we're beginning to see our theatre graduates involved in some very fine productions all over the country, on Broadway and off," said Fink.

ACT II

Zach Ford (BFA, '04) is singing a love song to his farm girl in *Oklahoma!* on the mainstage at Theatre at the Center in Chicago, delivering a performance that the *Chicago Tribune* recently reviewed as being the most successful in the entire show.

For Ford, it is the ninth Chicago-area theatre production he has appeared in since graduating two years ago, and his success in breaking into Chicago theatre can be traced to the training he received as a student at Roosevelt.

"My first few jobs came out of an internship I did through The Theatre Conservatory with Chicago Shakespeare Theatre," said Ford.

While many college theatre programs discourage or even forbid theatre students from taking parts in professional productions, Fink has made the internship a cornerstone of a theatre conservatory education.

"One of the advantages of The Theatre Conservatory is that it gives our students the ability to begin a professional career while they're still in school," said Fink.

During the 2005-2006 year, the Conservatory staged six major shows in the University's 230-seat O'Malley Theatre and eight other productions in the University's Miller Studio. Students also interned at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre,



MERLE DANDRIDGE
(BFA, '98)



ZACH FORD
(BFA, '04)



LAURA DEKKERS
(BFA, '06)



BLAKE HACKLER
(BFA, '00)

the Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, American Theatre Company and Court Theatre.

"I think the students in The Theatre Conservatory are top notch. They're great and they definitely can hold their own," said Damon Kiely, artistic director at American Theatre Co.

A Roosevelt student, Dan Sanders Joyce (BFA, '06), recently was cast as an understudy to the lead role in American's production of *Orpheus Descending*. During the show, Joyce had to take over the part, and the *Chicago Tribune* reviewed both his performance and the production.

"He wound up getting high marks for his performance," said Kiely of Joyce, who graduated in May.

ACT III

Laura Dekkers (BFA, '06), an opera student at Indiana University before she decided to pursue acting and Roosevelt's conservatory program, is on the run most of the time in New York City.

Most days, she is memorizing parts and musical scores for as many as eight auditions a week —and the hard work is paying off for the former Billie Award winner and one-time lead actress in the world premiere of *Rockne*.

She recently finished shooting a supporting role in NBC's *Conviction*, which aired in May. She was an understudy to the lead role in Andrew Lloyd Weber's *Woman in White*, which closed in February on Broadway. And she's currently waiting to hear whether she'll be cast in roles for two feature films.

"My training at The Theatre Conservatory opened my eyes to a lot of things in the profes-

sional world and taught me the importance of having confidence in my abilities," she said.

Beyond acting, the theatre conservatory offers courses in dance, TV and film, and directing.

"Several of our students have become casting directors and artistic directors, and we expect them to be making decisions on hiring people and shaping productions in the next few years," Fink said. "A few of our students also have started their own companies," he said.

ACT IV

Blake Hackler (BFA, '00) moved the day after graduation to New York City, and began auditioning shortly after his arrival. Almost immediately, he landed a role as Lyle Bellamy in Broadway's *Tom Sawyer*. He also played a violin solo and was an understudy to the lead role of Tom Sawyer.

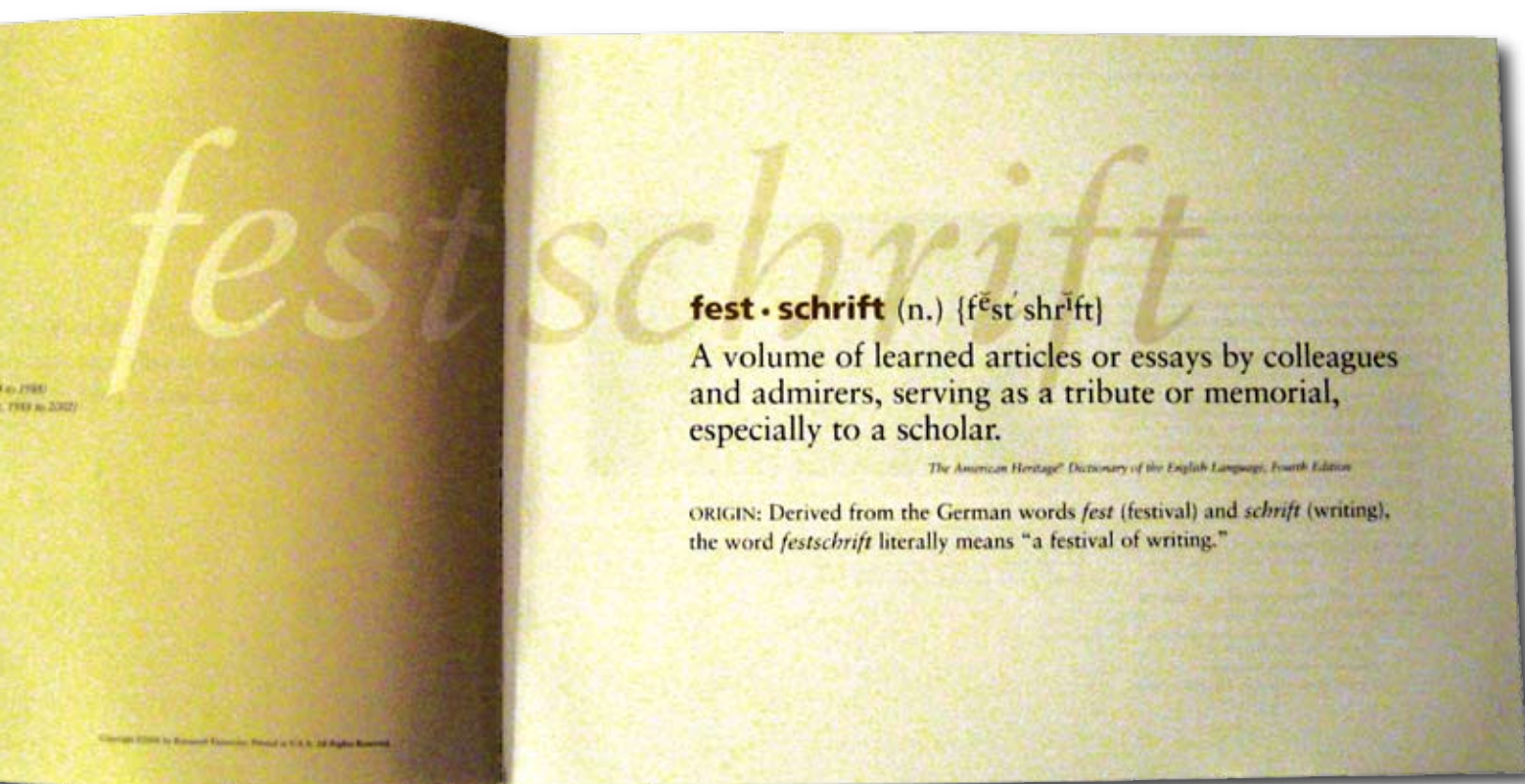
After that, he appeared in a number of shows off Broadway in New York before deciding to enroll in one of the best theatre programs in the country, the Yale School of Drama, where he is completing a graduate degree. One of his goals is to teach professional theatre at a conservatory.

"What Roosevelt prepared me for and helped me to do is become an artist with vision," said Hackler, who credits Roosevelt's theatre faculty with always treating students with respect.

While The Theatre Conservatory is no longer new, it is still considered by most to be a program in the making, said Fink.

"We're a young conservatory compared to others, but as our students mature, we're going to see more of them move onto Broadway, into TV and even into the movies," he predicted.

Heartfelt Reflections FROM ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



In honor of its 60th anniversary, Roosevelt University invited alumni and friends to write recollections of their Roosevelt experiences in a publication called a “festschrift.”

Approximately 150 people responded, 90 more than anticipated, and the end result is a 225-page history of the University written through the eyes of its students, faculty and staff.

“Normally festschrifts are published as a tribute to an academic colleague,” said Charles Hamilton (BA, ‘51), the Wallace Sayre professor of government emeritus at Columbia University, who conceived the project. “To the best of my knowledge, this is the first festschrift ever published to honor an academic institution.”

“I left Roosevelt College with a love for children and a desire to teach. I continue to do so to this day. After all, I am only seventy-six years young.” **ETHEL HAMBURGER (BA, ’49)**

“Memories of the First 60 Years: A Festschrift in Honor of Roosevelt University” debuted during the University’s annual Alumni Weekend festivities in late April. It contains photos and essays written on all aspects of the University, including its remarkable founding in 1945.

Hamilton, a member of Roosevelt’s Board of Trustees, came up with the idea for a festschrift while walking through Chicago’s Grant Park on his way to a meeting at the University.

“I was strolling through this gorgeous park and got to thinking, what could I contribute to help celebrate the 60th birthday of this school?” he recalled. “It came to me almost like ‘Eureka!’ Why not have a festschrift?”

Hamilton brought the idea to University President Chuck Middleton, who enthusiastically supported it.

FESTSCHRIFT HONORS ROOSEVELT'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

BY LISA ENCARNACION



"My initial thought, after first educating people as to what a festchrift is, was to include accounts from 60 people, no more than 800 words a piece," Hamilton said with a smile. "We'd do some editing, staple the pages together and present it as a festchrift to the institution. Now, two and a half years later, there are obviously more than 60 stapled pages."

Response to the festchrift solicitation far exceeded expectations with contributions submitted by former employees as well as alumni.

"It soon became very clear that an awful lot of people were going to respond," said Hamilton, who consulted Middleton and both agreed to print the submissions in a coffee table-style book.

"Roosevelt University is a great university where no student is left behind. My years at Roosevelt were marked with quality teaching and learning. I will never forget thee." **COMFORT OKPALA (BSBA, '81)**

"There went the staple machine," Hamilton said chuckling.

Kimberly Gosell, assistant vice president for development at the University, became the project manager for what became a huge, extremely challenging endeavor.

"Once we received all of the submissions, the authors had to be contacted," Gosell said. "As a book chronicling the University's 60-year history through the eyes of its students, we thought it was also important to include information about the students after they left Roosevelt. Many of them, it turns out, have had very successful careers."

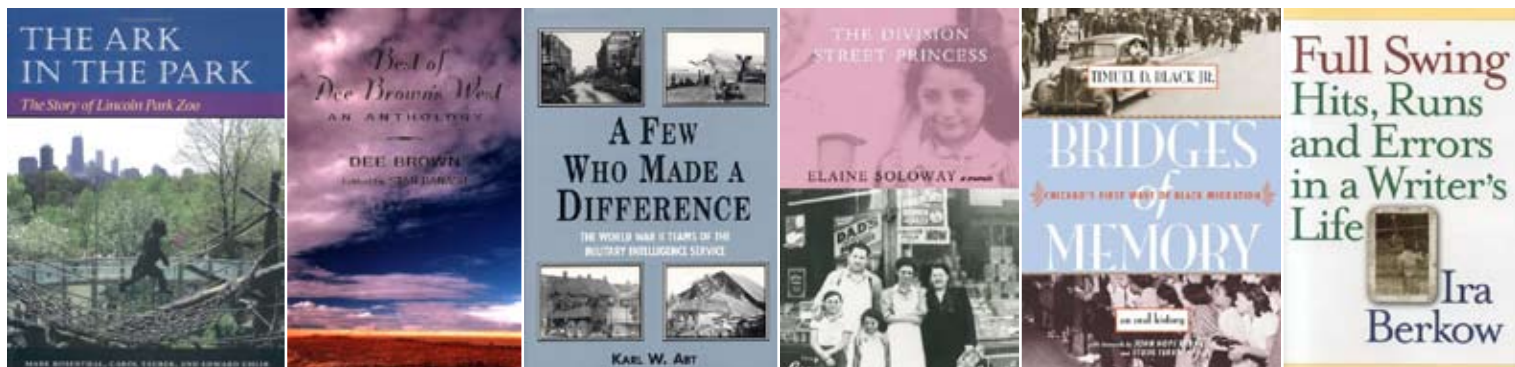
ABOVE: Charles Hamilton (BA, '51) unveils the cover of the festchrift. Sylvia Tesler shares a laugh with husband Lester (BA, '51) as they peruse the festchrift for the first time at its debut during the Alumni Weekend event.

"At Roosevelt, there existed an oasis of diversity and robust debates — and the college became known as a place where everyone had equal access to education." **PAUL H. SILVERMAN (BS, '49)**

READING, WRITING, AND REMINISCING

Authors Forum, April 28, 2006

BY LAURA JANOTA



They came from all over the country during Roosevelt University's recent alumni weekend celebration to promote books on everything from money management to pop psychology.

And it's fair to say from the excitement that was in the air that the Roosevelt University Alumni Association's first-ever Authors Forum in April was meaningful for those who participated.

"When I entered the (Auditorium) building and came in through the lobby, it brought back a lot of memories," said Stan Banash (MA, '72), a Western historian and editor of two anthologies, *Best of Dee Brown's West (An Anthology)* and *Dee Brown's Civil War Anthology*.

Banash, who became a friend to Brown, the celebrated author of *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, hadn't been back to the University since he received his master's degree in urban studies more than 30 years ago.

However, like many of those who attended the forum, he still had fond memories of the institution that helped shape him.

"What I obtained from the University was a keen insight into the real world," said Banash. "Roosevelt opened me up to being a sponge for new ideas and thoughts."

In all, nearly 40 accomplished writers attended the forum held in Congress Lounge, and the majority of those writers were alumni.

"I think it's really important for the University to be holding this kind of forum because it encourages students and shows them that you can have a dream and see it realized," said Gayle Hutchinson (BGS, '03), the author of *Some Final Pieces*; *Some Easy Pieces*; *A Love Puzzle*.

Hutchinson had only one copy left of her book about her 30-year love affair with a soul mate,

also a Roosevelt graduate whose name remains anonymous in the book.

"Everyone expects a professor to write a book, but very few people get to meet a university's alumni who have published books," added Hutchinson.

The forum, which featured books by both alumni and Roosevelt University faculty members and staff (see complete listing that follows), included a collection of different genres and topics.

For instance, Leslie Baldacci (MA, '01), who left the *Chicago Sun Times* to earn her master's degree and become a Chicago Public School teacher, displayed a copy of her investigative but personal experience book, *Inside Mrs. B's Classroom, Courage, Hope and Learning on Chicago's South Side*.

"I have always been so proud to have gone to Roosevelt University and to have shared the philosophy of truly living the principles of social justice," said Baldacci, who recently returned to the *Chicago Sun Times*.

Other alumni who attended the forum included Lisa Frye (BSBA, '87), the author of *Be Good to Your Money and Your Money Will Be Good to You*, a book she wrote to help others avoid her own mistakes.

Frye, who had 15 maxed-out credit cards and was close to \$100,000 in debt when she left Roosevelt, now lives in Las Vegas, and has financial freedom thanks to getting herself out of debt.

"I can't believe how nice the building looks. It's amazing all of the changes that have taken place here," she said.

The forum, which was the kick-off event to alumni weekend, flew by quickly. However, participants enjoyed reminiscing about the

ABOVE: Books of all genres and topics, written exclusively by Roosevelt alumni and faculty members, were on display at the University's first Authors Forum.



University that was there for them when they needed it most.

"Before I came to America in 1962, I wrote many universities asking them to let me come and study. Most of them told me, 'We'll see when you get here,' but one letter asked me to send my records—it was from Roosevelt University," said Nicholas Kokonis (BA, '65; MA, '67), the author of the novel, *Arcadia, My Arcadia*, a story of a boy from Greece who emigrates to pursue the American dream.

"If it hadn't been for Roosevelt, I might still be in Greece," added Kokonis, who has had offers to turn *Arcadia, My Arcadia* into a movie screenplay.

By the time the forum ended, one thing was certain: It was enjoyable meeting other writers and alumni.

"I've just had a lot of fun—a real good time," said Marvin Martin (BA, '51), a long-time editor who is the author of *Extraordinary People in Jazz*, *Arthur Ashe: Of Tennis & the Human Spirit* and *The Beatles: The Music Was Never the Same*.

"I've made a lot of new friends here today," added Martin, who also wrote for the festschrift and the University's literary magazine back in 1951.

Indeed, Debi Kennedy (MA, '96), the author of the children's book *The Angry Monster*, enjoyed sitting next to and chatting so much with Hutchinson that she purchased her last remaining book.

"I think the forum is a wonderful idea, and I hope the University will have one again in the near future," said Kennedy.



AT LEFT: The Authors Forum was one of the best attended events held during Alumni Weekend this past April.

THANK YOU

to all of the talented authors who made the **Authors Forum** such a great event.

ALUMNI AUTHORS

Karl Abt (MC, '83)

A Few Who Made A Difference

a Leslie Baldacci (MA, '01)

Inside Mrs. B's Classroom, Courage, Hope and Learning on Chicago's South Side

b Stan Banash (MA, '72)

Editor, *Best of Dee Brown's West (An Anthology)*;
Editor, *Dee Brown's Civil War Anthology*

Ira Berkow ('59)

Full Swing (Hits, Runs & Errors in a Writer's Life)

Timuel Black (BA, '50)

Bridges of Memory: Chicago's First Wave of Black Migration

Elizabeth Jones Davis (BA, '81)

Mr. Elahammer's Is Taking Over Granddad Sarah

Davis Elias (BA, '57)

Recalling Longview: An Account of the Longview, Texas Riot, July 11, 1919

Lisa Frye (BSBA, '87)

Be Good To Your Money and Your Money Will Be Good To You

Jack W. Hansen (MM, '52)

The Sibyl Sanderson Story, Requiem for a Diva

c Gayle Hutchinson (BGS, '04) (pictured right)

Some Final Pieces; Some Easy Pieces, A Love Puzzle

c Debi Kennedy (MA, '96) (pictured left)

The Angry Monster

Nicholas Kokonis (BA, '65; MA, '67)

Arcadia, My Arcadia

George Kyros (BS, '68)

Living My Dream

d Marvin Martin (BA, '51)

Extraordinary People in Jazz; Arthur Ashe: Of Tennis & the Human Spirit; The Beatles: The Music Was Never the Same

Shannon Plate (BGS, '01)

Degunking Your Personal Finances

e Leticia Ransom (MBA, '95)

LinkAge; Ageless Pain

Pamela T. Rice (BA, '77)

101 Reasons Why I'm A Vegetarian

Michael Rosenbaum (MBA, '79)

The Governance Game; Board Perspectives: Building Value Through Investor Relations

Elaine Soloway (BA, '60)

The Division Street Princess

Carol Tauber (BGS, '79)

The Ark in the Park, The Story of Lincoln Park Zoo

Sidney Weiskirch (BC, '51)

Furnigore Runs for President

Sherry Williams (MY, '92)

When Cancer Calls

Edward Nilges (BA, '73)

Build Your Own .Net Language and Compiler

FACULTY AUTHORS

Michael Bryson, associate professor of humanities—*Visions of the Land: Science, Literature and the American Environment from the Era of Exploration to the Age of Ecology*

Chris J. Chulos, director of foundation relations and adjunct professor—*Converging Worlds: Religions and Community in Peasant Russia, 1861-1917*

Hilve Firek, assistant professor of secondary education—*Ten Easy Ways to Use Technology in the English Classroom*

Paul M. Green, Arthur Rubloff professor of policy studies—*The Mayors: The Chicago Political Tradition*, 3rd ed.

Daniel Headrick, professor of social science and history—*When Information Came of Age*

Douglas Knerr, associate professor of social studies—*Suburban Steel: The Magnificent Failure of the Lustron Corporation, 1945-1951*

Mary Anne Mohanraj, assistant professor of English—*Bodies in Motion*

Christopher Reed (BA, '63; MA, '68), professor of history—*Black Chicago's First Century, Vol. 1, 1833-1900*

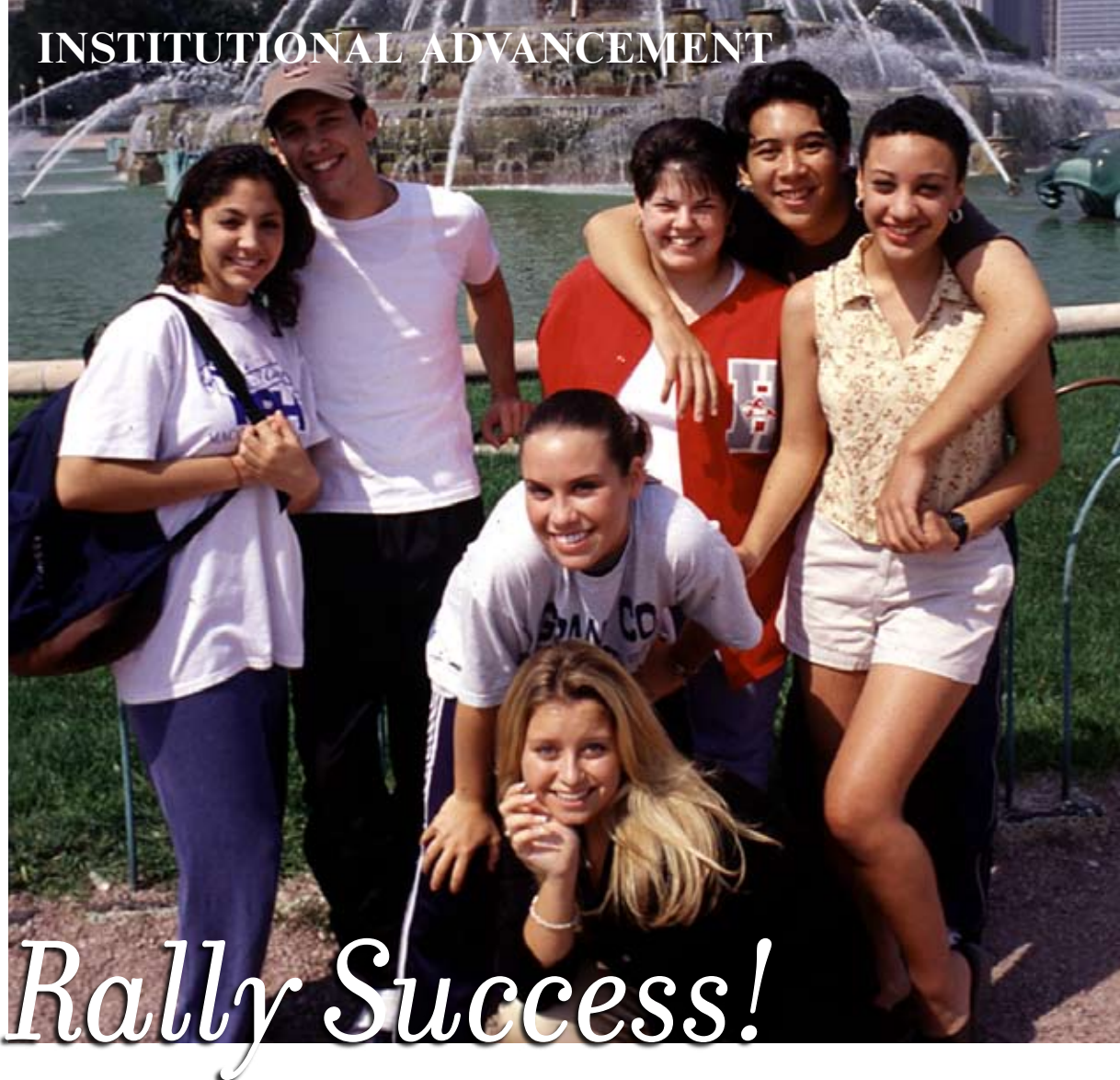
Arnold Reichler (MA, '74; MPH, '75), director of external studies—*Souldade: Poems for and about Brazil*

Jonathan Smith, professor of psychology—*Relaxation, Meditation and Mindfulness: A Mental Health Practitioner's Guide to New and Traditional Approaches; GOD SPEAKS! The Flying Spaghetti Monster in His Own Words; Stress Management Today*

Gary Wolfe, professor of humanities and English—*Soundings: Reviews 1992-1996; Harlan Ellison: The Edge of Forever*

Janet Wondra, associate professor of English and film studies, and Jim McCarthy—*Oyez Review*





HELP ROOSEVELT STUDENTS BECOME SUCCESSFUL LEADERS LIKE YOU

Your gift to Roosevelt University's *Rally Success* campaign will have a positive impact on the entire student body by providing for the University's greatest needs, including student scholarships, technology upgrades, current operating costs, faculty development, library resources and much more for our students.

We encourage all alumni to make a difference in the lives of students by making a gift to the Annual Fund. Participation is the key, no matter which giving level you choose.

Roosevelt's fiscal year runs from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31 each year.



DO YOUR PART: www.roosevelt.edu/giving

If you have already made your gift, please accept our heartfelt thanks.
If you have not yet given this fiscal year, please do so today!

A PORTAL TO THE FUTURE

Roosevelt Receives Grants for Technology and Lighting



Illinois Clean Energy
community foundation

Roosevelt University has been awarded a \$1.2 million grant through its membership with CampusEAI Consortium to enhance the University's online services through a new intranet portal. The new intranet portal will make it possible for students, faculty and staff to access instantly key learning and teaching resources, student services, the Internet and many other campus resources, 24/7, through a centralized web page and a "single sign on."

The grant is part of a complete package that includes software, hardware, installation, configuration, training, upgrades and many other services associated with implementation of the leading intranet portal.

"The CampusEAI Oracle portal is a campus-wide technology solution, which over time will reduce costs, expand educational resources, and make it easier for members of the University community to access online services," said Brad Reese, vice president for technology and chief information officer at Roosevelt.

The University also is the recipient of a \$108,000 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) for energy efficient upgrades to the indoor lighting systems in the University's Auditorium Building. This grant makes it possible to complete a lighting upgrade project which began in 2004 with a grant of \$18,100 from ICECF.

"We believe upgrading our lighting will help us improve electricity efficiency and will provide us with a better quality of lighting throughout the Auditorium Building," said Paul Reis, associate vice president for campus planning and operations.

The project will focus on replacing lights that are 25 years or older, and the improvements in the University's facilities will enhance the lighting quality, saving an estimated \$83,000 annually in energy and labor costs while improving the environment.

MEET THE INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT DREAM TEAM!

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MICHI PENA (MBA, '78)

President of the Roosevelt
University Alumni Association

A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Alumni Weekend 2006 was a success, with more than 200 alumni returning to the Auditorium Building in Chicago and the Schaumburg Campus. These alums had an opportunity to take part in 26 events. Many were able to visit the Schaumburg Campus on Friday afternoon, and also enjoy the Auditorium Building and Chicago-based activities on Friday evening and Saturday. I hope you were among those who reconnected with your alma mater.

One of the many events that took place over this special weekend was the first annual meeting of the newly organized Alumni Association Alumni Council. This dynamic group of alumni volunteer leaders is moving forward with plans for the 2006-07 council year. Plans include educational events, an improved communications system for the general alumni population as well as among council committees and additional alumni benefits, including an alumni travel program.

The Alumni Council endeavors to improve the Roosevelt connection for all alumni. If you are interested in joining this leadership group and strengthening the Alumni Association, please consider the options below, then contact the Office of Alumni Relations, (312) 341-3624.

- Benefits Committee
- Circle of Giving Committee
- Communications Committee
- Community Outreach Committee
- Educational Events Committee

- Recruitment Committee
- Student-Alumni Relations Committee

Or consider serving on one of these alumni chapters:

- Chicago
- Chicago—Northwest Suburbs
- Chicago—South Suburbs
- Los Angeles
- South Florida
- New York City
- Palm Beach
- Phoenix
- Tucson
- Washington, D.C.
- Peoples Energy Corporate Chapter (Chicago)

Whether you serve on an Alumni Council committee, participate in your local alumni chapter or attend University events, you are supporting the Alumni Association and your fellow alumni.

We look forward to seeing you!

Michi Pena



where? **RU** BY BEATRICE A. FRANCIS

1970s

QRS Music Technologies, a leading designer, manufacturer and distributor of pianos, piano accessories and piano-based audio and multimedia products, recently appointed **Kenneth J. Clark** (BSBA, '72) as director of sales. Clark, who previously has held positions with Baldwin Piano and Organ and Digital Pianos, comes to QRS after serving as director of sales and national account manager with Marco Wood Products/Heartland Industries, Inc.

Luan Burman Rivera (MA, '77) was named president of the California School Board Association for 2005-2006. Rivera has been involved with schools since her two children, now adults, were in grade school, first as a classroom volunteer, then as a substitute teacher. She holds a multiple subject teaching certificate as well as English as a Second Language certificate and has taught in both Illinois and in California. She has been a member of the Ramona Unified School District Board of Trustees since 1994. Rivera has spent the past months meeting with representatives throughout the state of California and across the country pushing for more funding to help schools meet the mandates under No Child Left Behind.



William L. Foster, Jr. (MM, '78) has served as jazz piano instructor at Valparaiso University since 1979 and is featured on recordings with the Valparaiso Faculty Jazz Trio. He is also a professional musician who has performed both as a solo artist, with his own group, The Billy Foster Trio, and with jazz greats such as Art Farmer and Ernie

Watts. His latest jazz CD, *Portrait*, was released last year by Equistar Records. Foster taught music in the Gary public school system, retiring after 35 years.

1980s

Stanley L. Griggs (BA, '84) has worked in the Chicago Public School System for more than 20 years—first as a teacher, then assistant principal and now as principal at Chicago's Owen Scholastic Academy. Griggs, who earned a doctor of education degree in 2003, says "I can attribute all of my academic and professional success to the education I received at Roosevelt University."

Republic Companies Group, Inc. of Dallas, Texas, appointed **Frank Vaccaro** (BGS, '86) vice president of information services. The company, though licensed in 35 states, primarily provides personal and commercial property and casualty insurance to individuals and small-to-medium size businesses in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Louisiana. Prior to joining Republic, Vaccaro served as assistant vice president—business segment partner with CNA Insurance in Chicago, and before that held the position of vice president and chief information officer with Kemper Insurance.

Amanda Deisch (BA, '88) currently serves as program director for the Center for Working Families at the Abraham Lincoln Centre. Founded in 1905, the Abraham Lincoln Centre provides a variety of social, intellectual and cultural activities that focus on the needs of residents in the Greater Grand Boulevard community where the central office is located.

1990s

Mohammed Hanif Ghaniwala (BA, '88; MBA, '91) is currently chief executive officer for Expertek Cyber Solutions, Inc. The company, incorporated in Illinois in 2000, has an offshore development office in Karachi, Pakistan. Expertek designs,



ALUMNI NEWS

builds and maintains websites for businesses and develops software solutions. The company also ventured into business process outsourcing offering clients "call centre" services.



Mayor Richard Daley congratulates Nuria Fernandez (MBA, '90)

In March, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley named **Nuria Fernandez** (MBA, '90) as commissioner of the Department of Aviation. Fernandez, a civil engineer, who served as a senior vice president of the Major Projects Division of Earth Tech, an international engineering and construction firm, began her career with the Chicago Department of Public Works in 1983. She was eventually

named assistant director in the Office of Program Management for the O'Hare International Airport Development Program, overseeing the design and construction of all landside projects. In 1990, she was appointed senior vice president, development and construction, for the Chicago Transit Authority. She became special assistant in the Office of Budget and Programs for the U. S. Department of Transportation in 1993 and in 1994, was named assistant general manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Before joining Earth Tech, she spent four years with the Federal Transit Administration as deputy administrator and acting administrator of the agency that was responsible for awarding over \$5 billion in grants for bus and rail projects during her tenure.

William Corey Clark (BSBA, '94) is executive vice president with Lincoln Savings Bank, a commu-

nity bank based in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Clark, a 2005 graduate of the Graduate School of Banking in Boulder, Colo., serves on the executive board of the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce and various charitable boards in the area.

Don't Let Heaven Pass You By, the debut CD by **Tracy Smith Worth** (BA, '94) earned a Stellar Award nomination for best video. Worth is a recording artist with Serenity Entertainment, LLC. and a spokesperson for Habitat for Humanity, International Faith Works and Women Build programs.



Governor Rod Blagojevich and Hertha Ramirez (MA, '98)

Hertha Ramirez (MA, '98) was one of five teachers chosen as a recipient of the 2006 Kohl McCormick Early Childhood Teaching Award. Now in its eleventh year, the Kohl McCormick Awards Program, sponsored by the McCormick Tribune Foundation and the Dolores Kohl Education Foundation, is the first award to formally recognize innovative and dedicated teachers who

work with children from infancy through third grade. Ramirez teaches three to five year olds at the Belmont-Cragin Early Childhood Center on Chicago's west side. Recipients are inducted into the Kohl McCormick Academy of Outstanding Educators, receive a \$5,000 cash award, a graduate level course at Chicago's Erikson Institute, and a day of professional development from the Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago and the Kohl McCormick StoryBus Institute. A \$1,000 cash award is given to each recipient's school



where *continued*

along with hands-on-learning in early literacy from the Kohl McCormick StoryBus.

2000s



He's taught in the Chicago Public School system, has served on the Chicago police force and played pro football. He's served as host of a local Chicago television show, has been a model, and is currently acting in as well as producing films. **Simeon Henderson** (MA, '02) has done it all. Since beginning his acting career, he's appeared

on television in the Fox show *Prison Break*, had featured roles in the films *Even Trade* and *Comatose*. His next film, *Vacant*, will premiere at the 2006 Chicago Black Harvest Film Festival. Henderson says he lives by Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Ivy Krystal Jones (MS, '03) received a second master's degree in physics with a concentration in optics from Hampton University on May 14, 2006.

Nicole Berry (MSICM, '03) is employed as a marketing specialists with Follett Higher Education Group in Oak Brook, Ill. Berry, who has been with Follett's for just over three years, is responsible for advertising and marketing for 250 college bookstores in the southeast region of the United States.

Topin & Associates, a Chicago based medical marketing communication company, recently announced the appointment of **Sadie Bjornstad** (MBA, '04) as an account executive. Bjornstad will be working on accounts related to bioPharma

solutions, medication delivery and transfusion therapies for Baxter Healthcare Corporation.

Danon Dastugue (MA, '05) participated in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teachers Program during fall of 2005. Dastugue, who teaches drama at Destrehan High School in St. Charles Parish, La., was selected to travel to Tokyo as part of the intercultural program. The Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teachers Program was established in 1997 commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Fulbright Program, in appreciation for that program and to help foster understanding of the Japanese educational system. In order to qualify as a participant, teachers must agree to implement a follow-up plan and to remain active in the field of education as a primary or secondary teacher/administrator for at least two to three years so they can share their experiences with others in the education field.

The College of Arts & Sciences celebrates the founding of its advisory board. **Joan Stuart** (BA, '80) was appointed chair and **Troy Ratliff** (BA, '73; MPA, '80) vice chair. Alumni members of the Board: **Erwin Acox** (BA, '96; MA, '98); **Peri Arnold**, PhD. (BA, '64); **Katherine Boho** (BA, '77); **Lena Dobbs-Johnson** (MPA, '81); **Sylvia Flanagan** (MJ, '86); **Joseph Kovach**, PsyD., (MA, '74); **Duwayne Leblanc** (BA, '60); **Joseph Loundy** (BA, '66); **LeRoy Martin** (BA, '72; MPA '76); **Melissa Niksic** ('04); **Susan Rubnitz** (BGS, '76); **Bruce J. Young** (BA, '63). Faculty representatives are Michael Ens Dorf, associate professor of communications and associate dean; and Bruce Kraig, professor emeritus of history. Student representatives are Sarah Bigley and Matt Gebhardt. Ex-officio members are: **Lois Backas** (MA, '96), assistant dean; Thomas Minar, vice president for Institutional Advancement; Priscilla Perkins, associate professor of english and associate dean; Lynn Weiner, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and Joan White, director of development for the College of Arts and Sciences.



FEB, 7, 2006

SAN DIEGO ALUMNI EVENT

Alumni in San Diego, Calif., had a triple treat at an event featuring arts and sciences Dean Lynn Weiner, performing arts Dean James Gandre and business administration Dean Gordon Patzer. While visiting southern California, the deans enjoyed connecting with alumni from the classes of 1945 to the present.

MARCH 7 AND 9, 2006

SCOTTSDALE AND TUCSON ALUMNI EVENTS

The Arizona Alumni Chapter had another series of successful events with alumni in the Scottsdale/Phoenix area and Tucson area last spring. Alumni and friends gathered for an evening cocktail reception, conversation and camaraderie.

MARCH 9, 2006

2ND ANNUAL SPRING FLING YOUNG ALUMNI EVENT

The sold-out reception was great fun and raised money for Roosevelt University! More than 200 young alumni and students gathered at Exchequer Pub in the South Loop for pizza and beverages. With the admission price, attendees had the opportunity to vote where the proceeds of the event would go. For the second year in a row, student scholarships was the choice.

MARCH 24, 2006

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN ALUMNI CHAPTER EVENT

1 Student Tina Gallos and Soh Tanaka (BA, '00) attended the Northwest Suburban Alumni Chapter at Prairie Rock Brewery event. This networking event was a great opportunity to meet new people and get ready for the weekend.

APRIL 17, 2006

SOUTH SUBURBAN ALUMNI CHAPTER EVENT

2 Robin Jesk (BSBA, '71) and wife, Joanne, enjoyed the South Suburban Alumni Chapter reception prior to the Chicago College of Performing Arts Symphony Orchestra and Chorus Concert. **3** William and Greta Vinzant (MA, '65) enjoy dessert and coffee prior to the *Verdi Requiem*. It featured Jane Glover, guest conductor; faculty member Jonita Lattimore, soprano; faculty member Tracy Watson, mezzo-soprano; Roy Smith, tenor; and faculty member Samuel Ramey, bass-baritone and was a treat for alumni of the south suburbs.

ALUMNI CHAPTER EVENTS





26 ²days
events
a lifetime of memories



TOP LEFT: Frances Clark (BA, '59), Kimberly Gosell, assistant vice president for development, and Laura Norris (BGS, '94) pause during their post-lunch conversation.



TOP RIGHT: Michi Pena (MBA, '78), awardee Hermene Hartman (BA, '70; MA, '74; MPH, '74) and President Chuck Middleton.

MIDDLE LEFT: A tour of super-store IKEA led by Samantha Gravina (MBA, '04), Ikea's director of public relations.

MIDDLE RIGHT: A behind-the-scenes tour of the Field Museum's Man-Eaters (lions) of Tsavo with Julian C. Kerbis-Peterhans, associate professor of natural sciences.

BOTTOM: Golden Alumni honorees and medallion recipients pictured here (back row, from left) Jerry Field (BS, '54), Michael Shatz (BM, '50), Lois Kahan (BA, '52), Norma Olmos (BA, '51), Inra Antens (BS, '56), Robert Birdsong (BS, '56), William J. Wolfe (BA, '53) (front row, from left) Ralph Golden (BS, '47), Christos Euthimiou (BA, '49) and William Steinfeld (BC, '50).





A TIME FOR FAMILY...ROOSEVELT FAMILY. One weekend each year, alumni from across the globe come together to celebrate their common bond—Roosevelt University. Over the course of two days, and throughout dozens of events, they not only recount stories and share memories, they make new memories and forge new friendships. This year's alumni weekend, held April 28-29, was all that and more to the hundreds who gathered to partake in the festivities honoring their accomplishments and their alma mater.



TOP: Among the authors who participated in a book signing during Alumni Weekend were, from left, Antoine Elias (BA, '59); Michael Bryson, associate professor of humanities; Sarah Elias (BA, '57); and Hilve Firek, assistant professor of secondary education.



MIDDLE LEFT: President Chuck Middleton spoke with alumna, author and cancer survivor Sherry B. Williams (MA, '92) about her book, *When Cancer Calls*.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Priscilla and Robert Jablon (MA, '68) joined the group for the bus ride to the theatre.



BOTTOM LEFT: Ralph Golden (BS, '47) looks on proudly as President Chuck Middleton reflects on the rich history of the Auditorium Building. Golden then presented Middleton with an original key to the Auditorium Hotel that he's possessed since his time as a student.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Author Leticia B. Ransom (MBA, '95) and her mother Frances Ransom-West (BGS, '75; MPA, '78) chat with Christine McCray (BA, '51) and husband Ned McCray (BA, '53) about the release of Leticia's new book, *Ageless Pain*.



26 ²days
events
a lifetime of memories



TOP: Alums had the opportunity to see and tour the largely electronic McCormick-Tribune Foundation Library at the Schaumburg Campus.

MIDDLE LEFT: President Chuck Middleton and awardee William J. Wolfe (BA, '53).

MIDDLE RIGHT: Antonia Potenza, vice president and dean of the Schaumburg Campus, leads a group around the campus.

BOTTOM: A group of alums enjoyed the Chicago College of Performing Arts production of *Two Gentlemen of Verona*.





DON'T MISS ALUMNI WEEKEND 2007 — APRIL 27 AND 28. SEE YOU THERE!



TOP: Alums enjoyed a tour of the the Lynfred Winery in Schaumburg and a tasting of some of its wines.

MIDDLE LEFT: University College Dean Laura Evans speaks with Jack Chotikul (BGS, '88) and spouse, Diane, about Chotikul's experiences at the former satellite campus in Hawaii.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Michi Pena (MBA, '78), awardee June McKoy (BS, '81) and President Middleton.

BOTTOM: The Schaumburg tour covered all aspects of the campus, including the science laboratories.

In Memoriam

The RU community is sad to report the deaths of the following alumni:

1930s

Kathleen Wagner Dewing (BA, '37)
of Petaluma, Calif., on Aug. 15, 2005

1940s

John A. Donaho (BA, '41)
of Timonium, Md., in March 2006

Lucy M. Galvin (MM, '42)
of St. Louis, Mo., on Jan. 17, 2006

Bertha Sobol (BA, '43)
of Forest Park, Ill., on July 6, 2005

Lenore Ruth Dumas Hartman (BA, '45)
of Evanston, Ill., on Jan. 1, 2006

Muriel Porter Mays (BA, '47)
of Chicago, on March 20, 2006

Joseph Arbus ('48)
of Chicago, Skokie and Northbrook, Ill., on Oct. 24, 2005

Jack W. Cates (BSC, '48)
of Avon, Conn., on March 22, 2006

Barbara Artz Mahan (BA, '48)
of Des Moines, Wash., on Aug. 21, 2005

Homer Hopps, Jr. ('49)
of Whittier, Calif., on Sept. 11, 2005

1950s

Robert W. Burke (BS, '50)
of Madison, Wis., on Jan. 24, 2006

Joel Carroll (BA, '50)
of Poway, Calif., on Dec. 11, 2005

Jack N. Friedman (BA, '50)
of New York and Palm Beach, Fla., on Aug. 11, 2005

Daniel Silverstein (BS, '50)
of Northbrook, Ill., on July 18, 2005

Arnold Zun (BSC, '50)
of Skokie, Ill., on Dec. 31, 2005

Myron S. Ellin (BA, '51)
of Morton Grove, Ill., on Nov. 4, 2006

Walter E. Lyman (BSC, '51)
of Ogden, Utah and Sun City, Ariz., on Dec. 3, 2005
Bernard I. Raskin (BS, '51)
of Milwaukee, Wis., on Jan. 23, 2004

Robert Baar (MM, '52)
of Herderson, Ky., in April, 2005

Janice Hankman Choll (BA, '53; MA, '60; MPA, '74)
of Chicago on May 6, 2006

Nicholas P. Bell (BSC, '55)
of Oak Brook, Ill., on Dec. 9, 2005

Eugene Johnson (BA, '55)
of Kosciusko, Miss., on Dec. 7, 2005

Maryanthe Korbakes (BA, '55)
of Grand Beach, Mich., in November 2005

Herbert L. Isaac (BSC, '56)
of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., on Dec. 7, 2005

Barbara Fishbein Taub (BA, '56)
of Boca Raton, Fla., on May 2, 2005

Ronald J. Rothman (BSC, '57)
of Norfolk, Va., on Nov. 10, 2005

Charles Kraut (BA, '59)
of Lincolnwood, Ill., on Dec. 12, 2005

John V. Phares (MA, '59)
of Battle Creek, Mich.

1960s

June Buendgen Snell (BSBA, '69)
of Chicago and Sun City, Ariz., on Jan. 18, 2005

1970s

Philip H. Kozlowski (MA, '70)
of Chesterton, Ind., on April 11, 2005

Rose Dulock Aguado (BA, '71)
of St. Charles, Ill., on July 2, 2005

Henry I. Thomas (BSBA, '72)
of Chicago on Nov. 24, 2005

David L. Kelly (BSBA, '73)
of Downers Grove, Ill., on Jan. 28, 2006

Edna B. Perry (MA, '73)
of Chicago on Feb. 12, 2006

David L. Zacks (BSBA, '73)
of Cathedral City, Calif., on Aug. 2, 2005

Kathleen T. Grzyb Brown (BS, '74)
of Augusta, Ga., on July 29, 2005

Patricia Dixson (MA, '74)
of Chicago on March 30, 2006

Martin I. Kaish (BSBA, '74)
of Chicago on Feb. 5, 2006

Levi M. Sturgies (BS, '76)
of Chicago on July 19, 2005

Shawn H. Underwood (BA, '77)
of Southfield, Mich., on Dec. 13, 2005

Pamela G. Dyson (MA, '78; MA, '86)
of Chicago on Feb. 4, 2006

1980s

Eugene Aquino (BSBA, '81)
of Chicago on Feb. 10, 2006

Deloris Gimpel McCoy (MBA, '81)
of Vernon Hills, Ill., on Nov. 26, 2005

Julio Caban, Jr. (BS, '83)
of Chicago on Nov. 19, 2005

John E. Hartl (MC, '85)
of Barrington, Ill., on July 3, 2005

SAVE THE DATES

FOR OUR UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

1990s

Michael T. Bynum (MA, '90)
of Chicago on March 20, 2006

Jennifer E. Conway (BA, '90)
of Chicago and Northbrook, Ill., on Dec. 13, 2005

Linda A. White (MK, '90)
of Chicago and Palm Beach Garden, Fla., on Dec. 2, 2005

William R. Sutherland, Sr. (MA, '91)
of Chicago on April 1, 2005

Martin Kappel (MF, '99)
of Indiana and New York on May 31, 2005

2000s

Alfreda A. Kissane (MA, '00)
of Surprise, Ariz., on April 6, 2006

Sherry Lee Parker (MA, '00)
of Prescott, Ariz., on April 28, 2006

Nastia Todorova (BSBA, '03)
of Arkadelphia, Ark., on Oct. 25, 2005

Kathleen M. Warble (MA, '05)
of LaGrange, Ill., on Nov. 21, 2005

FACULTY

Harry Nelson

Harry Gladstone Nelson, a biology professor at Roosevelt University for 38 years, died March 19 at his home in Evanston. He was 84.

Professor Emeritus Nelson was a colorful and engaging biologist who had great love for his students and the university. He was the father of Roosevelt employee Deborah Nelson and father-in-law of Steven Kvaal, associate professor of psychology.

Nelson also was a highly respected entomologist at the Field Museum where he amassed approximately 1.2 million specimens of aquatic beetles. He was best known for his collections of dryopoid beetles — probably the largest collection of them in the world.

During the O.J. Simpson trial, he was interviewed on the television program *A Current Affair* because he taught biology to the Los Angeles County coroner.

Frances Oxley

Economics Professor Emerita Frances Oxley died March 6 at the age of 84. She taught at Roosevelt from 1962 until her retirement in 1991.

A native of Canada, Oxley received a master's and doctoral degree from Indiana University. She chaired Roosevelt's economics department during the 1980s and rebuilt it after a wave of retirements and departures.

According to Gary Langer, associate professor of economics, Oxley enjoyed going to Arlington Park racetrack. "She thought that understanding the horses was kind of like understanding how the economy works," he said. "A certain amount of theory and a certain amount of luck."



PRESIDENT'S CLUB STEWARDSHIP EVENT

Thursday, Aug. 10, 2006

5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Contact: Kimberly Gosell

(847) 619-8280; kgosell@roosevelt.edu

SPIRIT OF CHICAGO BOAT CRUISE

Sunday, Aug. 20, 2006

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Navy Pier, Chicago

Contact: Bea Francis (BSBA, '82)

(312) 341-3624; bfrancis@roosevelt.edu

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DAY AT THE RACES

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2006

Noon to 5 p.m.

Arlington Park (Arlington Heights, Ill.)

Contact: Bea Francis

(312) 341-3624; bfrancis@roosevelt.edu

FALL PRESIDENT'S CLUB STEWARDSHIP EVENT

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2006

5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Contact: Kimberly Gosell

(847) 619-8280; kgosell@roosevelt.edu

FALL FIRESIDE CIRCLE STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON

Monday, Sept. 18, 2006

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Contact: David E. Pattee

(312) 341-6455; dpattee@roosevelt.edu

TORCHLIGHT GALA

Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006

Honoring the 10th Anniversary of the
Albert A. Robin Campus in Schaumburg

Contact: Kimberly Gosell

(847) 619-8280; kgosell@roosevelt.edu

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2007

Friday and Saturday

April 27-28, 2007

FROM LEFT: President Chuck Middleton exchanges stories with dinner guests aboard the *Spirit of Chicago*; excited alumni cross their fingers for a win, place or show at Day at the Races; all dressed up with somewhere to go—the Torchlight Gala, of course.