

ROOSEVELT

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

REVIEW SUMMER 2007



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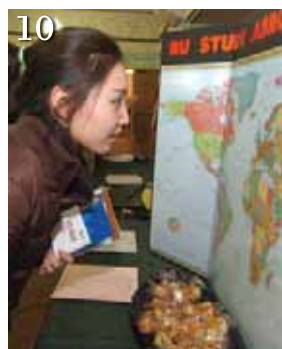
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Tom Karow: Editor
 Laura Janota: Associate Editor
 Lisa Encarnacion: Assistant Editor
 Patrick Lytle: Production Manager
 Carissa Gilbertson of Right Angle Studio: Design
 John McKeith, Steve Becker, Bruce Powell, Erich Schrempp, Photographers

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ON THE COVER



Roosevelt University has owned the magnificent Auditorium Theatre since it acquired the Auditorium Building in 1946. The theatre is an integral part of the University and the executive director is a member of the University's Executive Council. The story beginning on page 4 describes the important relationship between the theatre and University.

One of the perks of my job is that I sit on stage during Commencement and can observe the graduates up close as they joyfully walk across the stage of the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University to be congratulated by their college dean and President Chuck Middleton.

I never attended my own college graduation, but I now know what I missed. As the pictures on page 32 show, Roosevelt graduations are a wonderful mixture of ceremony and fun, and they are the ideal way to celebrate an important milestone in one's life.

All Roosevelt graduates have remarkable stories to tell about their years at the University — stories marked by hard work, stamina and achievement. It is no wonder that family and friends cheer for them loudly as their names are announced at Commencement. Here are just six of the many inspiring stories from the May 2007 graduating class.

- John Mravik broke his neck nine years ago and has been paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair since then. John showed everyone that there's nothing he couldn't do, including graduating with departmental honors in English. "I'm not handicapped," he said. "I'm severely inconvenienced."
- It's not very often that someone turns down a full ride to attend George Washington Law School, but that's what Roosevelt economics major Harry Epstein did. He chose

what he thought was an even better offer, an opportunity to attend law school this fall at Georgetown University.

- Matt Gebhardt, a four-year athlete in high school, was disappointed that Roosevelt didn't have an intercollegiate athletic program so the May graduate convinced Roosevelt administrators that the University needed a club baseball team. As the player/manager he did everything from organizing practices and games to ordering the Lakers' new uniforms.
- When Ashley Kehoe transferred to Roosevelt from the University of Wisconsin, she immediately became a leader in activities for students. Among other things, she helped organize a candlelight vigil for the victims of the shooting at Virginia Tech University. For her efforts she was honored as a Lincoln Laureate by the State of Illinois and selected as Roosevelt's Student Leader of the Year.
- A couple of years ago, Kayeromi Gomez, a native of Benin in West Africa, was walking past Roosevelt's Chicago Campus when one of the University's "Just Watch Me" advertisements caught his attention. Now he is a Roosevelt graduate with a degree in journalism and the recipient of a scholarship to attend the European Journalism Institute Summit in Prague this summer.
- Michael Ellison first started taking courses for his EdD eight years ago. In May, his perseverance was finally rewarded when he not only received his doctoral degree, but was named a dean of the new College of Pharmacy at Chicago State University.

If you have memories about a Roosevelt Commencement, I'd enjoy hearing from you. Feel free to email me at tkarow@roosevelt.edu.

Sincerely,



Tom Karow
Editor

We welcome your letters. Please send them to:

Editor, *Roosevelt Review*

Roosevelt University
430 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605

Letters may be shortened for space consideration.



Members of the Class of 2007 wait for their names to be announced.



Summer Thoughts on New Academic Spaces

BY PRESIDENT CHUCK MIDDLETON

The arrival of the summer session falls fast on the heels of spring Commencement. For many of the graduates who received their baccalaureate degrees, these celebratory events are quickly followed by the realization that for the first time

in as long as they can remember they will not be entering work for merely a few months before returning to class, but instead will be going out to find or return to jobs. The “real world” beckons.

Some, of course, will go on to pursue graduate, medical and legal degrees, which increasing numbers of Roosevelt's new alumni are doing. Some of their amazing stories will be the subject of future editions of *Roosevelt Review*.

The large number of graduates who receive master's degrees each year is impressive. Essentially equal in number to the baccalaureate degrees, Roosevelt master's degrees prepare people for success within a competitive workforce. Overall, private institutions in Illinois grant nearly 60 percent of all master's degrees given in the state, and we certainly do our share of that vital work.

Faculty, too, scatter. Some will return to teach a summer course, but most will take time to recharge their batteries by reading new books and scholarly articles that need to be incorporated into their classes. They will also nurture their scholarship and creative talents, thereby advancing their disciplines in important ways.

The fruits of this endeavor set university teachers apart from those whose sole responsibility is teaching. It is also one of the reasons why our faculty's teaching is reported in senior exit surveys as being one of the two or three most successful aspects of their experiences here.

The ensuing quiet that surrounds those who remain on campus allows time to ponder the future of the University and to prepare ways to engage that future successfully. For me, the summer is a time when it becomes possible to reflect both on our various initiatives and, more importantly, to make connections between and among them.

Near the top of my list of cogitations this summer is how we might better utilize our current campus spaces and build some badly needed new facilities to keep pace with the dynamic changes in teaching and scholarship that our faculty are introducing.

While it may have been true that in the past great leaders of the United States learned quite well by candlelight in poorly ventilated cabins in the woods, it is certain that without adequate and modern space, the quality of learning cannot attain all that it must for the current century.

Students also demand and deserve better space in which to gather and interact while they are pursuing all of the activities that are a key component of their success and satisfaction. Many needs can be met, of course, by clever renovation of our current buildings on Michigan Avenue. The Auditorium Building is truly a University treasure, but there are only so many things one can do to reengineer rooms that were designed for hotel patrons.

A single example of the challenge will suffice. Roosevelt does not have any large classrooms. I am not talking about the sorts of mass enrollment spaces of several hundred seats into which all public and many private universities cram students in introductory courses.

We will never need that sort of space. But we do require classes a bit bigger than the current inventory, which is mostly composed of rooms that hold 20 to 40 students. We need modern wired classrooms of 75 to 100, the absence of which currently has at least three significantly negative consequences for us.

First, it forces less than optimal scheduling of faculty teaching. In departments where the introductory course demand is over 40, we need to offer two sections where students hear identical lectures. If we had a larger room, one faculty member could do the work of two, thus freeing up the second to offer a smaller enrollment class for advanced students, thereby enriching the curriculum.

Second, the use of two classrooms for essentially the same purpose inconveniences our students. In my conversations with undergraduates on both campuses, one of their biggest frustrations is having to take at least one course in the evening because it isn't offered in the daytime or because the faculty member who teaches it is teaching his or her daytime class as the second section of a general education course.

Third, it drives additional cost into the instructional budget. Economies of scale, especially in high demand general education courses, enable universities to offer a richer curriculum without increasing tuition to do so. Roosevelt can do some of this by the use of adjunct faculty members who can add significantly to the quality of our programs in some areas. But, we could do more if we could better utilize the time of regular faculty members.

Naturally, we will not want to go too far down the path of offering some larger classes in order to address these challenges. But, we must go a little way if we are to succeed in keeping tuition increases down while enriching our academic programs in exciting new ways.

So, as I think about building new facilities, where others might see the exciting facades and internal niceties of the proposed buildings, I see mostly the beauty of high academic quality. Summer ruminations are great fun.



Roosevelt University's *Jewel*

BY LAURA JANOTA

AUDITORIUM THEATRE STAGING
PRODUCTIONS FOR ALL OF CHICAGO

The Auditorium Theatre opened as an “acoustically perfect” architectural masterpiece in 1889, presenting such international singers as Enrico Caruso and Adelina Patti, but closed in 1941 after the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chicago Civic Opera Company moved to new homes of their own.

Roosevelt University acquired the theatre in 1946 shortly after the USO had converted the theatre into a bowling alley during World War II. However, it did not return to its original state until the 1960s when Beatrice Spachner, a volunteer patron of the arts, spearheaded a fundraising drive to restore the theatre. It reopened to a capacity crowd in 1967.

During the 1980s, the Auditorium Theatre became the star of Chicago’s performing arts scene with blockbuster shows like *Les Miserables*, *Miss Saigon* and *Phantom of the Opera*. Those successes were followed by a legal dispute that affected its reputation during the 1990s.

Now, five years after the Illinois Supreme Court reaffirmed Roosevelt University’s ownership, the Auditorium Theatre is thriving again, reaching out to the region with new shows, programs and vision.

“I knew we had to rebuild the theatre’s reputation and standing,” said Mel Katten, senior vice chair of the Roosevelt University Board of Trustees who became chairman of the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University (ATRU), a 26-member board charged with overseeing the theatre.

“We needed to show that the theatre could still be relevant to the interests and needs of all kinds of communities in Chicago,” Katten said.

“And for the last five years, that’s largely what we’ve focused on,” he said.

Since then, significant partnerships have been forged with:

- Broadway in Chicago, which is bringing up to 10 weeks of Broadway performances each year to the theatre including recent shows like *Riverdance*, *The Light in the Piazza* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*.
- The Joffrey Ballet, which is making its home at the Auditorium Theatre and performs four times each season, including the *The Nutcracker*.
- JAM Productions, which is responsible for many recent sold-out rock concerts at the theatre featuring Bob Dylan, Radiohead, R.E.M. and Tool, to name just a few.

In June of 2004, the University and ATRU also brought on board a new executive director for the theatre. He is Brett Batterson, former manager of the Detroit Opera House and Michigan Opera Theatre.

As a member of the University’s Executive Council, Batterson has been charged with seeing to it that the University and the theatre, under one roof in a unique but single building, are working closely together.

“The first thing I did was to focus on the relationships between the University and the theatre,” said Batterson. “And, that meant finding ways for the University to be involved with the theatre more often.”

Thus, instead of filling the Auditorium Theatre just twice a year for commencement exercises, the University began sched-

uling other events, and has become a welcoming host to major events at the theatre. Among the highlights are:

- The Chicago College of Performing Arts began holding its annual *Vivid* concert in the theatre in 2005.
- Last fall’s free lecture by Judy Shepard was sponsored by the Office of the President at Roosevelt and attracted more than 600 people. Shepard is on a mission of erasing hate crimes worldwide, following her son Matthew’s tragic murder.
- The American Democracy Institute’s Midwest regional inaugural youth summit, designed to expand the number of young people engaged in a national conversation on democracy, featured an appearance in December 2005 by U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. Roosevelt President Chuck Middleton and the University’s Student Government Association President Bridget Jones took the stage with Clinton during the event.
- The University has started to use many theatre events as fundraising, networking and staff appreciation gatherings. A dinner with the President in the Sullivan Room is followed up with a grand performance of dance or Broadway in the theatre for University supporters, legislators and community leaders.

“My great-grandfather was Dankmar Adler, and therefore, my interest is in keeping the theatre alive,” said Edward S. Weil Jr., a member of the current ATRU board who has been involved with the theatre since Spachner personally solicited his help in the 1960s.

“I’ve stayed on for that reason,” said Weil of his great-grandfather, who designed the theatre with Louis Sullivan. “I have a lot of respect for the University,” he added. “And, Mel Katten and Brett Batterson are doing a fantastic job with the theatre.”

Indeed, all indicators support the belief that the theatre is on a track of success. For instance:

- In fiscal year 2004, which ended just as Batterson arrived, the theatre had a total of 83 ticketed events. By 2007, that number had nearly doubled to about 150 ticketed events.
- In fiscal year 2004, the theatre lost approximately \$240,000. A year later, it netted more than \$1 million and has shown positive operating results every year since.
- Also, in fiscal year 2004, the theatre raised a total of \$99,000 from donors in its annual fund drive. In fiscal year 2007, donors put nearly \$500,000 into theatre coffers.

“From a financial standpoint, the University’s taking over has been positive,” said the theatre’s Chief Financial Officer Margaret Walsh.

“We’ve been able to forge a partnership with the University that has enabled us to increase our net assets,” said Walsh, who estimates assets have increased by about \$1.3 million since 2002. “And, we’ve also been able to complete another \$1.5 million in restoration to the theatre,” she said.

Continued on next page

Opposite page: Roosevelt University’s Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Choir present their *Vivid* ’07 concert March 26 in the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University.



Continued from previous page

Much of the restoration work completed at the theatre during the last decade was made possible thanks to steps taken by the Auditorium Theatre Council, which secured \$14 million in state grants and gifts to redo the stage, dressing rooms, orchestra pit and other key areas of the theatre.

"We are thankful for all that was done to improve and protect the theatre," said Chuck Middleton, who took over as President of Roosevelt University just before the Illinois Supreme Court made its ruling.

"I am so pleased that we're moving forward so the theatre can be enjoyed by all," said Middleton.

One new program that is creating interest in the theatre and its future is Hands Together, Heart to Art, a summer camp for children who have experienced the death of a parent. Made possible by a major gift from the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust and also by gifts from the Leo Guthman Fund, Variety the Children's Charity, the Illinois Arts Council, the Fogelson Foundation and Roosevelt's summer session budget, the camp is the brainchild of Batterson, who lost his own father at age seven.

"It was the single most defining event of my life," said Batterson. "And, I got this idea that the performing arts could help children get through the kind of pain, grief and loss that I had once experienced."

Now three years old, Hands Together, Heart to Art has tripled in size — from about 30 children in 2005 to 90 children in 2007. The program has received much notice all over Chicago, as a mini-documentary was made about it that aired on WTTW Channel 11 in 2006. What's more, the Playhouse Square in Cleveland and the Fox Theatre in Atlanta are discussing the possibility of sponsoring the program in those cities in 2008.

"I believe that creating this camp and establishing other new education programs have helped us turn a corner," said Batterson. "It has shown the community that we're not just a theatre putting on a bunch of performances, but that we're actually trying to improve the quality of life in our community."

Because of the camp and other community outreach programs, he believes the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University is on its way to becoming a well-rounded, local cultural institution — much like the Field Museum, the Shedd Aquarium, the Goodman Theatre, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Ravinia Festival.

One of the main ways both the University and theatre are reaching out is through education. In fact, the theatre in 2006 hired its first education manager, Meriah Sage, who is charged with creating and building a series of initiatives for children, adults, college students, theatre subscribers, donors and others.

"We're out in the community doing programming that is not performance based," said Sage, who is currently working on bringing teachers from all over the nation to the theatre in summer 2008 for

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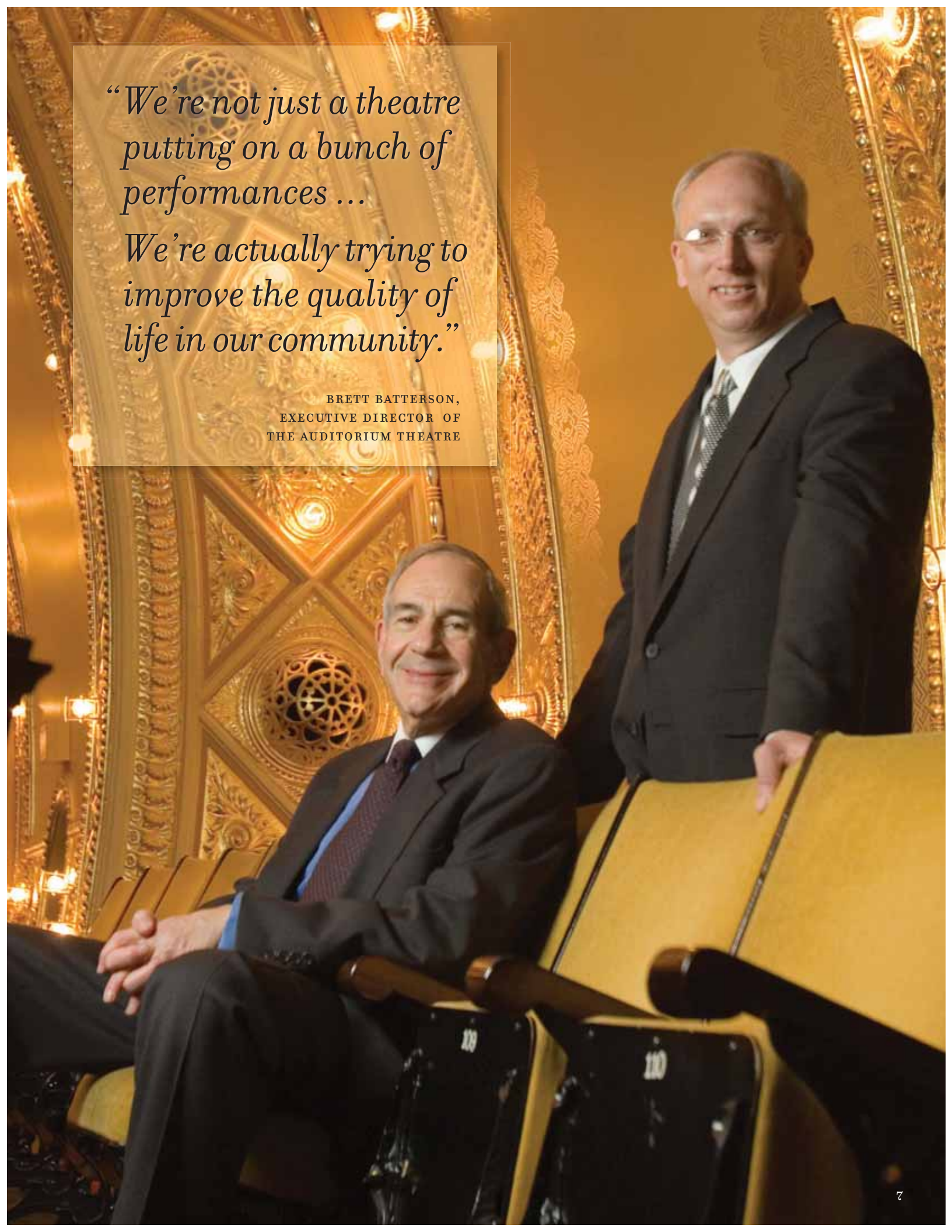
Left: Beatrice Spachner, a volunteer who worked tirelessly to reopen the Auditorium Theatre in 1967, is remembered with a sculpture displayed in the theatre's lobby.

Right: The Auditorium Theatre is in good hands with (seated) Mel Katten, a Roosevelt University trustee and chair of the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University board, and Brett Batterson, the theatre's executive director.

*“We’re not just a theatre
putting on a bunch of
performances ...*

*We’re actually trying to
improve the quality of
life in our community.”*

BRETT BATTEKSON,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE





The Auditorium Theatre is the home for the Joffrey Ballet, which performs four shows each season in the 3,700-seat facility.

Continued from previous page

a week-long professional development program called the Lincoln Center Institute National Educator Workshop.

"We are not only about presenting blockbuster shows. We are reaching out to different segments of the community, and I'm finding that people are pleasantly surprised that we have that kind of diverse programming," said Sage.

Other educational initiatives by the theatre include:

- Master classes in the Chicago Public Schools by the California-based dance company, Diavolo, which recently performed at the theatre.
- Fireside chats, sparked by intellectual discussions once hosted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in which a variety of topics have been covered by speakers for interested audiences. Boris Elfman, dancer, choreographer and founder of the world-famous Elfman Ballet of St. Petersburg, Russia, recently led a fireside chat at the theatre.
- A Summer Stage camp for children interested in performing was held over the summer at the Schaumburg Campus.

"There are many great things going on right now at the theatre," commented Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, a Roosevelt University trustee and granddaughter of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt who has been particularly impressed with the theatre's homegrown production of *Too Hot to Handel*, a jazz-gospel Messiah held in January in honor of Martin Luther King's birthday.

"It's more visible," Roosevelt said of the theatre. "It's more community focused and is attracting audiences that feel empowered with the idea that the theatre belongs to them."

In fact, Roosevelt, herself, recently felt a strong connection with the theatre as she listened one evening to National Public Radio, which was premiering Paul McCartney's new classical work, *Ecce Cor Meum*, an oratorio that translates to "Behold My Heart."

"I liked it a lot, and I thought, 'Wouldn't this be a great thing to bring to Chicago where no one's heard of it yet,'" said Roosevelt.

Passing the idea along to theatre officials, a premiere of the McCartney piece now is being planned to be held at the theatre next year. And, while nothing is etched in stone yet, McCartney has been invited to attend!

"The thing we have to keep in mind is that we're becoming more than just a theatre or building. We're becoming a cultural institution that is integral to improving the quality of life of many diverse peoples and groups in our community," said Batterson.

Indeed, when it comes to international diversity, the theatre has hosted a number of shows from around the world, including a recent show by India's Sonu Nigam and Russia's Kirov Ballet and the Bolshoi Ballet. There have been recent shows featuring Asian performers and Latino-oriented entertainment at the theatre as well.

The sky may be the limit these days for the architectural and acoustic jewel. Even though they are looking toward the future, the University and the theatre are honoring the past, which early on included the production of operas on stage at the theatre.

In fact, the search is on now for major donors to help ATRU produce the new American opera, *Margaret Garner*, in late 2008, and the hope in staging the new work about a runaway slave is to bring back to the theatre all the music, artistry, beauty and pageantry that used to be performed when operas were regularly staged at the Auditorium Theatre.

"We'd like to produce an opera that would be a significant event for Chicago today while also being a throwback to the old days of the theatre," said Batterson. "It's new, but it's historic, and that's what the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University is all about."

"We're getting calls for all kinds of events, by all kinds of groups," said Katten. "Everyone knows that the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University is doing well," he added. "And I think this is good news for the theatre and the University."

Handyman still loves theatre as his own after 40 years

BY LAURA JANOTA

For 40 years, Frank Romeo has lovingly called the Auditorium Theatre his home.

Romeo, who started work at the shuttered theatre in June of 1967, has patched floors, fixed marble steps, inspected the crawl space, hung doors and cleaned up the day after countless theatre performances.

"I've been taking care of this building for most of my life, seven days a week," said Romeo, who worked with the late Beatrice Spachner as she raised funds and prepared in 1967 to reopen the building that was closed for nearly 30 years.

"I know plumbing, I know electrical, I know how to fix anything in the building, and I've saved the theatre hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years," said Romeo, who has arrived each day at about 4:45 a.m. to handle miscellaneous maintenance at the 3,700-seat landmark.

The handyman's work was so needed and appreciated at the theatre early on that Spachner regularly came to Romeo when she needed help, and once convinced him not to quit when he had found another job opportunity.

"She told me, 'Frank, don't you dare quit' and I listened to her," said Romeo, who crosses his index and middle fingers to indicate how close the two once were.

"A lot of people thought she would never make it and reopen the theatre," added Romeo, who recalls Spachner working at the theatre regularly without pay, strictly as a volunteer. "But she did it. She had guts," he said.

On the job during hundreds of theatre rehearsals, Romeo has been up close to stars like Sammy Davis Jr. and Luciano Pavarotti. He also has seen several of Chicago's mayors and even a U.S. president.

And, of course, he's met the last three Roosevelt University presidents: Rolf Weil, Theodore Gross and Chuck Middleton.

"I have nothing against the school and nothing against the theatre," said Romeo, who tried his best to just mind his own business while a cloud of litigation and disputes hung over the theatre during the last decade.

"Now, things are going smooth," he said. "And I like what the President [Middleton] did: It was smart to change the name [to Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University] but to leave the theatre as it is."

As University and theatre officials gear up for a period of more activity at the theatre, however, Romeo, 73, is preparing to retire.

"I've been here long enough, and it's time to call it quits," he said, explaining his plans to do more gardening at his home in suburban Clarendon Hills and to take more trips to visit his brothers and other family members in Palermo, Sicily, where he emigrated from in 1961.

One thing he knows for sure as he makes his retirement plans is that the Auditorium Theatre will never die.

"I've been in the crawl space and all over the steel beams," he said. "You cannot tear it down. And even if an earthquake hit it, the building would still remain standing," he predicted.

The other thing he knows for sure is that the theatre will always be his favorite home.

"Of course I love the building," he said simply. "That's why I'm still here."

"A lot of people thought she would never make it and reopen the theatre. But she did it. She had guts."

—FRANK ROMEO, REFERRING TO BEATRICE SPACHNER, WHO RAISED ENOUGH FUNDS TO REOPEN THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE IN 1967



Frank Romeo arrives to work at 4:45 a.m. most days to handle miscellaneous maintenance at the Auditorium Theatre.



RU ENHANCES CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

BY LAURA JANOTA

When Nicholas Kokonis (BA, '65; MA, '67) finished high school with honors in 1962 in Arcadia, Greece, he desired a better life and college education in America.

On a teacher's advice, he wrote letters requesting admission to many U.S. universities, but only one institution sent a promising, handwritten response. He recalls it went something like this:

"Dear Mr. Kokonis," the letter from the late Robert Franklin, dean of foreign students at Roosevelt University, began. "If you prove to be as good a student as you have been in Greece, you will be eligible for a scholarship at Roosevelt University."

Much has evolved since then — notably, our global world and economy, our access to instantaneous communication and our expectation that the college experience will include a global perspective and opportunity for international study.

As Rubee Fuller, Roosevelt's director of international programs, notes: "At a time when boundaries between nations are coming down, it's vital to foster global connections and interactions."

Of late, Roosevelt has been doing just that, not much through handwritten correspondence anymore, but through partnerships and exchanges with higher education institutions in Australia, Brazil, China, England, Finland, Mexico, Russia, South Africa and other countries.

"Our culture is changing. Students are beginning to see international study, not only as a possibility, but as an asset," said Fuller.

That's what Kokonis — a clinical psychologist, college instructor and novelist — came to understand nearly four decades after leaving Greece as he began writing *Arcadia, My Arcadia*, an award-winning epic novel that is dedicated to ordinary people who have valiantly chased a dream and caught it abroad (www.myracadiabook.com).

"I had the story in me for years," said Kokonis of the partially autobiographical novel that begins with the young hero, Angelos, living in dusty poverty in Arcadia, and ends with him flying to America after receiving a letter and partial scholarship from Roosevelt University.

"But, I don't know if the book would have been written without the knowledge and experience I gained by coming to America," added Kokonis of *Arcadia, My Arcadia*, which recently won first prize from the International Society of Greek Writers and an award for outstanding labor and contribution in the field of literature from the Cultural Center of Athens, Greece.

In contrast, it's too early to tell how international study will affect the future for Jessica Lee, a Roosevelt public relations major who spent the fall 2006 semester at London Metropolitan University, one of the institutions that has an exchange agreement with Roosevelt.

Suffice it to say, she experienced new vistas, including an internship in London with famous Hollywood fashion designer Jenny Packham.

“The diversity at Roosevelt made me feel comfortable, and my years there were a blessing.” —NICHOLAS KOKONIS, (BA, '65; MA, '67)

“It was an awesome experience,” said Lee, who helped organize a press party and contacted media for the unveiling of a dress for the James Bond movie, *Casino Royale*. “I know it’s going to help me in my career.”

Likewise, international study has opened new channels for Laura Hertaeg, a music performance major and trumpet player from the University of Melbourne in Australia, another institution that has an agreement with Roosevelt.

“I chose Roosevelt because no one from my college had been here before,” said Hertaeg, who studies with Roosevelt instructor Mark Ridenour, assistant principal and third trumpet with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. “Not only has the experience raised my playing to a more professional level, it has taught me different ways of learning.”

During spring 2007, the University hosted students from 71 countries, with the largest nationality coming from Thailand (see related story), and followed by India, China, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Turkey, Canada, Bulgaria and Cyprus. In all, there were 317 foreign students enrolled in spring 2006.

The growth was due in part to a partnership between the University and the Beijing Municipal Statistical Bureau, which sent employees to Roosevelt in February to study through 2007 for master’s degrees in public administration.

“We want to learn the language and improve our speaking and writing skills,” said Willis Wu, section chief in charge of Beijing Municipal Statistical Bureau’s information department.

“Then we want to gain knowledge about public administration in America and to learn about American culture,” said Wu of the group whose members will intern with governments in the Chicago metropolitan area before returning to China.

Currently, there are more foreign students at Roosevelt than there are Roosevelt students studying abroad. Those choosing the traditional semester or year of study overseas are doing exciting things, nonetheless.

For instance, Carolyn Studney, sociology major, was the first Roosevelt student to spend a semester in spring 2007 studying at sea (see related story). Meanwhile, Adrian Dunn, a vocal performance major, will spend his fall 2007 semester at Sibelius Academy in Finland before graduating in December.

“I’m doing it for the cultural experience and because I want the opportunity to see how music is taught outside the United States,” said Dunn.

About 16 Roosevelt students spent time overseas during the 2006-07 year, and seven Roosevelt students were in Austria, Egypt, Italy, Mexico and the United Kingdom over the summer. However, larger numbers are expected to study abroad in

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Opposite: Education major Ara Cho, who is from South Korea, discovers many possibilities for study abroad during International Day, which was held in April at the Chicago Campus.

Above: College education has added so much to the life of Nicholas Kokonis (BA, '65; MA, '67) that he published a novel in which the main character, much like himself, left Greece to study at Roosevelt University.



Vocal performance major Adrian Dunn (pictured in mirror above) takes a singing lesson at Roosevelt, which he hopes will compare favorably to singing lessons he will start in the fall while studying abroad in Finland.

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the future as the University makes more convenient opportunities available.

“Many of our students have jobs and a family, and can’t afford to take a semester off,” said Fuller. “For these students, the best way to gain international experience will be to take a course that includes a short, faculty-led trip.”

In fact, Vicky McKinley, biology professor at Roosevelt, will lead a group of students to Belize for nine days from Dec. 28 through Jan. 5, 2008, to study tropical biology and Belize’s barrier reef. The course includes classroom sessions before trip departure and is expected to be a model for future similarly structured courses.

“My hope is to build to the point where we offer 10 to 15 of these kinds of courses every year,” said Fuller.

Indeed, Roosevelt faculty members are encouraged to consider global initiatives for the classroom and for research. For example:

- A committee led by Roberto Clemente, associate professor of counseling and human services, is committed to building relations with faraway higher education institutions so faculty research ideas can be exchanged.

One institution Roosevelt has partnered with is Herzen State Pedagogical University in St. Petersburg, Russia. Steve Meyers, professor of psychology at Roosevelt, went to the institution in May to present and hear research on best practices for effective faculty development. Also, a psychology conference for about 30 professors from Roosevelt and Herzen is tentatively planned for summer 2008.

“If we are to be involved in the international market, we need this kind of exchange,” said Clemente.

- A task force led by Karen Gersten, associate provost for academic programs and faculty development, has outlined core values — including one embracing multi-cultural perspectives — to be stressed in coursework.

“We need to commit to that kind of value so our students are exposed to international perspectives and issues,” she said.

Admitted to Roosevelt only after passing an English exam, Kokonis remembers being on campus with Greek, Jewish and African Americans.

A Time for Thailand

IMC Program Attracts International Student Audience

BY LAURA JANOTA

Anyamanee Mekrungrroj heard about Roosevelt University's integrated marketing communications (IMC) program from her sister, and Thanet Vichitkasemkij learned about it from friends.

They are among 29 students from Thailand who were enrolled during the spring 2007 semester in Roosevelt's graduate IMC program, and they are also part of a larger group of 41 Thai students, who make up the single largest group of foreign nationals taking courses at Roosevelt today.

While Thai students attend many American universities, on average they rank behind larger groups from countries like China, India, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Germany, Mexico and Canada, said Rubee Fuller, director of international programs at Roosevelt.

In this case, the majority of Roosevelt's Thai students have learned about Roosevelt and its IMC pro-

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A group of Thai students discusses experiences in Roosevelt's Integrated Marketing Communications program. Thai students make up the single largest group of foreign nationals studying at Roosevelt today.

Public relations major Jessica Lee reviews materials about fashion designer Jenny Packham, whom she helped promote during a recent internship and study abroad experience in London.

"The diversity at Roosevelt made me feel comfortable, and my years there were a blessing," said Kokonis, who met his wife and remained in Chicago to raise a family and become a citizen. Kokonis also earned a PhD in clinical psychology from Illinois Institute of Technology and was given the Outstanding Citizenship Award from the Chicago Citizenship Council in 1971.

Today, diversity of students, who hail from all over the world, is much broader, and the University's mission of making international study and foreign relations part of the college experience is more complex. As Ken Mihavics, chair of the Computer Science and Telecommunications Department, notes: "The world is becoming more global. It's a reality we can't ignore if our students are to compete and excel in the global marketplace."

While the importance of study abroad can't be overemphasized, what was true for an international student nearly 40 years ago still has relevance.

"I don't know if I would be here today if I hadn't received the letter," said Kokonis, while discussing his book in Roosevelt's Michigan Avenue lobby. "The experience changed my life for the better, and many times it seems as if I am living a dream."



Continued from previous page

gram from family, friends and colleagues in Thailand who either graduated themselves from the program, or knew a friend or friend of a friend who did.

The result is that the University's IMC program, with about 200 students, has an international flavor to it.

"It's been great to have an international element in the program because beyond these students, there aren't a lot of international students in IMC," said Linda Jones, associate professor of journalism and director of the Department of Communication.

Vichitkasemkij came to Roosevelt in 2005 to study a major he believes will grow increasingly popular in Thailand during the coming decade.

"It's good for my future to know this field," he said. "My professors are very good and are teaching me very different things than I learned in Thailand."

Mickey Brazeal, assistant professor of integrated marketing communications, said Thai students in Roosevelt's IMC program are on average more career focused than their American counterparts. Language skills, however, can be an obstacle, which is why many train in Roosevelt's English as a Second Language classes.

"It's good for my future to know this field. My professors are very good and are teaching me very different things than I learned in Thailand."

—THANET VICHITKASEMKIJ

"They interact a lot, they help each other a lot, and they often make decisions as a group in terms of classes they're going to take," said Brazeal. "They also are really motivated professionally and have an idea of where they're going when they leave here."

Mekrunroj, who wants to do magazine advertising and writing in Thailand after graduating from Roosevelt later this year, said she will pass on the good news about the IMC program upon returning home.

"If anyone asks me, and if they're interested in advertising in the magazine field, I will suggest they go to Roosevelt," said Mekrunroj, who believes one of the strong points of the University is its location in the heart of Chicago.



Email Messages from My Floating Campus: The MV Explorer

BY LAURA JANOTA

For the first time in the University's history, during the spring semester, a Roosevelt student took classes at sea.

She is 22-year-old Carolyn Studney, an undergraduate sociology major from Oak Park, Ill., and for 100 days beginning Feb. 4 in Nassau, Bahamas, and ending May 14 in San Diego, Calif., she took classes onboard the *MV Explorer* and visited many countries.

Below are excerpts from some of her emails.

February

"On the ship ... life is like a regular campus — we have classes daily; there is a library, computer lab, fitness center, two dining halls and more

"Classes are a bit different than courses offered at a typical university, as they are more culturally based ... I am taking ... Global Studies, Global Public Health, Health Promotion, Critical Issues of the 20th Century and HIV/AIDS in the World

"Our ship has...Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his wife aboard ... Tutu has lectured in classes and you can spot him around the ship ... He is a total riot and a really fun guy to have around"

March

"So far, we have visited Puerto Rico, Brazil, South Africa and Mauritius ... we will be arriving in India, and after that is Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, China, Japan, and Hawaii, before docking in San Diego



Sociology major Carolyn Studney takes time for some tourist sightseeing in Cambodia during her recent semester-at-sea study abroad experience.

"In Brazil, after going to Carnival, I spent several days living on a riverboat on the Amazon River ... We trekked through the jungle, learned survival skills, met local Amazonian villagers, and fished for piranha (I caught three!).

"In South Africa, we took a flight from Cape Town to Durban, where we went on a three-day safari ... Back in Cape Town I visited the Desmond Tutu HIV center ... visited schools in the townships ... and worked on operation hunger"

April

"Greetings from incredible India! I sum the country up in the following words: vibrant, chaotic, suffering, brightly colored, exciting, historic, cultural and devoted ... We saw crazy things in places like Agra ... beggar kids everywhere ... a man with elephantitis of the feet, polio victims crawling on the ground, people squatting and going to the bathroom in public, people eating and picking through piles of trash ... but I also saw culture, kindness, curiosity, religious devotion and so much more"

Mid April

"Gooooood Morning, Vietnam! We had an amazing lunch at this incredible little restaurant and then went on a rickety old boat and sailed down the Mekong

"This email is hard for me to write ... This is because ... we ... went to ... the killing fields of the Khmer Rouge ... I had my head in my hands crying ... I lost faith in humanity. My heart broke ... for those who lost their lives to torture, hate and political madness

"Right now I am in Hong Kong ... we are leaving tomorrow morning for Beijing ... I will be eating Chinese food, chillin' on the Great Wall, mourning the death of students who sacrificed it all on Tiananmen Square, and exploring the Forbidden City."

May

"My entire life all I have wanted is to travel the world and visit exotic places. My parents were able to make this lifelong dream a reality for me, and I am exceptionally blessed to have been able to have this experience."



“All the world’s a stage...”

Reflections on Building The Theatre Conservatory

*Faculty Essay by Joel Fink,
professor of theatre, associate dean of
the Chicago College of Performing Arts
and director of The Theatre Conservatory*

For the past 11 years it has been my privilege and responsibility to lead what is now called The Theatre Conservatory in Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA) at Roosevelt University. For the past decade, Room 780 in the Auditorium Building has been my professional home.

During that time, Roosevelt University has seen enormous changes in all of its programs, facilities and personnel. Exciting new academic programs and institutes have been developed across the colleges. New and renovated facilities, new technology, and inspired new personnel have marked Roosevelt’s progression into the new century. In just 10 years, I have worked with four deans, three provosts and two presidents, (and I can’t resist adding “and a partridge in a pear tree!”).

The occasion of celebrating more than a decade of service to Roosevelt University is an opportunity for me to reflect back on what we have achieved together in The Theatre Conservatory as a faculty, students, staff and administration over the past 11 years. It is also an opportunity to look ahead toward the future and the next stages on our journey.

Yolanda Lyon Miller, my predecessor as head of the theatre program at Roosevelt — when theatre was still in the College of Arts and Sciences — spent many years, much energy and quite a few of her own dollars to make sure that the theatre stayed a vital, living art at Roosevelt. Without her vision and artistry there would have been no foundation on which to build when I arrived here. At that time, the administration of the University, under the leadership of then President Ted Gross, had committed to moving theatre from part of a liberal arts program to a focused professional conservatory setting. The formation of a separate college of performing arts, combining music and theatre, was in the planning stages when I was first interviewed here during the spring 1996 semester.

When the new college was launched in the autumn of that year, I was able to be a part of the creation of a vibrant new conservatory program in downtown Chicago. The Music Conservatory (then called Chicago Musical College), with its rich history, was already a mature and thriving set of programs. The Theatre Conservatory, however, was in many ways a “newborn,” and it was great to be here for the birth! With the arrival of Dean James Gandre in 2000, the name of our college changed to Chicago College of Performing Arts, and we have been growing in enrollments and in the quality of our academic and production programs at a steady and challenging rate ever since that time.

When I arrived at Roosevelt in the summer of 1996, I expected that it would take at least 10 years to build a new conservatory program and to graduate enough students working in the field to begin to make a significant mark in the professional worlds of both theatre and theatre training. With the addition of new faculty and staff, with renovated and expanded facilities, and with a concerted effort to “tell our story,” The Theatre Conservatory has emerged as a training program with national visibility and status, attracting gifted student actors and musical theatre artists.

The current university president, Chuck Middleton, continues to support CCPA strongly, and to recognize publicly and frequently the achievements of our students and faculty. Provost Pamela Trotman Reid has helped us continue to build the staff and resources essential to our sustained growth. As we look toward the future, I am confident that we are now poised for even greater achievements and recognition during the next decade.

One aspect of the training for students in The Theatre Conservatory that sets our programs apart from other theatre programs in the region is our emphasis on professional internships utilizing Chicago’s vibrant theatre community and, indeed, making the city and its many theatres an integral part of our “campus.” One of my primary goals over the last decade has been the creation of internship relationships with a number of Chicago theatres — both Actors’ Equity and smaller, non-union companies — in which our students can extend their training into the “real” profession.

One of the greatest assets of a program located in downtown Chicago is our close proximity to a wide range of professional theatres and theatre artists. As I write this, during the spring 2007 semester, our students are appearing on stages all over the metropolitan area, undertaking internships as part of their degree programs. This is a clear confirmation of the talent of our students, and of the craft and discipline they are learning from their teachers — themselves artists in the field. What better assessment tool could we have than the recognition of our students’ abilities by the profession itself?

Of course, our vision of impacting American theatre expands beyond Chicago and the Midwest. Alumni of The Theatre Conservatory now work in cities across the country, in media including theatre, film and television. In recent years our students have appeared on Broadway in productions such as *Rent*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Aida*, *The Woman in White*, *Mama Mia*, *Tarzan*, and *Beauty and the Beast*, among other hit shows.

As I predicted originally, it has taken about 10 years for our students and, through them, our program to begin to make a mark on our profession. I have gotten great satisfaction from the success of each of our students, but I have also spent the decade impatient for more and more, faster and faster.



“The training of actors who can transform craft into art is what we are all about in The Theatre Conservatory. Within the mission of Roosevelt University, we want to see a transformation that empowers our students to become artist-citizens of their communities, their countries and the world.”

From the day they begin to study and train in The Theatre Conservatory, our students are challenged to become visionary young artists as well as knowledgeable professionals. We want them to understand the demands of their art as well as the practicalities involved in developing careers as performers. Our faculty members are responsible for challenging our students with the twin objectives of becoming responsible for both the “show” and the “business.” It has been an enormous joy for me to work with our faculty and staff, comprising so many gifted artist-mentors, who have committed themselves to passing on their love of theatre and their understanding of the craft of acting to the next generations of actors.

The study of theatre and acting is often dismissed as “easy” or “fun.” The study of theatre, however, represents the study of an art

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Joel Fink, professor of Theatre, helps students learn the art of acting during a play rehearsal.

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that is both complex and collaborative. Within that field, the study of acting represents the study of the art of the actor, both as a process of creation and as an artistic product. The process of acting is a process of transformation, which will never, perhaps, be completely analyzed or understood. The product of the actor is at the heart of the theatrical event, and is an artistic, not a natural, process.

Without denying the existence and importance of inspiration and natural talent, in the context of actor training in our conservatory, the actor's artistic skills need to be identified with the greatest possible conceptual and linguistic clarity so that they can be taught, as craft, and so that acting as a profession can continue to evolve in this century as it did in the last. It is our faculty and staff artists who grapple with the many mentoring challenges this presents, day after day, year after year, working with our dedicated and talented students.

I think perhaps a short story might best illustrate my point about the elusive essence of the actor's art:

Once upon a time ... two young producers decided to do a production of *Hamlet*. They wanted to do the definitive production of Shakespeare's play and began to audition actors, looking for the ideal Hamlet. They saw hundreds of actors and not one was the consummate artist they were determined to find. Late one night as they were finishing another day of unsuccessful auditions, an old man stumbled into the back of the theatre and announced in a fragile voice that he wanted to audition for Hamlet. The young producers told him that the role of Polonius was already cast and attempted to dismiss the old man. He, however, would not go and furthermore insisted that he was there to audition for the role of Hamlet.

He shuffled down the aisle of the theatre and tottered up the steps onto the stage. He stepped into a spotlight and began, "To be or not to be ..." and an amazing thing occurred. Suddenly the two producers saw their ideal Hamlet. The actor's voice rang out through the theatre, and in front of their eyes was the young and tormented prince of Denmark. Finally, having performed all of Hamlet's soliloquies, the actor stopped, tottered down the steps and off the stage.

The two young producers were astounded. How could such a thing happen? They ran up to the old actor and said, "That was incredible ... tell us ... how did you do that?" The old actor looked at the two youngsters, shook his head sagely and said, "That's acting."

The training of actors who can transform craft into art is what we are all about in The Theatre Conservatory. Within the mission of Roosevelt University, we want to see a transformation that empowers our students to become artist-citizens of their communities, their countries and the world. At a very basic level, all theatre is political. We want our students to recognize the privileges and the responsibilities that come with realizing that as Shakespeare wrote: "All the world's a stage ..."

I look forward to my continued role on the world-stage here at Roosevelt, and to being a part of the continuing transformation of our students, our conservatory and our college. I look forward to the daily challenges and the new discoveries that lie ahead on our journey working with gifted student-artists in a wide range of classes and productions, and to the long-term goal of seeing The Theatre Conservatory recognized as one of the finest training centers for actors in America. We are already on the road and on our way!

Joel Fink has been director of The Theatre Conservatory at Roosevelt since 1996. He came to Roosevelt after 10 years at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he headed the Acting Program and served as the artistic associate and casting director for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Before teaching in Colorado, he taught and directed at New York University's Professional Theatre Training Program, Circle-in-the-Square Theatre School, the New School for Social Research, Purdue University, California State University, and Hunter College. Fink received a BFA from the Goodman School of Drama, MFA from New York University and a Doctor of Arts from New York University. He has acted and directed at theatres across the country.

From the Chicago College of Performing Arts to...



BY LISA ENCARNACION

LESLIE HUNT FEELS THE SHINE OF THE SPOTLIGHT

Over the years, many future singers, musicians and actors have walked through the doors of Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts and went on to fame and fortune.

But not until this past fall has a former Roosevelt student made it to the finals of *American Idol*.

A 25-year-old singer/songwriter, Leslie Hunt studied composition and piano at Roosevelt University. She made it to the final 20 of this season's wildly popular *American Idol* competition, with the likes of other competitors who have now become household names: Blake, LaKisha, Jordin (the eventual winner), Melinda, Sundance and, of course, Sanjaya. She was voted off March 1.

Launched in 2002, *American Idol* is a Fox Network television show that features a competition where viewers can call or log in to vote on contestants and determine the best "undiscovered" singer in the United States. The winner receives a major recording contract. The program has become one of the biggest shows in American television history.

Last year, over a billion votes were cast throughout the contest. This year, more than 100,000 potential Idols auditioned in seven cities.

Hunt comes from a family of musicians and it was through her father, Steve, that she became interested in enrolling at Roosevelt.

"Some of the people he has played with all his life went to Roosevelt," she explained.

Hunt started taking classes at Roosevelt in the fall of 2001, but left before the semester was finished due to flare-ups from lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease she was diagnosed with when she was seven years old. She returned to Roosevelt in 2002 and left in 2004 to concentrate on her music.

A native of St. Charles, Ill., Hunt remembers Roosevelt as being a great experience for her. "Dr. (Gregory) Reish (professor of music history) was amazing," she explained. "He made history very interesting — every class was like a perfectly composed essay."

She also said Don Malone, recently retired professor of music composition, was an "amazing mentor" for her. She called Rudy Marozzi, associate professor of music theory, "an awesome teacher."

Even though she has been singing and playing the piano since she was four, the road to *American Idol* would not have seemed possible for Hunt up until a few years ago. Because of the lupus, she said she had a difficult childhood and spent most of the time indoors because it was dangerous for her to be in the sun.

"When I was a kid, there were a lot of limitations," she said. "Just a couple of years ago, a miracle medication (Plaquenil) made me able to do something like this."

"This" meaning go through the long and demanding process of trying out and then making it to the finals of *Idol*. Thanks to the new medicine, she had the stamina to stand in line for six hours at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., to try out for the contest.

The irony is that Hunt never really thought about being the next *American Idol* until a near-death experience changed her attitude toward life.

"I got a vaccination for yellow fever, and I got deathly ill; I almost died in Brazil," she shared. "Ever since then, it's a new mentality for me. I'm not going to rest on my laurels and wait for things to happen. I have to take a proactive approach."

Last summer, two of her uncles who have been following her musical career strongly persuaded her to audition. The judges (Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson) sent her to Hollywood, and the next stop was the final 24.

"When I made it into the top 24, I flipped out," she said in a video interview posted on americanidol.com. "I totally lost it — one of the best moments of my life for sure."

Hunt characterized her experience on *American Idol* as "difficult, a lot of hard work," but she added that she enjoyed "every painful, lonely, under-slept minute."

"It was definitely a surreal, out of body experience," she added.

With musical influences ranging from Bjork to Nina Simone to Coldplay and the Beatles, Hunt felt she should have "rocked out a bit more" in the competition. "I'm not really mainstream, and I chose songs that aren't on the top of the charts," she said.

She's hung out with and texts her *Idol* roommate, Gina Glocksen, and also exchanges text messages with Blake Lewis, Chris Richardson and Sundance Head. When she was in Los Angeles, she spent time with Sabina Sloan.

What's next for Leslie Hunt? She returned to Chicago in April, where she lives on the north side. "I'm perfecting my sound," she explained. "I'm getting into the studio with more material and a new sound. I want to keep the momentum going." She hopes to sign with a major independent label in the near future.

Hunt is also active with the Lupus Foundation of America. She was the guest speaker and performed at the Foundation's Chicago Chapter Annual Gala in June, and will speak and sing in October for the organization's Annual Lupus Walk.

"I want to make amazing records, with incredible sounds, and tour, plus make music for films and TV," she smiled. "I have high hopes, and there is no reason why I can't do all this."

Hunt's songs can be heard on her website, www.myspace.com/lesliehunt.

Roosevelt Reaches Out *to Students at Social Justice High School*

BY LAURA JANOTA

They exchanged emails, gave each other T-shirts and shared lunch together.

And that's only the beginning of the bond developing between students at Roosevelt University and Chicago's Social Justice High School.

"We've begun making connections that could get stronger and stronger in the next few years," said Bridget Jones (BA, '07), the recent Student Government Association president who reached out with her classmates to Social Justice High students earlier this year.

First a group of SGA leaders, including Jones, went to Social Justice High School for a visit in March.

"Partying is great, but I can't stress to you enough that there is so much more to life than that," said Jon Schroeder, an SGA member and soon-to-be sophomore finance major who was one of many SGA students to speak with the high school students during that visit.

"But you've got to go to college, work hard and study if you want to get ahead," he said.

Then, groups of Social Justice High freshmen and sophomores, who could get four years of free tuition at Roosevelt if they do well enough in high school classes and on ACTs, visited the University in April and May.

"It was just wonderful for me to see these students imagining themselves as already being in the Roosevelt University space — in the classrooms, in the cafeteria, in the dorms, and in the fitness center," said Ana Herrera, social worker from Social Justice High School.

During SGA's visit to Social Justice High, Roosevelt students learned about the history and mission of one of Chicago's newest high schools, which became a reality through Little Village/Lawndale community activism.



President Chuck Middleton (center) and students from Social Justice High School meet to discuss a deal in which Roosevelt will give free tuition to qualifying students who will be graduating in 2009 and 2010.

And, during their recent visits, Social Justice High freshmen and sophomores learned that Roosevelt also is serious about its social justice mission.

"They were shy at first, and when I asked them 'What does social justice mean?' they didn't immediately answer," said Jeff Edwards, the Mansfield professor of social justice at Roosevelt who gave the students an idea of what a social justice class might be like in a classroom setting.

"But when I gave them some examples of social justice issues, they began to speak up. They had a lot of ideas. It's just a matter of these students learning how to articulate their ideas, which is what I teach in my social justice classes," said Edwards.

Besides getting a taste of a college class, Social Justice High students got a tour of University facilities and had lunch with SGA leaders.

"The main objective is to give these students a taste of what Roosevelt is really like," said Victor Sanchez, an admission counselor in Roosevelt's Office of Admission.

"Some of them said they wanted to go far away from mom and dad for college," added Sanchez. "But, we showed them the dorms and gave them the idea that they could have the same kind of benefits by coming to Roosevelt and being close to home."

Jones spoke to nearly every group about things like the importance of student involvement, life on campus, study habits, balancing school and work and getting an education.

And, even though she will be gone next year, mentoring Social Justice High students is likely to remain a priority.

"I'd like to see a sharing of leadership experiences between SGA students and Social Justice High students and a widening of the network between the two student groups," said Adele Stowe, a Roosevelt student and the new vice president of SGA.

"This could be a stepping stone that establishes more student leadership programs at Roosevelt," she said.

Schroeder, the new chief of staff on the SGA executive board, said he's been corresponding regularly by email with several Social Justice High students since his visit there.

"We had a lot of fun going out there," said Schroeder, who will be a senior when the first group of qualified Social Justice High graduates is admitted to Roosevelt beginning in 2009. "And, I know it's going to be a lot of fun for our student government to help these kids get ready for college."

It's also possible that the kind of exchange that's taking place between the two student bodies could have a positive and lasting impact.

"These kids hear all the time about college," said Herrera of her Social Justice High School students. "But when you hear it from someone that's close in age, it makes a difference."

"They are seeing that Roosevelt students are going to college, working hard and getting involved because they want to," she added. "And, our students are taking that to heart."

For more information on how you can contribute to the scholarship fund for students at Social Justice High School, email tminar@roosevelt.edu.



"We've begun making connections that could get stronger and stronger in the next few years."

—BRIDGET JONES, (BA, '07)

Bridget Jones, outgoing president of the Student Government Association in Chicago, shares college experiences and expectations for success with Social Justice High School students during a campus visit.



New Courses Make RU a Leader in Identity Theft Protection

BY TOM KAROW

MANY OF US, UNFORTUNATELY, HAVE EXPERIENCED IT — THAT PAINFUL, UPSETTING FEELING WHEN WE REALIZE WE DON'T KNOW WHERE OUR WALLET IS.

Did someone steal it? Did I just misplace it? "I don't care about the cash, I just want to know where my credit cards and driver's license are," is often our first thought.

Identity theft is a traumatic crime because we don't know what will happen. Our imaginations run wild as we consider what could happen if someone assumes our identity, and that is a frightening thought.

"In identity theft, you are guilty until you can prove that it couldn't have been you," said Deborah Pavelka, a Roosevelt University professor of accounting and an expert on fraud and identity theft. "Identity theft can cost you thousands of dollars. And, there have even been cases where applicants lost jobs because a background check inaccurately showed that a warrant was out for their arrest."

Under the leadership of Pavelka and Undine Stinnette, assistant professor of accounting and a former IRS agent, Roosevelt has become one of only a handful of universities in the Chicago area to offer a five-course, graduate-level certificate in fraud examination. The program covers such topics as identity theft, fraud on financial statements, computer fraud, embezzlement and corruption.

"We are attracting students from all areas of business, not just accounting," Pavelka said. "Some of them want to make fraud detection a career; for others it is an opportunity to learn about a crime that costs companies and individuals billions of dollars a year."

Roosevelt is creating a related master's degree program which would give students the skills needed to protect an organization's confidential information. The proposed interdisciplinary program will focus on the proper blend of business and technology skills employers need to address this growing problem. It is being developed by Pavelka and Ken Mihavics, chair of the Computer Science and Telecommunications Department.

Although business fraud is a serious problem, there were 5,237 complaints of identity theft in Illinois in 2006, making it by far the most common problem that consumers face.

Mary Hendry, Roosevelt's vice president of enrollment and student services, is someone who has experienced the nightmare of identity theft. Several years ago, her wallet was snatched from her purse as the purse hung from the back of her chair in the restaurant of a Chicago hotel.

"Talk about feeling stupid," she said. "Twice I felt bumps on my chair and ignored them. Even after I saw two men hurry from the restaurant, I still didn't catch on."

The next morning she cancelled her credit cards, opened a new checking account, and applied for a new driver's license. But, it was too late. She started receiving credit cards from stores where she never shopped.

"Putting two and two together, I realized that my IDs were being used to open new accounts," she said. "The perpetrators left the stores the same day as the accounts were opened with \$1,500 to \$3,500 worth of electronic equipment, tires, etc. They even rented a Miami condo in my name."

Hendry worked with governmental departments and the fraud division of the three credit rating agencies, but it took six months of hassle before she was able to regain her good credit rating. "I have never felt so violated before or after," she said.

That story is not surprising to Stinnette, who was a victim of identity theft herself when her wallet was stolen out of her desk in her office. Using her IDs, an unauthorized person was able to be added to one of her credit cards.

"Identity thieves know what they are doing. They are very savvy," Professor Pavelka said, describing how they will rummage through the garbage, go to graveyards and hack into websites in order to find birth certificates, passports, utility bills, social security numbers, credit card applications, and other items which will enable them to claim they are you.

Stinnette believes people should check their credit ratings at least every six months. "Sometimes it pays to hire a credit monitoring service that will review your credit and notify you of any changes to your credit record," she said.

In Roosevelt's fraud courses, graduate students learn how to investigate consumer and business fraud so they can identify when it is occurring and what they can legally do as investigators.

A considerable amount of time is devoted to computer forensics and learning how to retrieve information stored on the computer.

All of that is appealing to Marlen Rodriguez, who in May became Roosevelt's first student to complete the Certificate in Fraud Examination Studies. She said she especially enjoyed learning about the complex financial transactions that often occur in fraud cases.

"I decided to complete the certificate in order to advance my career in accounting," she said. "My main goal is to become a Certified Public Accountant. However, in the near future, I will consider a career as a Certified Fraud Examiner and seek to become an expert in the field. Fraud investigation is fascinating and challenging because the nature of each case is different."

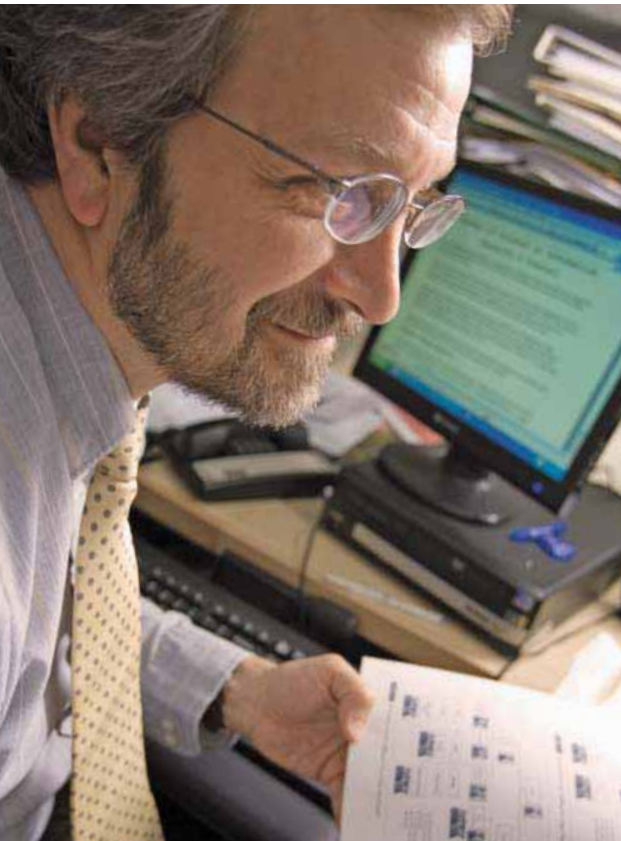
During classes on fraud, Roosevelt students occasionally share examples of theft from their own experiences. Last year one of Pavelka's students described how his mother had lost money in a mortgage scam. "His classmates decided to investigate the company, and they learned from state archives that the firm had been using a variety of names over the years," she said.

"Fraud is a growing problem in the U.S. and the world," Stinnette said. "Every day you pick up the paper and you read

Continued on next page



Marlen Rodriguez (center), the first Roosevelt student to complete the Certificate in Fraud Examination Studies, meets with her professors Undine Stinnette (left), assistant professor of accounting, and Deborah Pavelka, professor of accounting.



Ken Mihavics (above), associate professor of Computer Science and Telecommunications, is working with Deborah Pavelka, professor of Accounting, to create a new interdisciplinary program in computer security.

continued from previous page

about various types of fraud. Of course, fraud is not new, but it does appear to be more prevalent than in the past. The Internet is a tool criminals are using frequently to victimize more people and companies.”

Computer fraud and an increasing need for computer security specialists are reasons Roosevelt’s accounting and computer science departments are teaming up to create a new master’s degree in computer security. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for experts in computer security will grow by 8.5 percent per year through 2009.

“Corporations use information technology systems to keep track of financial records, and they can’t afford to have someone break into their systems,” Mihavics said. “It stands to reason that if these systems aren’t secure, then their internal controls won’t be either.”

Students in the proposed master’s program would take several advanced courses in accounting and computing, including Internet Security, which will focus on security from the point of view of the user, programmer and system administrator, and Fraud Examination, which will analyze embezzlement, asset misappropriations and corruption.

“It is now widely agreed that information has become more valuable than an organization’s property, plant and equipment combined,” Mihavics said. “The downside is that digital data is more difficult to control and can be stolen without anyone’s knowledge.”

Pavelka believes everyone should take a class in fraud or attend a seminar. “You need to know the red flags and the warning signals,” she said. “Students who take our programs will know what to look for and what to do when a crime of fraud occurs.”

What can you do to protect yourself?

The Federal Trade Commission estimates that nine million Americans have their identities stolen each year. What can you do to protect yourself from identity theft? Deborah Pavelka, professor of Accounting at Roosevelt, offers the following tips:

- Be aware of your surroundings, especially in large crowds.
- Keep your wallet and purse close to your body.
- Buy a shredder and shred catalogs, credit card applications and other items you receive in the mail.
- Request your credit report from one of the three credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion).
- Change the password on your computer at least twice a year.
- Don’t respond to requests on your computer for your bank account number, social security number or other information.
- Closely monitor anyone who uses your credit card.
- Check your bank statements each month.

If you lose your wallet, immediately:

- Cancel your credit cards and driver’s license.
- File a police report and an identity theft report.
- Contact a credit reporting agency.
- Notify creditors.
- Dispute any unauthorized transactions.





Roosevelt Celebrates **COMMUNITY** *on New Deal Service Day*

BY LISA ENCARNACION

Social justice remains an integral part of the day-to-day operations of Roosevelt University. For the past five years, students, faculty, staff, alumni, family members and friends have gathered for a Friday or Saturday in April to give back to the communities where they live and work on New Deal Service Day.

This year's event on April 14 drew 238 participants, who lent their time and talents to six sites in the city and eight locations in the northwest suburbs. According to Bob Fitzpatrick, assistant vice president for campus safety and transportation, the event continues to be a success.

"Both Joe (Davis, reference/instructional librarian and co-chair of the event) and I received letters from the sites thanking us for sending volunteers and indicating that they wanted us to continue to participate in future New Deal Days," he said.

Fitzpatrick added that the group which volunteered at the Pacific Garden Mission by serving lunch to guests of the shelter said it was an extremely meaningful experience, and they ended up staying at the mission later to continue their work.

At the Schaumburg Campus, United States Congresswoman Melissa Bean (BA, '01) spoke to the participants in the morning about the importance of volunteerism before they traveled to their sites.



On New Deal Service Day, Roosevelt University volunteers helped out at 14 organizations in Chicago and the northwest suburbs, including the Kenneth K. Young Resale Store (top right) in Schaumburg where Laurie Cashman, left, and Laura Anderson worked and the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago's South Loop where Roosevelt students prepared lunch. Congresswoman Melissa Bean (BA, '01) spoke in Schaumburg before the participants left for their sites.



Around Campus:

Where To Go, What To Do

BY JACLYN RADICH

Every Thursday night, the self-proclaimed “psych girls,” Meghan McCarrin, Jackie Kirdahy and Erin Wilrigs — all Roosevelt graduate students — enjoy an after-class beer at Hackney’s on South Dearborn Street near the Chicago Campus.

“We especially like to go after an exam. We gossip and try to forget that we just bombed our psych test,” said Kirdahy, a first-year graduate student in clinical professional psychology, as she laughs over her Blue Moon. The friends frequent Hackney’s not only because of its campus proximity but also because of its well-known burgers. With good food and a variety of drink selections, Hackney’s is a Roosevelt University hot spot.

Roosevelt is recognized for excellent academics, but students don’t need to be serious and dedicated scholars all the time. They need places to unwind and take a break. Since Chicago is a city overflowing with entertainment opportunities, Roosevelt students don’t need to look very far for fun outside the classroom.

The Roosevelt graduate students said Hackney’s is the perfect hangout place because it has a relaxing atmosphere and offers outdoor seating during warm weather.

The Printer’s Row location opened in 2001, and about 45 percent of Hackney’s customers are students, said Night Manager Marry Janin. “I frequently see Roosevelt students. They sometimes leave their copies of the *Torch* on the tables.”

Another favorite spot for students is Miller’s Pub, located at 134 S. Wabash Ave. The historic pub is known for its barbecue ribs, whitefish and celebrity memorabilia. Miller’s started in 1935 as a small, family-owned bar. Situated under the “L” tracks, the

restaurant is open until 4 a.m. daily and is popular with students, tourists and downtown workers.

The two-story, 270-seat restaurant flaunts an impressive collection of celebrity photos, including Arnold Schwarzenegger and Frank Sinatra, sports memorabilia and antique oil paintings covering nearly every inch of wall space.

“I moved to Chicago to attend Roosevelt, and Miller’s Pub was the first bar I went to with my new roommate,” said Annie Adams, a second-year graduate student in psychology.

“I have met lots of Roosevelt students over the years,” said Aris Gallios, owner of Miller’s. “We see students and tourists alike.”

A less rambunctious but equally popular hangout is right across the street from the Auditorium Building — Grant Park. For many busy Roosevelt students, it is a relaxing retreat near campus.

On a nice day the park is an ideal place to sit outside and read. Come spring and summer, Grant Park is alive with festivals and events, while the park’s famous Buckingham Fountain is popular with couples. The spectacular evening water shows, complete with colorful lights, create an enchanting scene.

“I had lunch in Grant Park many times with friends,” recalled Roosevelt alumna Carrie B. Brown (BA, ’76; MA, ’81).

Another park popular with Roosevelt students is Millennium Park on Michigan Avenue, across the street from the University’s Gage Building.

Millennium Park has numerous attractions, including a large outdoor concert theatre, restaurant, ice skating rink, waterfall and lush gardens ideal for those much-needed student breaks.



The venerable Artist's Snack Shop, located next to the Auditorium Building, has been popular with Roosevelt students for more than 40 years.

In fact, alumna Angela Makris was a regular at Artist's. Her frequent visits to the infamous snack shop led her to meet and marry owner George Mitchell. Now she and her sister, Irene Makris (BA, '61), run the restaurant and enjoy giving back to Roosevelt. "We have a close tie to Roosevelt University. We offer a 15 percent discount to students and staff," said Irene Makris.

When you look in the restaurant through the large glass windows on Michigan Avenue, you'll frequently see Roosevelt students meeting with their professors. Artist's Snack Shop offers a variety of Mediterranean menu items, including sandwiches, salads, pasta and vegetarian plates.

Panera Bread, a bakery and luncheon site in the University Center Chicago building, is a popular inexpensive restaurant for residential students living in the South Loop. Panera delivers a cozy ambiance with sweet aromas. Everything from sandwiches and salads to coffee and dessert is available at student-friendly prices. Free Wi-Fi access also makes Panera an ideal spot for study sessions with fellow students.

And now, students can eat in the lobby of the Auditorium Building. RU Caffeinated, the coffee shop that opened in 2006, has gained instant popularity.

It is stocked with baked goods, soups and specialty coffees to keep students and staff wide-eyed. The comfy chairs and high-top tables create a little lounge inside the historic foyer.

Students in Schaumburg also enjoy hot spots around their northwest suburban campus. Two of the many favorites are Ram Big Horn Brewery and Woodfield Mall.

Millennium Park has numerous attractions, including a large outdoor concert theatre, restaurant, ice skating rink, waterfall and lush gardens ideal for those much-needed student breaks.

Ram Big Horn Brewery, located at 1901 McConner Pkwy., creates award-winning beers, including Big Horn Hefeweizen and Big Red Ale. The large brew pub with casual wood and brick décor and separate dining room are ideal for end of the semester parties.

Woodfield Mall, located on Golf Road, has been a popular shopping destination for decades. In addition to shopping, Roosevelt students visit the multi-level mall for the popular restaurants and bars.

Both the Chicago and Schaumburg Campuses are surrounded by endless options for fun. An ideal college experience combines both academic and social opportunities. Luckily, Roosevelt students have the best of both worlds.

Jaclyn Radich is a Roosevelt University student studying for her master's degree in journalism.

Opposite page: The Artist's Snack Shop, 412 S. Michigan Ave., which is run by two Roosevelt University alums, has been a popular meeting spot for University students for more than four decades.

Above: Hanging out at Hackney's, 733 S. Dearborn St., is a blast for (from left) Roosevelt freshmen Tiffaney Harris, an allied health major, Alicia Bowen, an accounting major, and Tiffany Nix, a psychology major. The three live at University Center Chicago.



weird science

RU alum
takes show,
not tell,
approach to
teaching

BY LAURA JANOTA

The year was 1985 and the movie *Weird Science* had just been released, prompting a chat about science education in the car of Roosevelt University alumnus Lee Marek (MS, '73; MS, '75).

"We were on our way to a meeting," recalled DeWayne Lieneman, one of three high school chemistry teachers in Marek's rush-hour-stalled Honda where the idea surfaced to show — rather than tell — how science works.

"I don't remember who started the conversation, but someone suggested we take the best of what we do, turn it into a demonstration and call it 'weird science,'" said Lieneman.

From that beginning sprang Marek's "Weird Science," a fast-paced series of weird demonstrations and ideas on chemical and physical phenomena that educates and entertains.

Since then, Marek has led so many demonstrations — in classrooms, at national conventions, during international conferences and on *The Late Show with David Letterman* — that he's quit counting.

In one of the most dramatic demonstrations developed in 1998, Mentos candy is submerged in a bottle of Diet Coke, creating many nucleation sites and letting loose a fountain of liquid that spews 20 feet.

"What we've tried to do is make science interesting," said Marek, who is now a retired Naperville, Ill., high school teacher and recent winner of the American Chemical Society's Chicago Section Public Affairs award.

Using audio, video, bad jokes and other demonstration cues, Marek gets students to pay attention in class and to think later about what's been presented.

Yet, he does not want to be pigeon-holed as "the explosion guy."

"I've done a lot of different things over the years," he said.

For instance, he has run history-of-science seminars in Europe for 10 years; he spearheaded a teacher's alliance, ChemWest, which meets regularly in the Chicago area; and he has led more than 500 workshops for teachers, students and the general public.

"Lee Marek is the genius behind the demonstration as a learning tool," said Jaci Gentile, a Naperville Central High School teacher who has assisted Marek in bringing "Kid Scientists" to the Letterman show since 1997.

"He's also been a factor in changing chemistry teachers from just lecturers into teachers doing demonstrations and labs," she said.

Growing up in Chicago's suburbs, Marek wasn't interested in science early on.

"I actually was going to be a history major, but I didn't like writing term papers," said Marek, who nonetheless looks like a mad scientist with his salt-and-pepper beard, his collection of more than 100 "weird science" t-shirts and his animated, theatrical way of teaching the laws of combustion, static electricity, gravity and so forth.

Marek graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. He knew almost immediately, however, that the field wasn't for him because it did not provide enough opportunity for interaction with others.

"I always had it in the back of my mind to teach," said Marek, who began at Elk Grove Junior High School in Elk Grove Village, Ill.

He believes acceptance into a National Science Foundation summer program at Roosevelt University prepared him well.

"I met science teachers from all over the Chicago area and found out a lot by watching and talking to them," he said.

"Some were phenomenally good at teaching and others were so bad that it made me say, 'I don't want to be boring like that. I want to be engaging,'" said Marek, who earned master's level teaching degrees in both chemistry and physics from Roosevelt.

The winner of a Golden Apple, the Sigma Xi Outstanding Teacher Award and the Those Who Excel Award Illinois, Marek became almost too popular at the high school.

"I was lucky to be friends with the school counselor who got me into two of his classes, which was tough to do because everyone wanted to take Lee Marek's classes," said Tamir Ardon, a 1998 Naperville North graduate who produces docu-reality sci-

"My biggest satisfaction has been to see my students do well in a variety of fields." —LEE MAREK (MS, '73; MS, '75)

ence shows for The Discovery Channel, The Science Channel and other mediums.

From a pumpkin that breathes fire to a marshmallow bunny swelled to five times its size with a vacuum pump, Marek's demos are eccentric.

"His students just loved him," said Gentile, who worked at Naperville North. "He got them hooked into learning, and it was really something to see them glued to their seats."

After 27 years, Marek retired from Naperville North in 2002 to take a job teaching chemistry to freshmen and doing demos at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"My biggest satisfaction has been to see my students do well in a variety of fields," said Marek, who stays in contact with former students who are chemists, engineers, doctors, ministers and even science teachers.

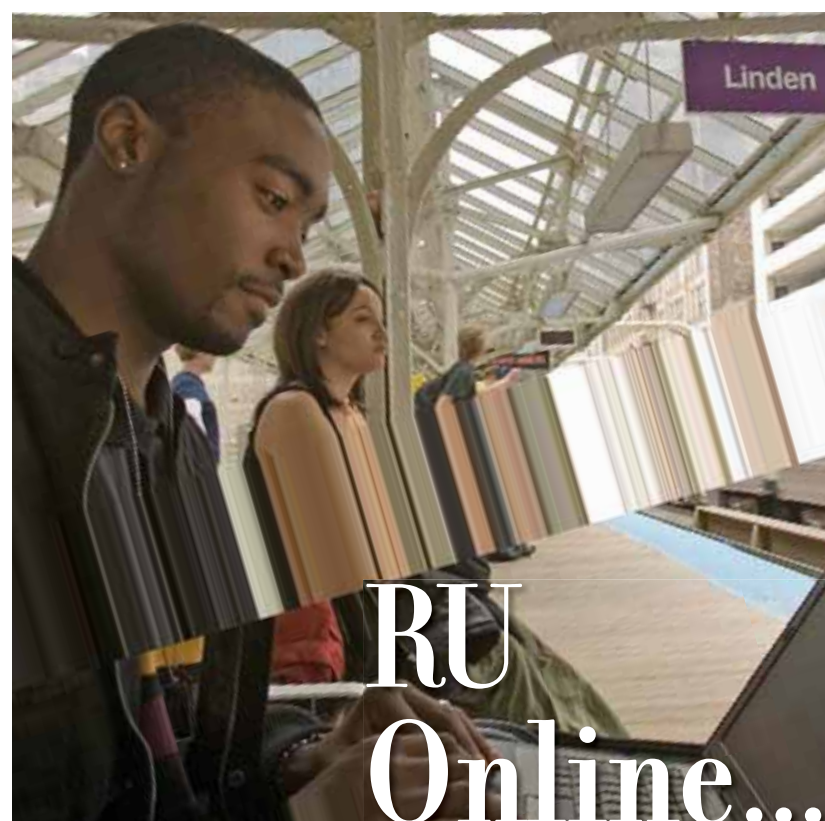
"He was inspirational and instrumental in getting me on track toward a career," said Christina Beatty, a Naperville North graduate who teaches high school chemistry in downstate Illinois.

"He made science fun, and that has had an impact on my life and career," she said.

To be sure, Marek has even resonated with the masses.

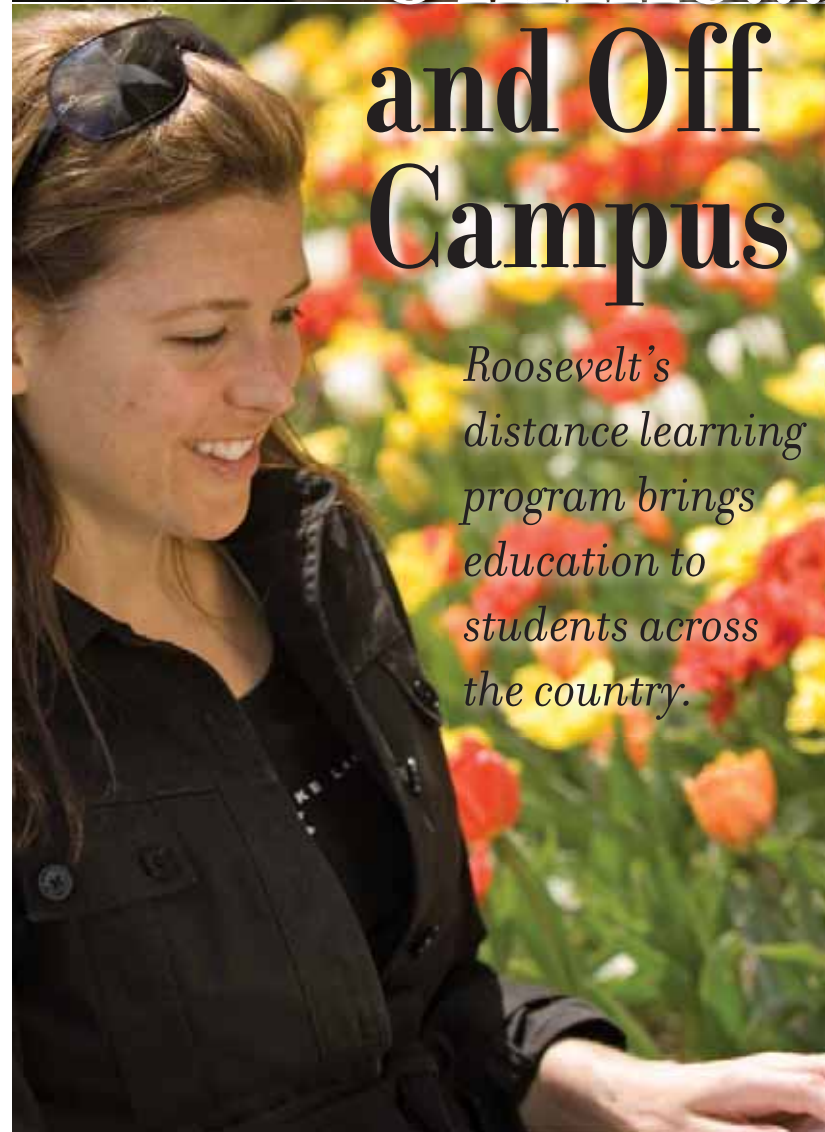
In fact, those who follow Letterman's show might remember Marek pouring invisible ink onto the TV host's shirt and then using a fire extinguisher of carbon dioxide to change the ink's color. Letterman was perturbed at the time and chased Marek across the stage. However, the segment was such a hit that it won an Emmy nomination!

"Let's put it this way," said Lieneman, one of Marek's colleagues. "Lee's been a leader. He's been most energetic about doing weird science and, along the way, has helped not only his students but science education as well."



RU Online... and Off Campus

*Roosevelt's
distance learning
program brings
education to
students across
the country.*



Above, economics major Calvin Trapp prepares for an online English class at a Loop "L" station. Below, Marie Blaschko enjoys some perfect spring weather while taking a class online toward a paralegal certificate.

BY LAURA JANOTA

From Houston to Chicago, and at all points in between, students are going places with Roosevelt University.

Whether in a park, waiting for a train, on a jumbo jet, or on a home computer, hundreds of Roosevelt University students are working on their college degrees online, any time, anywhere.

"We've been very successful so far with RU Online," said Karen Gersten, associate provost for academic programs and distance learning who helped start the University's distance learning program in 2000.

Offering a fast-track bachelor of professional studies degree program in organizational leadership, a master's degree program in training and development, several fully online certificates, and about 40 separate courses, RU Online has grown tenfold in size and enrollment since its start seven years ago.

"We have worked hard to establish a program with strong academic quality, and what we're seeing now is the great potential that online learning has to offer to our students and to the University," Gersten said.

RU Online is considered by Blackboard Inc. — the education software company that services Roosevelt as well as thousands of other colleges worldwide — to be a model for effective and successful online learning programs, and just recently RU Online was fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission for the next 10 years.

Extending Roosevelt's historic mission of academic outreach, RU Online, in fact, is beginning to branch out into new programs and partnerships.

Most recently, the University forged a unique partnership with the Houston Community College System (HCCS), which will enable HCCS graduates with Associate of Arts, Associate of Science and Associate of Applied Science degrees to take courses online beginning in the fall toward a Bachelor of Professional Studies degree from Roosevelt.

Mark Tengler, manager of educational partnerships for HCCS, believes the opportunity will appeal to HCCS graduates who are in the workforce and are not easily able to return to the college classroom.

"The program will accept all credits earned at HCCS and, therefore, will afford our graduates the opportunity to earn their degrees without ever having to go to Chicago," he said.

Gersten believes the program's impact will be even more all-encompassing.

"This partnership is going to be a model for us as we look to partner with other community colleges around the nation," she predicted.

Besides branching into new markets, RU Online is gearing up to offer many new courses and programs. Among them are:

- A Bachelor of Professional Studies degree in criminal justice leadership
- A Bachelor of General Studies degree in psychology
- A master's degree in teacher leadership
- Graduate certificate programs in National Board Certification for Teachers, Faculty Leadership at Community Colleges, and a program for teachers focused on teaching writing-intensive courses
- Non-credit programs in financial planning and continuing education for lawyers.

“There are all kinds of possibilities, particularly for Roosevelt’s alumni who may want to earn a post-graduate certificate or simply take a course to gain more knowledge in areas like financial planning,” said Cheryl Boncuore, director of distance learning.

Indeed, as day-to-day work, family and home commitments continue to take up more time, greater numbers of people are likely to turn to online learning as a means to earn a degree and/or credentials that can help them get ahead.

“It’s great because you can do your work whenever you get around to it,” said Chip Jensen, a Roosevelt student who has taken an ethics course online toward his certificate in paralegal studies.

“I live up in north suburban Gurnee, Ill.,” Jensen added. “And, any time I don’t have to come downtown and can take a course online, it saves me time to get other things done.”

John Coleman (BGS, ’07), who recently earned his bachelor’s degree, took three courses online toward that degree, including his senior thesis, a technical literacy class and a computer programming course.

“I wanted to look for an internship or a position in my field, so I took these classes,” said Coleman, who graduated in May. “I like to work at my own pace,” he added. “And, taking these courses online definitely gave me the opportunity to do that.”

Of course, fully online learning isn’t for everyone, and for some students, a combination of online learning and classroom experience works best, said Gary Wolfe, director of the University’s BGS program, who has taught a “hybrid” approach in which students enrolled in his Seminar in the Humanities come to campus once a week for classroom interaction and complete the rest of the work online.

“I like to get a discussion going online with students in the course, and then we’re able to hash the issues out face to face when the class actually meets,” he said. “Some students are articulate in class and others are better at expressing their thoughts in writing on discussion boards online.”

Gersten believes the hybrid approach is just one of the creative ways online learning can be used as a tool — not only for students, but also for faculty development, in colleges all over the country, and even throughout the world today.

Of course, RU Online also serves students truly at a distance including:

- Christopher Natwick, an officer in the U.S. Navy. He read about Roosevelt’s online graduate program in training and development, and while serving on the *USS Lake Erie* out of Pearl Harbor, he took courses through RU Online. While Natwick graduated in May, he could not attend commencement because he is on assignment with the Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Command in San Diego, Calif.
- Brian Niemiec of Takoma Park, Md. He is a graduate student in the fully online master’s degree program in Training and Development and works as a senior training specialist for a pharmaceutical company just outside of the Washington, D.C., area.

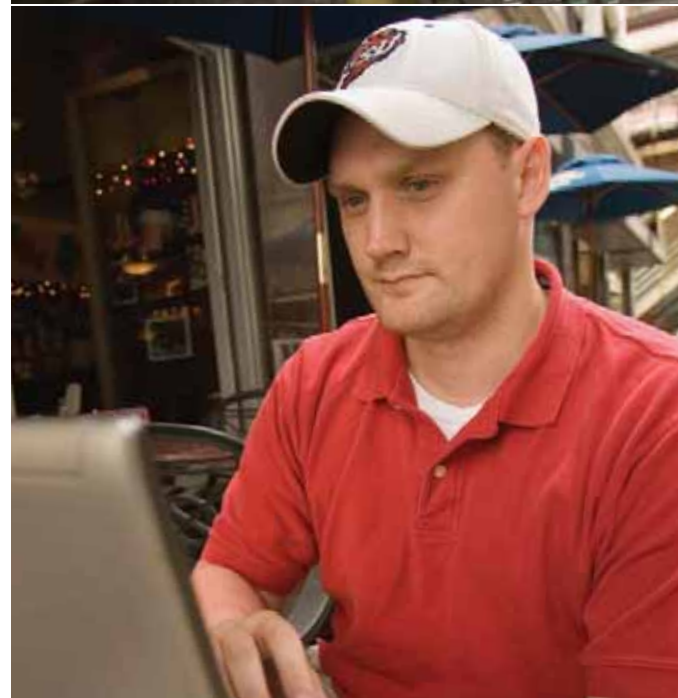
“I have been able to find time during the week here and there, particularly around lunch time, to get the coursework done,” said Niemiec, who so far has been taking one online course at a time. He hopes to graduate from the program in 2009.

“I’ve been really impressed with the program,” adds Niemiec. “There’s been a lot more interaction online between students and the professor than I thought there would be.”

And, there is no limit to the reach and impact RU Online can have.

“It’s a program that offers great potential for all of us — and that includes the University’s future progress,” said Gersten.

For more information, visit www.roosevelt.edu/ruonline.



Above, Melanie Brown, an elementary education major, has taken courses toward her teaching degree that depend heavily on online learning. Below, Chip Jensen would rather take paralegal courses online than travel to and from his Gurnee, Ill., home for classes.

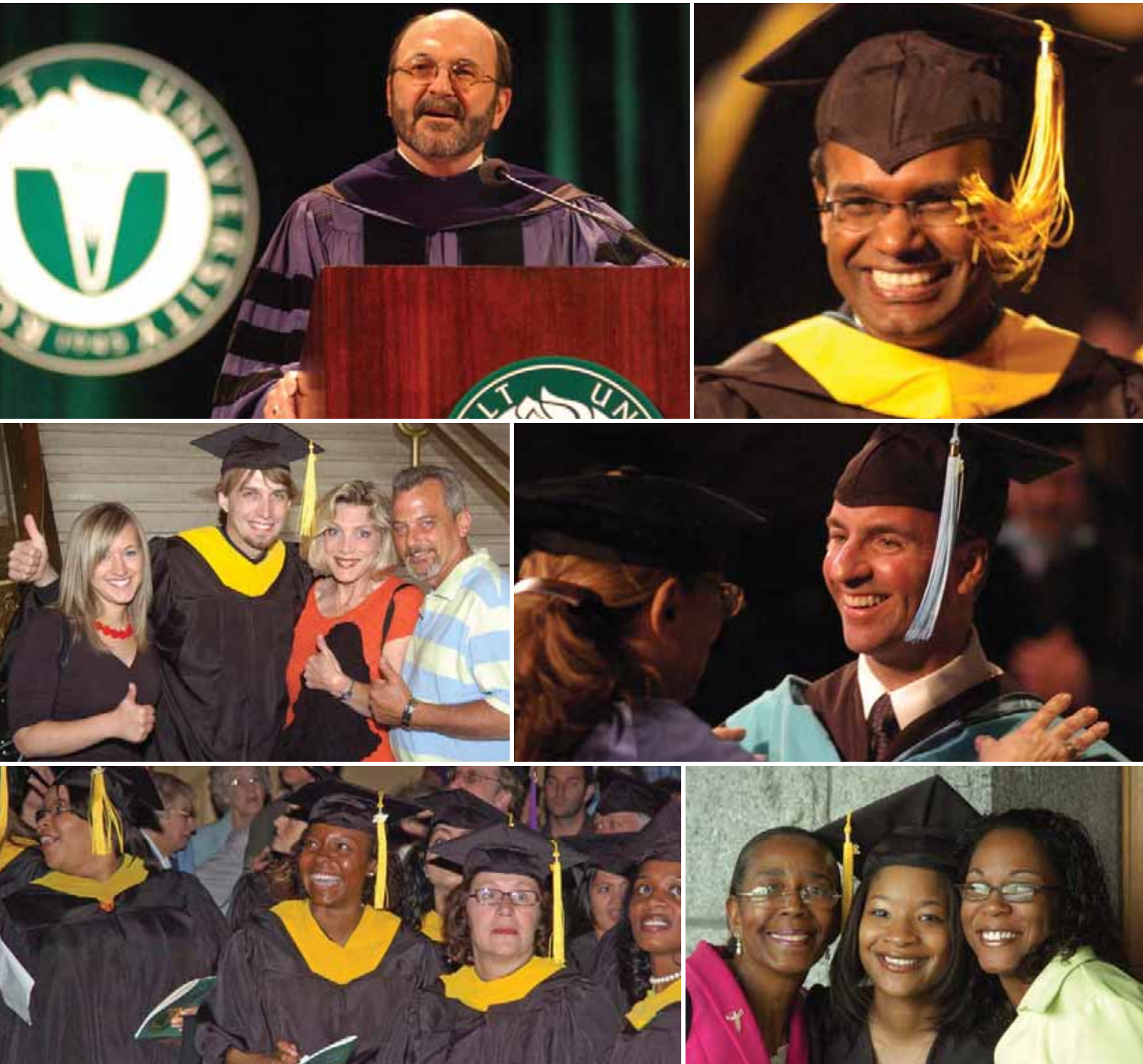
ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY *Commencement* 2007



Toward the end of every Commencement ceremony, President Chuck Middleton looks out at the graduates and asks, "Did you have a good time today?" The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University then explodes with applause and cheers as the students let him know that they most certainly did.

Roosevelt's Commencement on May 11, 2007, like those in past semesters, was a joyous occasion. More than 5,000 family members, friends and relatives filled the theatre and University afterward to honor and congratulate the graduates.

Here are images from that wonderful day.



Moving *in the* Right Direction

THE OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES ENHANCES ITS OFFERINGS TO HELP STUDENTS LAUNCH THEIR CAREERS

BY LISA ENCARNACION

According to *The Job Outlook 2007 Spring Update*, produced by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), employers will hire nearly 20 percent more new college graduates in 2007 than they did in 2006.

While that's great news for this year's graduates, college freshmen and sophomores should be preparing for their job search now and not wait until junior or senior year, said Patrick M. Green (EdD, '06), director of the Office of Career Services (OCS) at Roosevelt University.

"The earlier we can reach out to students and make them aware of all the resources Roosevelt has available, the more educated they become about the career development process," said Green, who was named director in 2006.

Under Green's leadership, the OCS has taken on a new level of importance at Roosevelt. The office has increased job-search resources, added staff, crafted a mission statement, redesigned its website, updated technology and strengthened outreach to students and employers.

Green said that students go through various stages when they consider career options, from deciding on a major, to exploring job possibilities, to testing the waters through internships and other professional experiences. The process begins when career counselors visit the classrooms of freshmen taking the First Year Experience Seminar to explain how OCS can help them through one-on-one career counseling, career development assessments and online tools.

Roosevelt University student Nardia Tsumbu takes advantage of a recent job fair, sponsored by the Office of Career Services.



"Every person's interests, abilities and values are unique, so we work individually with each student," said Teri Cullen, career counselor. "After I meet with students, I provide them with the resources they need to research their fields of interest and the options available to them."

Because technology has dramatically changed the way people look for jobs and communicate with potential employers, the OCS has spent a significant amount of time enhancing online resources, including revamping the website, offering access to an online career library and providing a database of internship opportunities and career development resources. "We wanted the website to be a central place where students and alumni can go when they have questions regarding career development or the job search process," said Kim Shea, career counselor.

One of the new features is eRecruiting, the University's online job and résumé posting system, which connects students to employer contacts and job opportunities. Students can upload their résumés to the eRecruiting site and put them in a résumé book for employers to view.

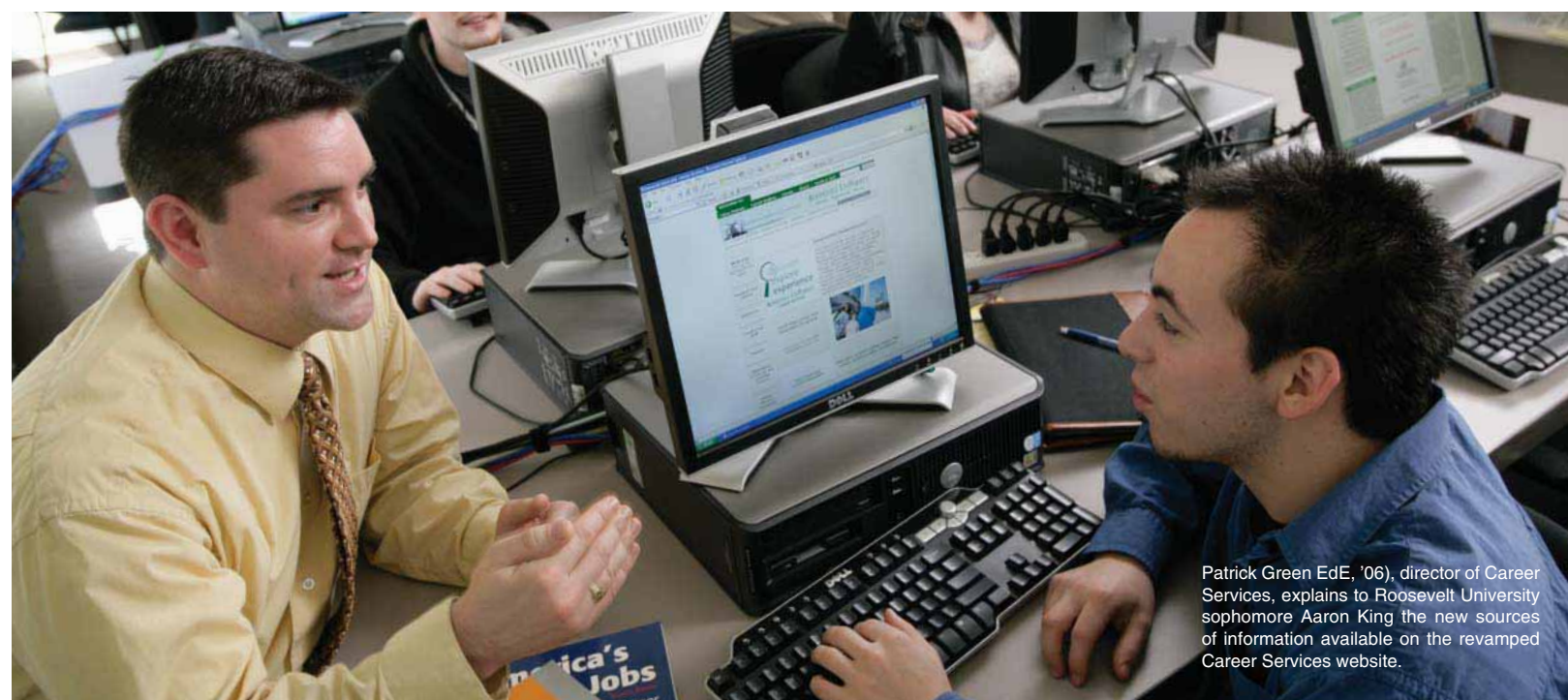
Technology has made the process of applying for a job less formal as cover letters and résumés are now frequently sent via email. "This has made it more difficult for job seekers to demonstrate their life skills to an employer," Green explained.

Internships, an important way for students to demonstrate their strengths and talents in the workplace, have taken on increased importance at Roosevelt with the hiring of the first full-time internship coordinator, Ryan Smith, who also works with employer outreach, cooperative education programs and Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) grants. Qualified employers who hire interns can be reimbursed up to 50 percent of an intern's salary through the IBHE grant.

"The best internships are ones that provide a good match for the student and employer," Smith said. "Finding the right work environment is paramount not only for the student's happiness, but ultimately for the student's success."

Michelle Howe (BA, '07) of Fox River Grove, Ill., majored in public relations at Roosevelt and secured several internships through the OCS. "I worked in magazine publishing, writing feature articles," she said. "I also worked with a marketing firm in public relations, writing features and press releases, while gaining experience doing promotions."

She was recently hired by Sherman Hospital in Elgin, Ill., as a marketing communications specialist. "It's because of the amazing experiences I had with these internships that I got this job," she said, smiling.



Patrick Green EdE, '06, director of Career Services, explains to Roosevelt University sophomore Aaron King the new sources of information available on the revamped Career Services website.

Scott Walsh's current internship with Dvorak Marketing Group in Palatine, Ill., has provided him with opportunities to gain experience in many different areas. "I reach out to new prospects and have also done association consulting work," he stated. "I have also worked on multimedia productions and events."

He emphasized that he would not have had these opportunities without the help of OCS. "This has been an incredible experience and I have career services to thank for that," he said. "I have gotten so much out of this."

The OCS also works with students applying to graduate school by helping them with their personal essays, filling out the application and securing letters of recommendation. "We collaborate with other programs and departments at Roosevelt, such as the Office of the Graduate Dean, to increase our outreach with students," said Green.

Other examples of outreach to students are annual job fairs and on-campus recruiting, where employers come in person to Roosevelt looking for interns and full-time employees. This past spring, a "Networking for Dummies" event at the Chicago Campus allowed students to practice networking skills in a mock reception environment. Etiquette guidelines were provided regarding contacting professionals and attending networking events. "The event was a safe place for students to practice networking," explained Green. "If a student does not know how to network, it can be like being a little fish in a big sea."

Roosevelt University alumni are welcome to utilize the many resources available through OCS. In addition, career services works with alumni through the Professional Connections Mentoring Program, where alumni volunteers in a variety of pro-

fessional fields communicate with students as mentors. Some activities include scheduled meetings, email and phone conversations and/or informational interviews and job shadowing regarding the industry in which alumni work.

In order to strengthen relationships with area employers and find out what companies are looking for in a prospective employee,

Green put together a Career Counseling Advisory Board, made up of business people charged with recruiting.

"We've brainstormed with the career services staff on how they could be more involved with employers," said Charmaine Sevier, an advisory board member and human resources officer with LaSalle Bank in Chicago. "Many of the ideas have already been implemented."

"We've opened a line of dialogue with career services about how the job market is changing and what students need to look for," commented advisory board member David James, a small business actuary with CNA.

"We've talked about the types of students and skill sets we're seeking. It helps us in attracting the best and most talented students to the profession."

As the world of work has changed, so have the criteria employers are looking for in a prospective employee.

"Employers are looking for a number of skills," remarked Green. "Of course, strength in academics is always a fit, but employers are also looking for a positive attitude, interpersonal skills, a desire to learn and grow and the know-how to work well with other people."

"We hear from employers that they'll take care of the training," Green said. "They're really seeking people with solid all-around skills."

"The earlier we can reach out to students and make them aware of all the resources Roosevelt has available, the more educated they become about the career development process."

—PATRICK GREEN, DIRECTOR OF THE
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

SPEND SATURDAYS IN SCHAUMBURG, EARN A DEGREE

Many working adults have the drive and desire to pursue a college education. However, with a 40-hour-a-week-plus job, family obligations and other commitments, these would-be students find it difficult or next to impossible to attend classes on weekday evenings.

Many working adults have now found the time and place to earn their college degree by spending their Saturdays at Roosevelt University's Schaumburg Campus.

The "Saturdays in Schaumburg" concept was the result of a Saturday morning brainstorming meeting with faculty and staff from the College of Education in the spring of 2006.

"A good number of our graduate students are adult career changers who work long days," explained Sharon Grant, associate professor in the College of Education who attended the brainstorming session. "It's very hard for these students to attend classes at night. They told us they wanted classes on weekends."

The number of fields offered, as well as the number of students enrolled, has grown since the program's beginning in fall 2006. This summer, there were seven degree and certificate programs offered: Organizational Leadership Certificate (undergraduate), Geographic Information Systems Certificate, English as a Second Language/Bilingual Endorsement (graduate), Special Education Approval, Master's in Business Administration, Master of Education in Elementary Education (fast track) and Training and Development Certificate (graduate). In the fall, a graduate program in Integrated Marketing Communications will be added.

"The combination of quality programs offered at a convenient location close to home on Saturdays makes this very attractive for adult students," added Grant.

In some majors, students can earn their degree in about 18 months by attending classes only on Saturdays, or combining classroom attendance with an online component. For certificate programs, there are fewer classes. Some may be entirely online; some may combine in-class instruction with online learning. For example, in the certificate program in Organizational Leadership, classes meet until 3 p.m. on five consecutive Saturdays over the summer. The second class can be taken online.

Along with the convenience of attending classes only on Saturday, students benefit from being able to complete their degrees or certificates quickly, for some majors in as little as four semesters.



Students study in the Schaumburg Campus courtyard on a Saturday afternoon.



Steve Ziliak (left), professor of economics at Roosevelt, and Deirdre McCloskey, professor of economics and other disciplines at University of Illinois at Chicago, are authors of a new book that challenges key statistical practices.

ROOSEVELT ECONOMICS PROFESSOR TO PUBLISH CONTROVERSIAL BOOK

A groundbreaking book that challenges the way scientists in all fields use statistics to test hypotheses will be published this fall by Steve Ziliak, professor of economics, and Deirdre McCloskey, a professor of economics, history, English and communication at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The book, entitled *The Cult of Statistical Significance: How the Standard Error Costs Us Jobs, Justice and Lives*, argues against over reliance on statistical significance testing and points to examples of how the fundamental practice has led to many significant errors being made about our economy, environment and human welfare.

Set to be published in November, the book suggests alternate testing methods must be followed if true outcomes are to be reached by statisticians in fields as diverse as banking, labor, hospitals and policy analysis.



RU ALUMS WIN TOP TEACHING AWARDS

They work in very different school systems, but two Chicago-area teachers have made Roosevelt University and its College of Education proud this past school year.

Serving with distinction, Roosevelt alumni Kraig Conyer (MA, '03) and Sarah Mostad Buino (MA, '04) each won top teaching awards for their work during the 2006-07 school year.

Conyer, an adapted physical education teacher in Hinsdale District 86's Hinsdale South High School, was among 10 winners of Illinois's prestigious Golden Apple teaching award in March.

Meanwhile, Buino, an English teacher at the Archdiocese of Chicago's Quigley Seminary Preparatory High School, received a Heart of the School Award in the "rising star" category from the region's Catholic school system in January.

"We are proud that these teachers are from Roosevelt University and that they have had a positive impact on the lives of students in such very different school systems," said James Gandre, interim dean of Roosevelt's College of Education.

Both teachers were nominated for awards by those within their separate public and parochial school systems.

"My coursework through Roosevelt gave me a lot of different ideas on how to get through to different styles of learners," said Conyer, who instructs about 50 students with cognitive/developmental disabilities at Hinsdale South.

Conyer, who got his master's degree in Teacher Leadership from the University, said he believes the graduate learning experience not only helped him focus on teaching, but also boosted him to a higher level of successfully reaching his students.

Buino, who received her master's degree in Secondary Education from Roosevelt, said the coursework in the College of Education and the University's mission of social justice helped her develop as a teacher.

"I'm very into building a strong community and into taking students from the point they're at and helping them to develop skills that fit their needs," said Buino. "In essence, I keep my teaching very individualized."

Conyer, who took his coursework at Hinsdale South as part of a Roosevelt master's in teacher leadership cohort, is only the fifth physical education teacher in the state of Illinois to ever win a Golden Apple.

Buino did her graduate coursework at Roosevelt's Chicago Campus and has just completed her third year at Quigley, which closed in June.



Roosevelt alumni Kraig Conyer (MA, '03) (left) and Sarah Mostad Buino (MA '04) are recent recipients of top awards for teaching in Chicago-area schools.



Former *Chicago Tribune* senior correspondent, editor and columnist Charles Madigan (left) signs his contract with President Chuck Middleton.

TRIBUNE COLUMNIST JOINS DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

Charles M. Madigan, a former *Chicago Tribune* senior correspondent, editor and columnist, will join Roosevelt University on Aug. 15 as Presidential Writer in Residence.

Madigan (BGS, '05) will teach four writing courses a year to undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Communication and create the Chicago Writing Institute at Roosevelt, a summer writing program. He also will teach Roosevelt students to write on public policy issues, including reporting on political campaigns and other election issues.

Madigan joined the *Tribune* in 1980 as a city reporter. He covered the South from the *Tribune's* Atlanta bureau, and then became national correspondent in Chicago, Washington news editor, national editor and the newspaper's first senior writer. Madigan set up the 24-hour news operation for *chicagotribune.com* and recently completed a five-year assignment as editor of the *Tribune's* award winning "Sunday Perspective" section.

Madigan is co-author of *Dangerous Company, Management Consultants and the Businesses They Save and Ruin*, a business best seller in 1996. He also wrote *The Hard Road to the Softer Side of Sears* with Arthur C. Martinez, former Sears CEO, and *Lessons from the Heart of American Business* with Jerry Greenwald, former CEO of United Airlines. He is currently writing a history of his family's experiences in the coal mines of Western Pennsylvania from 1889 to 1940.

Linda Jones, chairperson of the Department of Communication, said, "We are excited about having someone of Charlie Madigan's journalistic stature and talent join our faculty. He'll be a major asset to us and a tremendous inspiration to our students."



ROOSEVELT HOLDS VIRGINIA TECH MEMORIAL SERVICE

More than 75 people, including student Jessica Jacober (above), participated in a Roosevelt University memorial service on April 23 for people killed at Virginia Tech University. At the memorial, held at Buckingham Fountain, senior Ashley Kehoe (BA, '07) read the names of the victims lost in the tragedy. Among other activities, Roosevelt students wrote notes of condolence to Virginia Tech students on a large banner.



Vickie Gukenberger is the new director of nursing.

DEPT. OF EDUCATION GRANT TO FOSTER STUDENT SUCCESS

The United States Department of Education has awarded Roosevelt University \$250,000 to fund an Upward Bound project that will prepare 50 students at Wendell Phillips Academy in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood for postsecondary education and success in college.

The students will be from low income families and most would be the first members of their families to attend college.

Tanya Woltmann, Roosevelt's associate vice president for the Office of Student Services, said the students will be taught to analyze, question, critique, clarify and comprehend material to help them be academically prepared for college enrollment.

Upward Bound staff will have several contacts each week during the academic year with participants. This should positively impact the students' promotion, graduation, acquisition of financial aid and adjustment to the social environment of higher education institutions, Woltmann said.

DIRECTOR HIRED TO LEAD NEW NURSING PROGRAMS

Vickie Gukenberger joined Roosevelt this summer as director of nursing and professor of nursing in the Evelyn T. Stone University College and is leading the University's new bachelor's and master's degree completion programs in nursing, which will help hospitals and other health care agencies meet the need for university-trained nurses.

Gukenberger, formerly nursing program administrator and dean of Health and Public Safety Careers at Harper College in Palatine, Ill., is a past president of the Wisconsin Nurses Association and was Wisconsin Nurse Educator of the Year.

"Under Vickie's leadership, the new nursing program will enable registered nurses to develop strong clinical reasoning and analytical skills which will help them advance in their careers," said Pamela Trotman Reid, Roosevelt's provost and executive vice president.

Reid said the baccalaureate completion program (BSN) is for students who are licensed RNs and have received an ADN degree (generally from a community college program) or have completed a diploma program.

In the future, Roosevelt will develop an MSN program for nurses with BSN degrees and experience working in the health care field. "These students will help fill the growing need for nurse educators and specialists in existing nursing programs," she said.

NEW DEAN JOINS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

John A. Cicero, an experienced administrator and professor of computer science, has joined Roosevelt University as dean of the Evelyn T. Stone University College. He formerly was dean of Academic Affairs at Benedictine University at Springfield College in Illinois where he was responsible for all faculty and curricular matters.

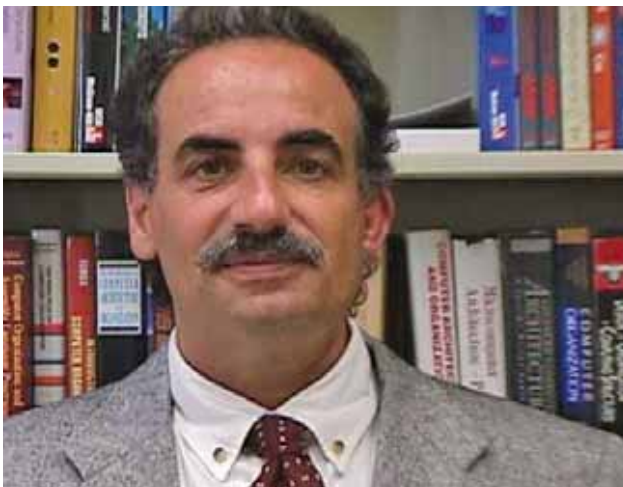
"I look forward to working with the faculty and staff to assess the needs of both the local and international communities and then develop new programs to meet those needs," Cicero said. "We will also examine our existing programs and staffing to continue to ensure that they remain at the highest quality."

In 2005, Cicero was one of two administrators who brought Benedictine University's programs and services to the Springfield area. Under his leadership, new undergraduate academic programs were launched in communication arts, business and education, while graduate programs were organized in business, education, management and psychology.

"Dr. Cicero's experience, vision and entrepreneurial skills make him the ideal person to lead the Evelyn T. Stone University College," said Pamela Trotman Reid, provost and executive vice president. "University College has always been recognized for its innovative and high quality academic programming. I know that tradition will continue to flourish under John's guidance."

Cicero received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology in 1976, a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Northwestern University in 1978 and a PhD from IIT in 1984.

Cicero succeeds Douglas Knerr, interim dean of the Evelyn T. Stone University College, who accepted a position as associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Northern Kentucky University.



John Cicero is the new dean of Roosevelt's Evelyn T. Stone University College.



Cindy Anderson (left), associate professor of education, leads a volunteer trip to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. She is pictured above with her husband and Katie Mason, graduate education major who won a social justice award for her efforts.



Children who live on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota are engaged by their visitors.

GRADUATE ASSISTANT WINS SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

Katie Mason, a graduate education major, has won the Office of Student Activities Eleanor Roosevelt Social Justice Award, in part because of her volunteer efforts at the Pine Ridge Indian reservation in South Dakota.

Over spring break, Mason accompanied Cindy Anderson, associate professor of education, to the reservation to help build bunkbeds for youth living on the reservation. Mason, who is currently working to organize a volunteer trip to the reservation for spring 2008, said she was appalled by the poverty and deplorable living conditions on the reservation. Residents were living in aging Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailers that were falling apart, she said, and unemployment and alcoholism were rampant.

"It made me feel fortunate for what I have in my life," said Mason, who hopes to find funding for a second trip next year. "My goal is to increase awareness. I want people to know that something like this exists in the United States and that people need to reach out and help," said Mason.

Vivid '07 Concert Attracts Huge Crowd and High Praises



Andrew Grams, assistant conductor of the Cleveland Symphony, conducts at the Vivid '07 concert.

Guest Conductor Impressed with CCPA Students

On March 26, Roosevelt University opened the Auditorium Theatre for *Vivid '07* — the gala concert of Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA).

The evening featured 125 student instrumentalists and singers performing Shostakovich's *Festive Overture*, Williams' *Serenade to Music*, Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, and the rarely-heard Beethoven's *Triple Concerto*.

Andrew Grams, assistant conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra and an American Symphony Orchestra League conducting fellow, led the CCPA Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Choir.

Three CCPA faculty members joined students on stage as soloists for the *Triple Concerto*. They were: Robert Chen, concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO); John Sharp, principal cello of the CSO; and Meng-Chieh Liu, acclaimed pianist.

More than 1,100 people attended the concert, which showcased the talents of faculty, orchestra students and choir members, and allowed CCPA students to experience the process of working firsthand with performers in concert on a world-class stage.

Vivid '07 was made possible by The Frankel Foundation, Jones Lang LaSalle and other generous corporate and individual donors.

Grams spoke to *Roosevelt Review* after the concert. Here are the questions and what Grams had to say in response:

ROOSEVELT REVIEW:

Your mother told me about how you asked to play an instrument, and she bought you a violin when you were in the third grade. What got you interested in music at such a young age?

GRAMS:

The classical station was always on in the house. My parents always kept it on and appreciated music very, very much. That made me appreciate it as well. Now, why I chose the violin, I have no idea. Wait, yes I do know. They only taught string instruments in the third grade, and if I wanted to play another instrument, I would have had to wait another year.

ROOSEVELT REVIEW:

How did you make the transition to conduct? Was that always a goal?

GRAMS:

I started toying with the idea when I was 17 years old. My friends often got together and wanted to play. So when they wanted to perform, they would ask me to conduct.

I guess they enjoyed having me conduct. Afterwards, I went on to conduct at the New York City Ballet Orchestra for a year and a half.

ROOSEVELT REVIEW:

One patron who saw the *Vivid* '07 concert said that he only saw that kind of passion and energy for music in one other person and that was Leonard Bernstein. How does it feel to be compared to such a legend?

GRAMS:

It's incredibly flattering. It is an honor to have a performance mean so much to the audience. Bernstein occupied the world in a total way and was a communicator of all things. I love the compliment and at the same time, it doesn't mean that I've made it. There's a lot of work to be done still.

ROOSEVELT REVIEW:

What advice do you have for students looking to pursue a career in music?

GRAMS:

Listen to everything. Listen to all music. Listen to as many viewpoints as you can. If you are honest, it will have more meaning. If you know what you are trying to convey, you will be more successful.

ROOSEVELT REVIEW:

What was your experience like with CCPA?

GRAMS:

It was a wonderful, wonderful experience. The attitude of the students was always very good and professional. There was tremendous personal investment from faculty, students and vocal students. Everyone was just so wonderful. I hope everyone continues to work with the high caliber of musical inspiration.

Save the date for Vivid '08: Monday, April 8, 2008.

"It was a wonderful, wonderful experience ... I hope everyone continues to work with the high caliber of musical inspiration."

—ANDREW GRAMS, ON HIS EXPERIENCE
CONDUCTING CCPA STUDENTS



The Chicago College of Performing Arts Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Choir perform March 26 on the stage of the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University.

A Message

FROM THE VP FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



THOMAS J. MINAR
Vice President for
Institutional Advancement

Dear Alumni and Friends,

In April, the Alumni Association hosted its annual Alumni Weekend Celebration. More than 300 RU alumni and friends of the University attended. On behalf of the University and its students, I want to thank those who participated this year for your continued support of an important RU tradition. I also encourage all alumni to support by giving back and getting involved in Roosevelt University's life and alumni events such as Alumni Weekend.

I'm pleased to announce that at this April's meeting, the Alumni Council asked Michi Peña (MBA, '78), president of the RU Alumni Association, to serve a second term as president. The Alumni Council also elected Penny Clevenger (BGS, '77; MC, '83) as president-elect and is preparing to select a new vice president at the fall Alumni Council meeting.

I want to thank Michi and Penny for two active and committed years with the Alumni Association. I am excited about another term with their leadership guiding the Roosevelt University Alumni Association and confident that this new term will be just as great!

During the next two years, Michi and Penny will focus on recruiting active and influential leadership for the Alumni Council and will focus on strengthening the visibility of the Alumni Association. The staff will work with them to ensure that alumni have as many opportunities as possible to be involved in the life of the University, whether here in Chicago or far afield.

As we near the end of the University's fiscal year, I would be remiss not to thank those of you who have supported the Annual Fund and to remind all of you that your support by the end of the fiscal year on Aug. 30 is critical to the University's fulfilling our educational mission and supporting social justice.

Sincerely,
Thomas J. Minar, PhD
Vice President for Institutional Advancement



A Message FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



MICHI PEÑA (MBA, '78)
*President, Roosevelt University
Alumni Association*

Dear Fellow Alumni:

In April, during Alumni Weekend, the Alumni Council of the Roosevelt University Alumni Association met for its annual meeting. One of the most important items on the agenda was strengthening Roosevelt's Chicago alumni engagement. Active members of the Alumni Council are committed to helping organize more locally based alumni activity that engages alumni in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. With more than 80 percent of Roosevelt alumni living in the Chicago metropolitan area, it is important for the Alumni Association to have a stronger presence and support base in Chicago. During the next months, members of the Alumni Council will begin working on an engagement plan for the Chicago area alumni.

I would like to thank the Alumni Council for asking Penny Clevenger (BGS, '77; MC, '83) and me to serve another two-year term as leadership for the Alumni Council.

Penny and I are looking forward to another wonderful and active two years as leaders of the Alumni Association. We look forward to meeting you at alumni events and recruiting more members to the Alumni Council. By working with us, you can further the goals of the University and also make the Alumni Association a stronger organization that will benefit alumni across the country.

If you are interested in joining or learning more about the Alumni Council or other alumni activities, please contact Damaris Tapia, director of alumni relations, at (312) 341-3627 or email dtapia@roosevelt.edu. You can also send her suggestions for events/activities that you would like the RU Alumni Association to present.

Michi Peña (MBA, '78)
President
Roosevelt University Alumni Association

*RU
Alumni
Events*

On The Road and in Chicago

MESA, ARIZ. Cubs Alumni Event at Mesa's Hohokam Park

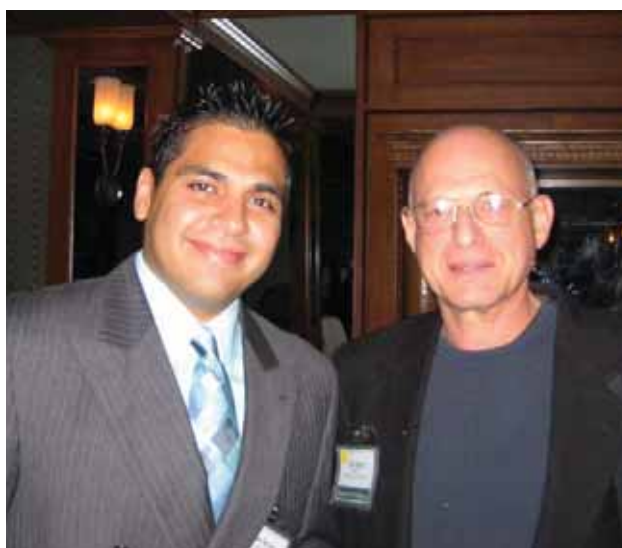
Tuesday, March 6



Above left: Carol Tauber (BGS, '79) (seated right) and her guests enjoy the view at Mesa's Hohokam Park. Above right: Roosevelt University alumni root for the Chicago Cubs during a pre-season game against the Milwaukee Brewers.

LOS ANGELES Alumni Reception at the Jonathan Club

Wednesday, March 14



Above left: Jason Rivas (MBA, '06) (left) and Joel Mark (BS, '64) share experiences at the reception. Above right: President Chuck Middleton meets with (from left) alumni Troy Keefer (BA, '88), Evelyn Tennell (BA, '44) and Kevin Morris (BSBA, '91).



Roosevelt Alumni span the country and their interest in spending time with one another continues to grow, as evidenced by their participation in this year's many special events.

UNIVERSITY PARK, ILL. **Vivid '07** Alumni reception before the second performance of this concert at Governors State University

Wednesday, March 28



Above left: Steven Jackson (BGS, '96) (left) attends the event with family members Pamela Jackson and Reuben and Juanita Butler. Above right: Nadia Chojnacki (BS, '55) and friend Donna Krol enjoy the evening of music and conversation.

SAN FRANCISCO **Alumni Reception at the University Club of San Francisco**

Wednesday, May 2



Above left: Shuwei Jiang (MS, '90) and President Chuck Middleton get acquainted. Above right, a large group of alumni attend the San Francisco event.

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2007

The annual Roosevelt University Alumni Association (RUAA) Alumni Weekend celebration was a great hit! More than 300 Roosevelt University alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends participated in 25 activities at the Chicago and Schaumburg campuses.

Among the events was a "Fireside Chat" with President Franklin D. Roosevelt impersonator Robert J. Lindsey and Roosevelt President Chuck Middleton. Education and social justice were major topics of the event that took place in the University's second-floor Sullivan Room, where a lively discussion and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

The Alumni Association sponsored the second annual Alumni Authors Showcase and organized the first-ever Alumni Business Expo. The activities took place in the second-floor Congress Lounge of the Auditorium Building. More than 50 alumni authors and alumni business owners and representatives participated in the two events. Meanwhile, at the Schaumburg Campus, the Alumni Association sponsored an Alumni Artist Exhibit that highlighted more than 20 fine art paintings of Roosevelt alumni and Schaumburg Campus staff.

This year, Alumni Weekend also incorporated the annual Spring Fling student graduation celebration into its programming. More than 25 students and young alumni came together for a bowl-off at the 10Pin Bowling Arena. Carolyn Patterson (BGS, '99; MBA, '01), the RUAA Chicago Chapter president, joined in on the fun and welcomed graduating students into the alumni family.

The two-day Roosevelt University Alumni Weekend celebration ended with its annual Alumni Awards and Golden Alumni Luncheon. Two alumni were honored: The Otto Wirth Award for Lifetime Achievement was presented to Louise Lovett Parkin (BM, '66) and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Humanitarian Award was posthumously presented to James Forman (BA, '57). Golden alumni medallions were presented to alumni from the classes of 1957 and earlier.

Your participation in this year's Alumni Weekend, including the Alumni Awards and Golden Alumni Luncheon, is just one way to express your continuing commitment to the University. By participating, you help us carry out the traditions and legacy of the University. On behalf of students — past, present and future — the Roosevelt community sincerely thanks you.

Don't forget to mark your calendar now for Alumni Weekend 2008, which will be held Friday, April 25, and Saturday, April 26!



Mary Peterson (MA, '77) chats with Roosevelt alumni attending the Alumni Business Expo.



Roosevelt University alumni enjoying a ride on the Chicago Trolley to the Field Museum for a behind-the-scenes tour



Roosevelt alumni authors promoting their work at the Alumni Authors Showcase



President Franklin D. Roosevelt impersonator Robert J. Lindsey with guests who attended the "Fireside Chat"



Class of 1957 alumni honorees join for a group photo with President Chuck Middleton after the Annual Alumni Awards and Golden Alumni Ceremony.



Ruby Peters (BA, '85) and Ruth Turner show off their Roosevelt pride.



Roosevelt students and alumni tried their hand at bowling during Alumni Weekend.

Save the Date!

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2008

FRIDAY, APRIL 25 AND

SATURDAY, APRIL 26



BY BEATRICE A. FRANCIS, ALUMNI RELATIONS

1960s

Christopher R. Reed (BA, '63; MA, '68) was appointed to the Commission on Chicago Landmarks by Mayor Richard M. Daley. He also serves as a member on the State of Illinois Slave Trade Commission.

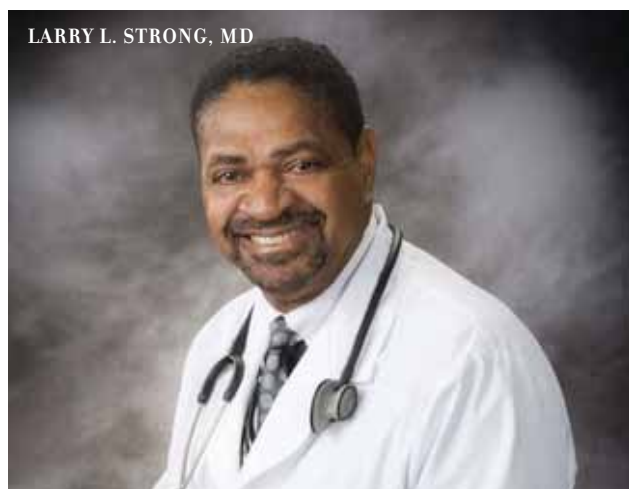
Gerald DeGuzman (BA, '65) is currently working at Orbital Sciences Corporation in Chandler, Ariz. The company builds missiles, rockets and small satellite systems for the government.



Nicholas D. Kokonis (BA, '65; MA '67) was recently presented with a First Homer Literary Award by the International Society of Greek Authors for his novel *Arcadia, My Arcadia*. The novel is currently under option to be made into a movie.

1970s

Larry L. Strong, MD (BS, '70) was recently hired to serve as urologist for the physicians of Bedford Regional Medical Center and Dunn Memorial Hospital in Lawrence County, Ind. Strong, who received his medical degree from Meharry Medical School in Nashville, Tenn., has 25 years of medical experience and is certified by the American Board of Urology.



Ronald A. Williams (BA, '70) was elected to the board of directors of American Express Company. Williams is chairman, chief executive officer and president of Aetna Inc.

Mario Fidanzi (BSBA, '73) is director of Stetson University's Family Enterprise Center. Stetson is a private liberal arts university in Florida.

Clarence Harris, III (BGS, '73) is enjoying life after retiring from GE Consumer Finance. He remarried, started guitar lessons, plays golf, travels and spends a lot of time taking photographs of nature and wildlife.

Mike Rothschild (BA, '73) is a consultant with Zencos, a business intelligence firm based in Durham, N.C.

Robert Ostrov (MPA, '75) is senior vice president of human resources for ArvinMeritor Inc. Ostrov will be responsible for the management of 29,000 employees at the company's more than 120 locations worldwide.

Rev. Alonzo C. Pruitt (BA, '75) was appointed executive director of chaplains for the City of Richmond's Sheriff's Office. Pruitt is rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Va.

Brenda Head Gaines (MPA, '76), former president and CEO of Diners Club North America at Citigroup Inc., has been appointed a member of the board of directors at Fannie Mae. Gaines serves on the compensation and housing and community finance committees.

Elizabeth Martin McNeely (BA, '78) and Kathleen Martin Krentel (BM, '78) belong to one of Roosevelt's many legacy families. Their father, Robert Martin, also attended Roosevelt.

Albert DeGonova (BA, '79) joined Hansgrohe North America as director of marketing. He will oversee marketing communications, media, trade show and display initiatives as well as sales promotions and Internet activities.





1980s

Beverly Hubbard (BSBA, '80) was promoted to the position of comptroller at Children's Habilitation Center in Harvey, Ill. Hubbard is a licensed certified public accountant and is currently working toward an MBA degree.

Mary Morgan (BGS, '84) is working as interim deputy forest supervisor for the White River National Forest in Aspen, Colo. Morgan's career with the forest service spans 17 years. Prior to her employment with the forest service, she served in the U.S. Marine Corp.



FLORA EVANS DIGBY

Flora Evans Digby (BSBA, '85) was named director of finance for La Rabida Children's Hospital in Chicago.

Vasilis Gatzoyannis (MBA, '85) serves as regional director for UPS in the Middle East, North Africa and Malta.

Dexter J. Mahlangu (BSBA, '85) is director of communication

for the Department of Agriculture in South Africa.

1990s

Creg Williams (MA, '90; DE, '97) became superintendent of School District 215 in Illinois in July.

Jennifer (Jenna) Ford Jackson (BFA, '91) appeared in the first national touring company of *The Color Purple* which premiered at the Cadillac Palace Theatre in Chicago.

James Patrick (BSBA, '91) was recently awarded a 20-year patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for a medical device he designed called the liftaem, a lateral patient transfer system. Patrick is chairman and chief executive officer of Smart Medical Technology Inc.

Regina Waldroup (BA '94) is a reporter and fill-in anchor at Tribune Company-owned Chicagoland Television, CLTV.

Charlotte Morris (BH, '96) is a real estate consultant affiliated with Keller Williams, Fox & Associates of Chicago.

Lori Boukas (MS, '98) is marketing director for Digital Check Corporation, a leading provider of check scanners to financial institutions.

Therese A. Jones (BSBA, '99) is an accountant for Fortress Insurance Company in Rosemont, Ill.

2000s

Jennifer Kimball Ibarra (BSBA, '00) is an associate with Barnes & Thornburg, LLP. Her area of practice is commercial litigation. Ibarra received her juris doctorate degree from Chicago Kent College of Law.

Robert M. LaMantia (MPA, '00) is chief of police in Lincolnwood, Ill.

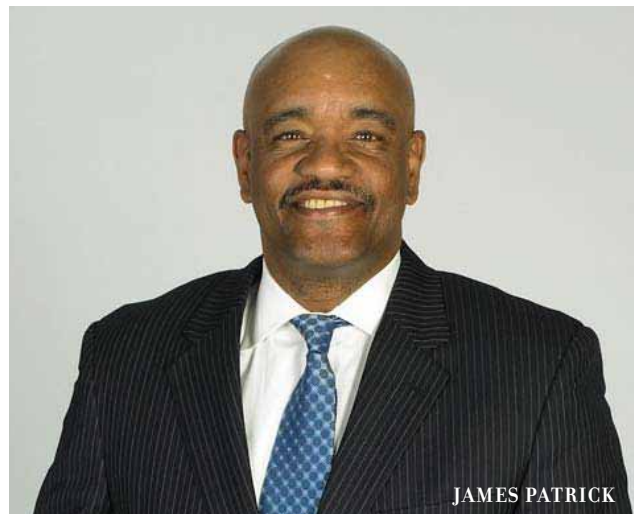
Brian Peterson (BSHTM, '00) was named community executive chef by Superstition Mountain Golf and Country Club in Arizona.

Vincent Davis (BA, '02) works in the customer service division at BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois.

Betheny Ratliff Lyke (DE, '02) is principal of Thornton Township High School in Harvey, Ill. Lyke's family is another of Roosevelt's legacy families as her parents, Troy Ratliff (BA, '73; MPA, '80) and Marilyn Gray Sheperd (MA, '77) are also RU graduates.

Marilyn A. May (BPS, '02) recently celebrated her second anniversary as host and producer of the Next Media radio talk show, *Marilyn's Café Society*, on WJOL 1340 AM.

(continued on next page)



JAMES PATRICK



(continued from previous page)

Cara Galday Harker (MFA, '03) teaches ballroom dance at Kingsport Ballet in Kingsport, Tenn.

Erin Skowron (LP, '03) is working for Kirkland & Ellis law firm in Chicago.

Sarah Mostad Buino (MA, '04) received a "Rising Star" award for her exemplary work as a teacher of English and history at Chicago's Quigley Preparatory Seminary.

Marty Manning (MA, '04) was hired as varsity basketball coach for the Huntley, Ill., Red Raiders.

Jason Steele (BM, '04) leads a jazz and improvisation group called The Jason Steele Ensemble. The group recently celebrated the release of a new CD, *Some Wonderful Moment*.

Gregory Jackson (MPA, '05) is the county administrator of the Woodford County Board.

Jon Larson (DE, '06) was appointed to the faculty of IIT as an assistant professor in the Rehabilitation Psychology Department.

Danielle O'Farrell (BFA, '06) appeared in the lead role of Philomel in the LiveWire Chicago Theatre production of *The Love of the Nightingale*.

IN MEMORIAM

Roosevelt University is sad to report the deaths of the following RU community members.

Life trustee **Albert A. Robin**, one of the major figures in the history of Roosevelt University, died March 8 at the age of 95. He was the man for whom Roosevelt University's campus in Schaumburg is named. A highly successful real estate developer, Mr. Robin was a man of vision who saw the need for higher education, particularly in the northwest suburbs. Thanks to his financial support, Roosevelt University was able to open a campus first in Arlington Heights and later in Schaumburg. Although he never earned a college degree, Mr. Robin appreciated the value of higher education and established a scholarship fund at Roosevelt to enable students from low and middle income families defray college costs. "The legacy of Mr. Robin will live on for years to come through his generosity that is manifested in the Albert A. Robin Campus," Roosevelt President Chuck Middleton said.

Life trustee **Sidney L. Port**, died on June 11, in Chicago at the age of '96. Mr. Port joined the Board of Trustees in 1987 and contributed more than \$1.6 million to the University over the years. He was a major supporter of the Schaumburg Campus and also contributed generously to numerous programs for Roosevelt students. The circle drive entrance at the Schaumburg Campus is named the Port Plaza in his honor. "Mr. Port was a true humanitarian who believed deeply in the mission of Roosevelt University," said Roosevelt President Chuck Middleton.

Robert Graham, the first provost of Roosevelt University, died July 3, after a long illness. Dr. Graham served as provost from 1989 to 1994, after serving at Penn State Harrisburg, where he had been an administrative colleague of Theodore L. Gross, president emeritus of Roosevelt. "With the aid of many faculty, staff members, students and fellow administrators, he was the principal architect and author of *Finding the Center*, a strategic plan that set in motion many of the programs and projects that have informed Roosevelt University for the past 15 years," Gross said. *Finding the Center* was the blueprint for the \$50 million capital campaign that made Roosevelt's Albert A. Robin Campus in Schaumburg, among other projects, a reality.

Dean **George J. Dillavou**, 85, the first dean of Roosevelt University's College of Continuing Education, died April 29 in Sarasota, Fla. Dr. Dillavou worked at Roosevelt from 1966 until 1971 and was involved in the formation of the Bachelor of General Studies degree. After leaving Roosevelt, he was a professor and dean at the University of Rhode Island until his retirement in 1987. In 2000, he was inducted in Rhode Island's Hall of Honor.

WE WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH!

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or email: alum@roosevelt.edu



1930s

Leonard A.C. Eiserer (BA, '37, YMCA College) of Silver Spring, Md., on May 18, 2007

1940s

Hymen Goldman (BA, '42, YMCA College) of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., on July 14, 2006

Sherwin Landfield (BA, '42, YMCA College) of Arlington, Va., on Feb. 3, 2007

Max Elmer Paige (BA, '47) of Grundy Center, Iowa, on Feb. 1, 2007

Leslie H. Davies (BA, '48) of Skokie, Ill., on July 4, 2006

Margaret Pettey (BA, '48) of Tucson, Ariz., on Aug. 19, 2006

Ethel LeMontre Trione (BA, '49) of Atlanta on Jan. 28, 2007

1950s

Lloyd Letourneau (BSC, '50) of Maitland, Fla., on April 11, 2006

Eileen K. Flanders (BA, '51; MA, '69) of Evanston, Ill., on Jan. 19, 2007

Dena Schur Geschwind (BA, '51) of South Orange, N.J., on Aug. 19, 2006

Harry Meetropoulos (BSC, '51) of Mountain Grove, Mo., on June 11, 2006

Lowell J. Myers (BSC, '51) of Chicago on Nov. 7, 2006

Richard L. Morello (BA, '51) of Chicago on July 9, 2006

Harold Lichterman (BSC, '52) of Chicago on July 25, 2006

Norman S. Okner (BSC, '52) of Palo Alto, Calif., on Aug. 3, 2006

Philip J. Rutledge (BA, '52) of Silver Spring, Md., on Jan. 26, 2007

Hirroshi Alice Rubin Kreiman (BA, '57) of Evanston, Ill., on Jan. 31, 2007

Stephan R. Maurer (BS, '57) of Homewood, Ill., on Oct. 10, 2006

Daniel Abrahamson (BS, '58) of Chicago on Sept. 6, 2006

Richard J. Lotsoff (BSC, '58) of Highland Park, Ill., on Oct. 23, 2006

1960s

Richard P. Foley (BA, '65) of Chicago on Oct. 8, 2006

Richard J. Schreiber (BSBA, '66) of Estes Park, Colo., on Nov. 20, 2006

Rosalie Kirschner (BA, '67) of Skokie, Ill., on Oct. 15, 2006

Mildred R. Seaton (MA, '67) of Newton, N.C., on Dec. 14, 2006

John F. O'Hara (MA, '68) of Bradenton, Fla., on Aug. 10, 2006

Weldon John Slater (BM, '69) of Curtis, Mich., on Nov. 4, 2006

John Sobolewski (BSBA, '69) of Woodridge, Ill., on March 6, 2007

Clifford G. Thuot Sr. (BSBA, '69) of Fairfax, Va., on Sept. 6, 2006

1970s

James W. Linn (MA, '70) of Smyrna, Ga., on Feb. 25, 2007

Ruth K. Sorenson (MA, '70) of Chicago on Jan. 23, 2007

William T. Andrews (BSBA, '71) of Santa Rosa, Calif., on Oct. 19, 2006

Marijane Siegal Carr (BS, '71; MM, '76) of Batavia, Ill., on Oct. 22, 2006

Margaret E. McPherson (BA, '72) of Chicago on Feb. 24, 2007

Judy Feldman Anderson (BA, '73) of Northbrook, Ill., on Nov. 25, 2006

Edgar T. Thornton III (MA, '73) of Iowa City, Iowa, on Nov. 17, 2006

Benjamin Kehinde (BSBA, '74; MBA, '77) of Chicago in September 2006

John Barnes (BGS, '77) of Downers Grove, Ill., on June 11, 2006

1980s

Roberta J. Howell (MA, '83) of Richmond, Ind., on May 24, 2006

Elizabeth T. MacNeil (BA, '85) of Hinsdale, Ill., on June 15, 2006

Richard Noty (MA, '86) of Chicago on Feb. 22, 2007

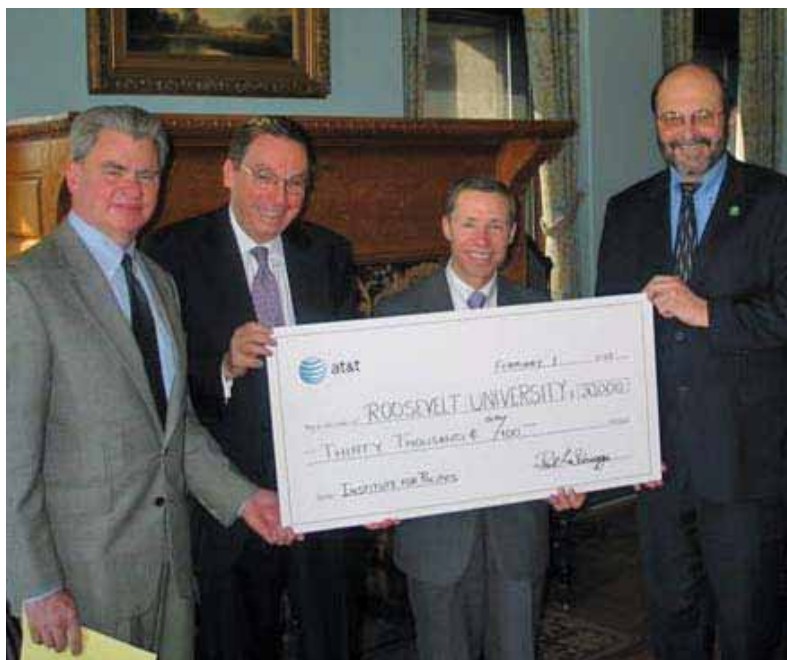
Doris Marie Gardner (MA, '87) of Palatine, Ill., on Sept. 18, 2006

Rita Novak (BA, '88) of Chicago on July 10, 2006

1990s

Charles Bess (BA, '94) of Chicago on April 22, 2006

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS



Holding the "check" at a reception on Feb. 1 are (from left) Dan White, executive director of the Illinois State Board of Elections; Paul Green, professor of policy studies; Paul La Schiazza, president of AT&T Illinois; and Roosevelt President Chuck Middleton.

AT&T TO FUND NON-PARTISAN ANALYSES OF ELECTIONS

Roosevelt University's Institute for Politics has received a \$30,000 grant from AT&T Excelsior, a competitive technology grant program from the AT&T Foundation, the philanthropic arm of AT&T Inc.

The institute will use the grant to conduct non-partisan analyses of elections. The institute is headed by Paul Green, an internationally known political commentator and Roosevelt's Arthur Rubloff Professor of Policy Studies.

"Roosevelt University and other organizations in Chicago will continue to use technology funded by the AT&T Excelsior program to empower the community and change the lives of those they serve on a day-to-day basis," said Paul La Schiazza, president of AT&T Illinois.

According to Green, this support from AT&T will "aid our commitment to citizens, journalists and elected officials. This gift will enable us to use the latest technology to provide comprehensive election analyses."

FOUNDATION SUPPORTS FUTURE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS

The W.P. & H.B. White Foundation has awarded Roosevelt University's College of Education a \$20,000 grant to continue the White Scholarship Program, which provides scholarships to students

pursuing teaching careers in the Chicago Public Schools. The scholarships are awarded annually to Roosevelt students from low-income families and local Chicagoland schools who are majoring in primary or secondary education. Recipients also must maintain a 2.5 grade point average during their studies at Roosevelt. During the 2006-07 year, seven Roosevelt students received scholarships supported by the White Foundation, which seeks to cultivate democratic learning communities and to make Chicago a better place to live, work and raise a family.

CCPA CONCERTS TO RECEIVE FUNDING BY COMMUNITY GROUPS IN 2007-08

Lending strong support to Roosevelt University, the Julius N. Frankel Foundation and the Chicago Community Trust will fund Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA) concerts and performance programs during the 2007-08 academic year. The Frankel Foundation recently gave a generous gift of \$75,000 to fund performance

activities of CCPA. The Chicago Community Trust will provide new support with a \$55,000 contribution to become the Platinum Sponsor of the College's annual gala concert, *Vivid '08*, while also supporting the 2007-08 concert season. With the gift, CCPA will be able to allocate more resources to marketing and advertising in order to enhance CCPA's presence in the Chicago music and cultural communities. In addition, CCPA can use the money to hire guest conductors who help CCPA students gain professional performance skills and experience.

PROGRAM ON JAPAN HELD IN SCHAUMBURG

The state of the Japanese economy and profiles of Japanese businesses in the Midwest were just a few of the topics discussed at the "Inside-Outside Japan: Three Unique Perspectives on Japan and the Schaumburg Area" panel discussion, held Feb. 15 at Roosevelt's Schaumburg Campus. More than 200 area business executives and community leaders participated in the event, which offered perspectives and insights on the revived Japanese economy. Other topics discussed were Japan-Midwestern business relationships, cross-cultural human resource issues and advice to students interviewing with Japanese companies. Organized by Roosevelt's Walter E. Heller College of Business Administration and the Japan External Trade Organization, the program was sponsored by the Consulate General of Japan in Chicago and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago.



Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA) sophomore David Lalowski noticed that his friend Stephanie Picarra wasn't available to hang out much during the fall 2006 semester. Three nights a week, fellow CCPA sophomore Stephanie rushed off to work at the Roosevelt Phonathon.

Stephanie's job as a phonathon associate is to contact Roosevelt alumni and friends to solicit gifts for the Annual Fund. She has been a top caller since she started in October. She credits her success to being respectful and genuine while on the phone with Roosevelt alumni and friends. Stephanie enjoys the mix of fundraising and storytelling that goes along with contacting alumni and friends of the University.

Inspired by Stephanie's enthusiasm for the phonathon, David was one of the first to apply for a position when recruitment began for the spring 2007 semester. He has followed in her footsteps as one of the top callers in the program.

The phonathon also exposes them to the wider arena of Roosevelt University through calls to alumni and co-workers who are students from every department of the University. Stephanie loves that working at the phonathon actually rounds out her academic experience. "Last week, I talked to a music ed alum who graduated just last year. We talked about the program, and how it helped her, and what she's working on now."

Music has been a lifelong passion for both students. Current faculty members Stephen Squires and Cheryl Frazes-Hill inspired the two to consider Roosevelt's music conservatory. David once considered a future in medicine, but the close mentorship of music instructors motivates him to share that gift with future generations. A vocal jazz workshop introduced Stephanie to Roosevelt, and she knew right away that this was the place for her.



Chicago College of Performing Arts sophomores Stephanie Picarra and David Lalowski enjoy talking to Roosevelt alums in the Phonathon program.

Stephanie, David and all of Roosevelt's students are committed to Roosevelt as the first step on the path to becoming leaders in their professions. Join us in committing to helping them achieve their goals.



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Institutional Advancement
(312) 341-6360
tminar@roosevelt.edu

INSTITUTIONAL GIVING

Brian Walker
Director of Corporate Relations
(312) 341-6797
bwalker@roosevelt.edu

ALUMNI RELATIONS

www.roosevelt.edu/alumni
Damaris Tapia
Director of Alumni Relations
(312) 341-3627
dtapia@roosevelt.edu

Bea Francis (BSBA, '82)
Administrative Secretary
Alumni Relations
(312) 341-3624
bfrancis@roosevelt.edu

DEVELOPMENT

www.roosevelt.edu/giving
Janelle Stevenson
Assistant Director of
Annual Giving
(312) 341-3629
jstevenson@roosevelt.edu

Tarik Yetken
Director of Development
Chicago College of Performing Arts
(312) 341-2082
tyetken@roosevelt.edu

OPERATIONS

Sara Nevills
Director of Prospect
Management and Research
(312) 341-3626
snevills@roosevelt.edu



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SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR UPCOMING OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT EVENTS



ANNUAL ALUMNI CRUISE: CHICAGO'S AIR AND WATER SHOW

On Kanan Cruises

Sunday, Aug. 19, 2007

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

\$75 per person

Join the Alumni Association for the Chicago Air and Water Show over beautiful Lake Michigan. Listen to live music, dine on a magnificent buffet lunch and enjoy the Chicago skyline.

DAY AT THE RACES

Sunday, Sept. 9, 2007

Arlington Park Racecourse
Arlington Heights, Ill.

Noon – 5 p.m.

*\$25 fee per person includes a bistro
lunch and reserved box seating.*

JAZZ/GOSPEL LUNCH BUFFET

Saturday, Oct. 27, 2007

Roosevelt University
Congress Lounge
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

\$35 per person

You are invited to partake in a special Saturday brunch! Enjoy the smooth sounds of jazz combined with the uplifting voices of gospel for this one-of-a-kind event!

RSVP AT:

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