

Roosevelt Parents

Newsletter for Parents of Roosevelt University Students

ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO • SCHAUMBURG • ONLINE
www.roosevelt.edu

FALL 2006

Welcome From the President

I have the enviable responsibility in my role as President to tell parents, alumni, politicians and other interested people about the many exciting activities at Roosevelt University. Therefore, I would like to use this occasion to share with you, the parents or guardians of Roosevelt students, some of our recent good news at the University.

First, and most importantly, our reputation for academic quality and excellence continues to grow. Last spring, we received verbal approval from a panel of experts appointed by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association for our University-wide ten year re-accreditation. I have reviewed a draft of their report and can tell you that it contains many laudatory comments which, when taken together, applaud our achievements during the past ten years and commend our aspirations and goals as they are described in the Strategic Plan of 2003.

New Student Activity Fee to Enhance Campus Life

A new Student Activity Fee (SAF) has been implemented at the University in response to student interest in enhanced campus activities. The SAF initiative was developed in early 2005 when members of the Student Government Association (SGA) began noticing an increased number of traditional-aged students on campus, as well as a growing number of participants in co-curricular activities and additional funding requests by student organizations.

In response to the changing face of Roosevelt, the SGA explored interest in the fee to better fund student organizations and enhance campus life by developing more entertainment programming and activities, such as concerts and sporting events.

Nestor Avila, a sophomore Communications and Spanish major, is one of many students who represent the trends noted by the SGA. "The truth is, there is a RU community of students like myself that need the opportunity to

continued on page 2

In attaining academic excellence and the reputation that follows, we know that the University faculty is the key to success. Students are the life-blood of every institution, but faculty members are its heart. This fall we have 243 funded tenured and tenure-track faculty positions, the largest number in the University's history. Twenty-three new faculty members joined the University, one of the largest classes in Roosevelt's history. These talented faculty members hold degrees from some of the nation's most prestigious universities. Word is getting out that being a



continued on page 3

"One Book, One University"

HOW "ONE BOOK, ONE UNIVERSITY" READING PROGRAM PUTS EVERYONE ON THE SAME PAGE

"One Book, One University" began in 2003, created out of a brainstorming meeting between Heather Dalmage, associate professor of sociology and director of the Mansfield Institute for Social Justice, and associate professor of economics June Lapidus. Taking their inspiration from the latest selection from Chicago's own "One Book, One City" initiative, the two colleagues thought a similar program would be an interesting effort at Roosevelt.

Dalmage believes universities have a responsibility to engage the community intellectually. This engagement "allows the students and faculty to ask questions beyond the classroom setting. To meet outside the classroom." While each book selection is discussed within the classroom, the program's main objective and greatest import is to bring the University community together as a whole. "This allows students to hear new and possibly different comments and discussions, as well as points of view regarding the issues and ideas that a particular text focuses on," Dalmage explains.

continued on page 4

Meet Rubee Li Fuller: New Director of International Programs

As a former international student herself, Rubee Li Fuller brings extensive knowledge and enthusiasm to her new position at Roosevelt University as director of international programs. After earning her master's degree in applied linguistics from Indiana University, Fuller, a native of Taiwan, spent many years in China setting up schools, hiring educators to teach English, and helping both students and teachers assimilate to a variety of cross cultural issues.

In her previous role as coordinator for international programs at Northeastern Illinois University, Fuller expanded the number of traditional summer study-abroad programs to nearly 200 and developed 15 new short-term study-abroad initiatives. She is excited about her new position, as it will afford her the opportunity and freedom to establish new programs here as well.

In Fuller's mind, the study abroad experience is the "icing on the cake," a way to more fully enhance a student's educational experience. She also believes that in the 21st century, in any academic field, students need to recognize the global component and how these emerging global markets and cultural influences affect our everyday life.

Recalling her own experience taking students to China for a Chinese history class, Fuller says, "It's one thing to study the Great Wall of China, but very different to actually stand on it." Being immersed in the culture and the community takes classroom learning so much further. "It is different even from visiting foreign countries as a tourist."

Fuller's responsibilities as director are not limited to the area of international study. The Office of International Programs not only serves international students enrolling in the University and current RU students who want to enroll for a semester abroad, but has begun outreach initiatives for international

professionals who come to work in the Chicago metropolitan area, recruiting their spouses or children to the school. Other projects include working with the Provost's Office and the newly developed Globalization Task Force to document and implement methods on short-term study-abroad programs for faculty and finding ways to include an international component into more areas of the curriculum.

Because so many students have professional obligations or family responsibilities, these proposed shorter term programs can still allow them to reap the benefits of international study. "A more traditional study-abroad opportunity may not be feasible for these students," Fuller explains. She likens the 7-17 day trips to an international field trip and can see many educational benefits.

Fuller cites the benefit of working at a metropolitan university is that students can experience firsthand the direct impact that globalization has on an area. It is easier for them to understand the importance and benefits. As she continues to settle in to her new role and environment, Fuller expresses unhesitatingly her love for RU's mission of social justice and how it fits so well into her own work. "There are tons of topics across international borders to explore and for students and faculty to discuss and experience," she says.

WHERE TO GO? WHAT TO STUDY?

Roosevelt University offers several reciprocal exchange programs, and provides information and guidance on other national study abroad organizations. Roosevelt exchange programs currently include: University of Bamberg and University of Tubingen in Germany; University of Nottingham Trent, Royal Northern College of England, and London Metropolitan University in England; University of Melbourne in Australia; Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, Finland; and Universidad de las Americas Puebla, in Mexico. Students may also want to select a program through the International Student Exchange Program that offers study-abroad opportunities through 245 institutions in 35 different countries.

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

Student Activity Fee *from page 1*

enriching and highlighting the college experience outside of the classroom but within the campus setting," said Avila.

Transfer student Matt Gebhardt was surprised that a fee was not already in place, "I was shocked to see that Roosevelt did not already have a fee in place since all other schools I considered attending had one."

Though the initiative was voted down in spring 2005, the SGA revisited the issue during the 2005-06 academic year. Changes in the revised proposal included reducing the fee to make it more affordable and charging all degree-seeking students—full- and part-time undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral—since all would potentially benefit from the new types of events.

The fee was proposed at \$25 per fall and spring semesters. The second attempt to pass the SAF was successful as three times as many students voted than in prior attempts, and the fee was approved by the majority.

Student program planning organizations, known as the Students Programming for Enrichment, Enlightenment, and Development (SPEED) Activities Boards, were established in August. The SPEED boards, directed by eight students at each campus and advised by a professional staff member, are in charge of planning events and allocating funds to student organizations.

For more information on the Student Activity Fee, visit www.roosevelt.edu/saf.

Welcome From the President *from page 1*

faculty member at Roosevelt is a rewarding and meaningful career. As a result, we are attracting applicants each year who are of very high quality. This assures the long-term success of our programs and the academic quality of your student's education.

Enrollment and credit hour growth is another positive story. This semester, Roosevelt's 7,200 students are taking the largest number of credit hours in the University's history, thanks to an increasing number of full-time students.

As of the beginning of October, the number of new students is eight percent over last year. Both campuses contributed to this success. This is the largest new student total in at least 10 years and has prompted the Board of Trustees to authorize the administration to acquire property for possible expansion of our downtown facilities.

Retention and graduation rates are other ways to analyze a university's academic quality. For full-time freshmen, the retention rate into the sophomore year has improved from 52 percent in 2002-03 to 69 percent last year. Six-year graduation rates are also on the rise. For each of the last two years, Roosevelt has awarded more than 2,000 degrees and certificates, a first in the history of the University.

I hope your son or daughter is participating in a student activity or organization because these programs contribute a great deal to a student's social development and leadership skills. The intramural sports program, in particular, has enjoyed strong growth and interest as more and more students take advantage of the gymnasium in our Herman Crown Center. An outgrowth of that activity is the recent creation of Roosevelt's club baseball team which is playing games this semester at Alexian Field in Schaumburg against teams from Northeastern Illinois University, Marquette University and Columbia College. Student life will also be improved this year by the implementation of a modest student activity fee. Student leaders on each campus will actively determine how these new funds will be allocated.

As you can see, these are exciting times to be a Roosevelt University student. I hope to see you on campus in the future. Most of all, I thank you for entrusting your son or daughter to us, and ask that you let us know if there is anything we can do to further enhance his or her university experience.



Charles R. Middleton
President, Roosevelt University

Coming Soon...

...Electronic parent's newsletter! Join the mailing list by registering at www.roosevelt.edu/parents/maillist.htm.

Upcoming Campus Events

November 1

J-Term, Spring, and Summer 2007 Advising and Class Registration Begins
For more information, visit www.roosevelt.edu/schedule

Symphony Concert Orchestra
7:30 p.m. in the Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theatre for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph

November 3-5

CCPA Theatre Performance: *Shakespeare and Company*
7:30 p.m. on November 3 and 4, and 2:00 p.m. on November 5
O'Malley Theatre, Auditorium Building

November 8-12

CCPA Theatre Performance:
Fall Musical Theatre Showcase Workshop: A Sondheim Celebration
7:30 p.m. on November 8-11 and 2 p.m. on November 12
Miller Studio, Auditorium Building

November 7-11

Wellness Week

November 9

CCPA Conservatory Chorus Concert
7:30 p.m. in Ganz Hall, Auditorium Building

November 13

CCPA Jazz Lab Band Concert
7:30 p.m. in Ganz Hall, Auditorium Building

November 15

Study Abroad Fair
For more information, visit www.roosevelt.edu/isa/study-abroad.asp

November 20

Celebration of Eleanor Roosevelt
5:00 p.m. in Ganz Hall, Auditorium Building

November 22-26

Thanksgiving Holiday—No classes

December 5-9

De-Stress Fest

December 8-9

CCPA Theatre Performance: *Inspecting Carol*
7:30 p.m. in O'Malley Theatre, Auditorium Building

December 10

CCPA Opera Theatre: Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*
2:00 p.m. in Ganz Hall, Auditorium Building

December 14

Last day of regular classes
Final Exams are December 15-21

December 22

University Commencement Ceremonies
Noon and 3:30 p.m., Auditorium Theatre

December 28

Students can view grades on *RU ACCESS*

January 3

J-Term classes begin

January 23

Spring semester classes begin

For campus event information, visit www.roosevelt.edu/calendars.
For more information on CCPA events, visit ccpa.roosevelt.edu.



“One Book” *from page 1*

Each year’s book discussions include faculty, students, and administrators who meet weekly and talk about various chapters of the selected work. When Barbara Ransby, author of *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement*, came to discuss her book at RU, Dalmage recalls, “We had this time to really engage and talk and then when she was the Mansfield lecturer that allowed for additional opportunity.” The “One Book” program has been tied in with the Mansfield Lecture Series, the big annual event of the Mansfield Institute for Social Justice.

Dalmage explains that the response to “One Book” has been very positive on a number of levels. The project has spurred increased interest in Roosevelt’s mission of social justice and has created additional opportunities for students to, as a way of reaching out and saying, “Here’s this initiative, if this is the reason you came to Roosevelt.” One such example is the organization founded by students, RU 4 Social Justice. The newly established club gives students the opportunity to have their own voice and explore their own ideas about social justice and learn ways

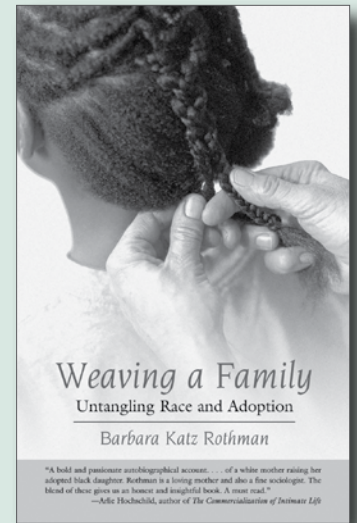
to get involved with issues they are interested in. “The students use their energy to do more for the University in this manner,” Dalmage says.

THIS YEAR’S RU READ:

Barbara Katz Rothman
*Weaving a Family:
Untangling Race
and Adoption*

Drawing on her own experience as the white mother of a black child, on historical research on white people raising black children from slavery to contemporary times, and pulling together work on race, adoption, and consumption, Rothman offers us new insights for understanding the way that race and family are shaped in America today.

Barbara Katz Rothman, a noted scholar and lecturer, is also a widely published author in both scholarly and popular journals.



NLOR080601

Starting this fall, all Roosevelt students have been assigned a new Roosevelt e-mail address. This system will make student-University communication more consistent and efficient. Students now will be able to get timely updates and important announcements, such as class assignments, campus closings, and special events. MyMail is an official communication mechanism and students are required to regularly check their account. The Office of Student Services sends a weekly electronic newsletter to all students through the myMail system called “What’s Happening @ Roosevelt.” The newsletter includes announcements about upcoming events, campus resources and important dates. Your student can log onto www.roosevelt.edu/myMail for more information on this new program or for account access.

myMail for Students NEW MYMAIL PROGRAM CONNECTS STUDENTS TO ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY

ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY
Office of Student Services
430 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605
www.roosevelt.edu/parents



First Class
Presort
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chicago, Illinois
Permit No. 6932