

## Greetings from the President

In this edition of *Roosevelt Parents*, I thought it would be interesting to share with you some information about one of our new initiatives in the area of governmental affairs and how you as parents can assist in this endeavor.

Parents play an influential role in American higher education. Many of you will automatically think this translates into college choice or paying tuition, but I have a much broader thesis. The success of American higher education is dependent upon well informed citizens who engage in our political processes at all levels.

Recently, much has been written about higher education as a private benefit rather than as a public good. I think higher education needs to be acknowledged as both a public good and a private (individual) benefit, but with emphasis placed upon the former and with the latter a legacy consequence.

The sad part is that American higher education is losing its foothold as a world leader in advanced education. But this not need be so. There is great community value in making sure the US has a well educated population—and that education doesn't stop at the 12th grade or even with a single college degree. Community colleges, public universities

along with private colleges and universities fill important roles in providing advanced and continuing education for citizens of all ages and backgrounds. I view higher education as part of a strong and valuable community infrastructure just as important as good roads and vibrant social services.

American higher education should be bi-partisan—supported and encouraged without regard to political affiliation. The balance of community good and individual benefit strengthens our overall position as citizens of cities, states, regions and the country as a whole.

As a parent, I encourage you to engage your elected leaders around the issues in higher education. Let officials know



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## The Myth About “Hot Jobs”

There's no escaping the inundation; the annual list of “hot jobs” promises exciting and lucrative careers in a few specialized and highly touted fields. From business magazines to government websites and TV commercials, select occupations are projected to deliver a part of the “American Dream.” But, is there really such a thing as a “hot job”—that mythical opportunity luring your son or daughter to a happily ever after? George Bagel, Director of Career Services, thinks the answer is no. He believes that information generated through sources such as the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupation Outlook Handbook ([www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)) merely provides an outlook or forecast, not a foredrawn conclusion.

“Students need to know that this is indeed a myth and instead focus on what they like to do,” Bagel says. When students are distracted or motivated by the notion of a sure thing in their career search, they're putting the cart before the horse. Instead, a student may want to consider that his or her talents and passion can turn the job they really want into that “hot job,” because they'll be invested in it.

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## A “TRiO” of Programs That Help Students Succeed

The TRiO Programs are student support initiatives funded through the Department of Education. Created in conjunction with the 1965 Higher Education Act, the programs serve low income and disabled students, as well as those who would become first generation college graduates.

Roosevelt sponsors three TRiO Programs: Project Prime, Veterans Upward Bound, and Educational Talent Search. Each of these programs supports a different population, but with the shared goal of creating educational opportunities for students who are most in need.

Project Prime is part of the University's Student Support Services. The oldest of the Roosevelt TRiO Programs, starting in 1979, Project Prime

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## How Do We Say Thank You? With Student Appreciation Week!

One of Roosevelt's most popular and anticipated traditions begins on Monday, April 17. Begun in the late 1990s, Student Appreciation Week has only one goal—to provide Roosevelt students with a week-long program of activities and events as an official

thank you from the university. What this tradition lacks in history is made up with creativity and enthusiasm. Not to mention variety. “One day offices and departments hand out cookies,



another day candy. The next may be a bookstore gift certificate raffle or a karaoke competition,” says Eric Tammes, Assistant Vice President for Student Services. In previous years, other free gifts have included backpacks and t-shirts. “It’s so much fun to watch the students participate, Tammes says, “and it’s almost like everyday is their birthday.”

Tammes recounts the range in events from “guest chefs” (comprised of faculty and staff members) serving lunch in the dining center to last year’s volunteers rolling carts of snacks through hallways for students during class breaks. In just a few years the program has developed into a university-wide initiative and is

open to all departments and all five colleges. This expansion allows for a greater variety of events each day at both campuses.

The success of this program lies in the new activities that are constantly added. “Anything is possible since the theme of the week is so broad,” Tammes explains. He is proud of this campus tradition and that so many faculty and staff take the time to participate. “The bottom line is we value our students. This is our way to say thank you for choosing Roosevelt and for continuing their education with us.” For more information about Student Appreciation Week, visit [www.roosevelt.edu/saw](http://www.roosevelt.edu/saw).

### “Hot Jobs” *continued from page 1*

Bagel says the media also contributes to that hype. A television show like “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation” produces a heightened interest in the fields of forensic pathology and psychology. While there is plenty of adventure and drama, Bagel cautions that it’s unlikely a TV show can portray the actual job requirements in a specific line of work. He advises students to investigate first hand, saying it’s key to talk to people working those jobs and find out what they really do on a day-to-day basis.

Why so much emphasis on doing what you love? Bagel explains that if a person isn’t enjoying their profession, she or he probably won’t be good enough at it to reap the rewards anticipated. “Keep in mind that the people who are most successful in life are doing what they really enjoy.” Bagel references various surveys that track job satisfaction. While the numbers aren’t exact, the overall findings are consistent. He cites one report that says only 10 percent of the people in this country love what they do, while another survey reflects as many as 80 percent don’t look forward to going to work in the morning.

In addition, employers look well beyond education or background,

and tend to focus on a candidate’s interest level, enthusiasm, attitude, and communication skills. Most employers will admit they can train a person to do a particular job, but they can’t train attitude. “Unless you’re a great actor, if you don’t really enjoy the field or that type of work, it’s going to show during an interview,” Bagel says. “And if you do manage to get the job, it will ultimately show up in your job performance.”

To support your son and daughter, Bagel recommends that parents ask their children about their interests and strengths, rather than suggesting a major or field of study. “Sometimes just through conversation you can learn a person’s likes and dislikes.” One way for a student to begin this process is through interest assessments administered through the Office of Career Services at both campuses. Assessments can help students clarify their likes and dislikes, as well as their value systems. Armed with this feedback, the student can begin working with a career advisor and begin to explore subjects for her or his major and career options.

Though taking these assessments is a bit more work, Bagel assures that the self-inquiry pays off. “If you’re going to put forth the effort, time, and money, you

might as well get the most out of that investment,” Bagel says.

When a person has pursued a job that fails to meet such heightened expectation, Bagel says there’s still the opportunity to discover what they do like to do. It’s never too late for that. “If you’re working in a certain industry and don’t enjoy it, it’s a good time to reexamine,” Bagel says. “Think about the happiest people you know and you’ll find they love what they do. That’s the bottom line.”

### “So, Just What Can I Do With This Major?”

Good news! Roosevelt University has purchased new computer software to answer that very question. From Accounting to Urban Studies, students (and parents!) can browse 50 majors and related links to discover areas of study within a particular field, possible employers, strategies for preparing for that career choice, and more.

The software program is quite comprehensive and very user-friendly. Log onto to [www.roosevelt.edu/ocs](http://www.roosevelt.edu/ocs) and choose the “What Can I Do With This Major?” option from the menu.

## TRiO Programs *continued from page 1*

served 250 students during the 2004-2005 academic year. The variety of academic services offered through this program is wide. Students benefit from personal development workshops, study skills development, and guest speakers and student recognition activities. A six-week orientation is also included and students have the opportunity to be introduced to the demands of college life through activities such as field trips, cultural events, as well as academic testing.

Begun in 1995, Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) serves 120 veterans from all branches of the US Military. VUB is a pre-college program designed to assist eligible veterans for preparation into the college program of their choice. Support through VUB covers a number of educational initiatives, from computer-based tutoring programs, to helping students prepare for their General Educational Development tests, all the way to their college graduation.

The youngest program, Educational Talent Search (ETS), was established in 1998 and currently works with 600 students through two elementary schools and three Chicago Public High Schools. Students age 11-27 participate in this outreach effort that motivates them to finish middle and high school in order to pursue further education goals, anywhere from a vocational or business school to community or four-year college.

According to Shawn Govan, Senior Director of TRiO at Roosevelt, all three programs have at their core ancillary services that encourage a strong rapport with faculty and staff. “We have a very close relationship with our students, there’s a trust there,” she says. Students are likely to participate more fully in a program if they feel they have that connection. Govan credits that rapport for their high retention rate—nearly 80% in Project Prime, while both ETS and VUB range between 75-85%.

Govan is proud that Roosevelt has one of the largest TRiO programs in the state.

And while each program consists of social outings, Govan points out that there is an academic base to each activity or project. “The TRiO programs,” Govan explains, “level the playing field for students who need more comprehensive support services.” An example she provides in the past summer’s ETS program focused on math and science, where the participants studied the physics of roller coasters. Their classroom studies would culminate with trips to Ohio’s Kings Island and Cedar Point to visit amusement parks known for their wilder rides.

The end result is that these experiences “open the students’ world.” If someone’s world is defined by limited experience and opportunity, programs such as these show students what’s possible and enriches their everyday lives. Govan believes that there is much to be said for imitating what you see in life. “If you see success, you will be success,” she adds, “They’re more likely to achieve it.”

For more information, contact Shawn Govan at (312) 341-2031 or at [sgovan@roosevelt.edu](mailto:sgovan@roosevelt.edu).

## Upcoming Campus Events

**March 13-19**

Spring Break

**March 23**

Career and Internship Fair

11 a.m.-3 p.m., Auditorium Building

For more information, call (312) 341-3560

**March 27-31**

Wellness Week

**March 30**

Annual Mansfield Institute for Social Justice Lecture Featuring Author Ira Shor on “A Pedagogy for Liberation: Dialogues on Transforming Education”; 4:30 p.m., Auditorium Building

**April 1**

Fall 2006 Advising & Class Registration Begins

Priority Deadline for 2006-07 Financial Aid Applications

For more information, visit [www.roosevelt.edu/financialaid](http://www.roosevelt.edu/financialaid)

**April 5-9**

CCPA Circus Project Workshop

For times and information, visit [ccpa.roosevelt.edu](http://ccpa.roosevelt.edu)

**April 8**

New Deal Service Day in Chicago & Schaumburg

Register to participate at [www.roosevelt.edu/newdealday](http://www.roosevelt.edu/newdealday)

**April 11-15**

CCPA Spring Musical Theatre Workshop

For times and information, visit [ccpa.roosevelt.edu](http://ccpa.roosevelt.edu)

**April 17-22**

Student Appreciation Week

For more information, visit [www.roosevelt.edu/saw](http://www.roosevelt.edu/saw)

**April 19**

CCPA Symphony Orchestra & Conservatory Choirs Concert

7:30 p.m., Auditorium Theatre

Pre-concert Reception for parents from 6:30-7:15 p.m., Auditorium Building

For more information and to RSVP, call (847) 619-7920

**April 20**

Etiquette Reception & Dinner; 6:00-8:30 p.m., Auditorium Building

For information and to register, visit [www.roosevelt.edu/ocs/etiquette.htm](http://www.roosevelt.edu/ocs/etiquette.htm)

**April 27-30**

CCPA Musical Theatre Performance: Two Gentlemen of Verona

For times and information, visit [ccpa.roosevelt.edu](http://ccpa.roosevelt.edu)

**May 4-7**

CCPA Opera: The Yellow Wallpaper

For times and information, visit [ccpa.roosevelt.edu](http://ccpa.roosevelt.edu)

**May 6-12**

Final Exams

**May 10**

CCPA Gospel Choir Concert; 7:30 p.m., Auditorium Building

For times and information, visit [ccpa.roosevelt.edu](http://ccpa.roosevelt.edu)

**May 12**

University Commencement Ceremonies; 12:00 & 3:30 p.m., Auditorium Theatre

**May 18**

Student Grades Available on *RU ACCESS*

**May 20**

Summer Session Classes Begin

For more information on campus events, visit [www.roosevelt.edu/calendars](http://www.roosevelt.edu/calendars)



## From the President *continued from page 1*

that you have college-age students and the effects of the availability of government funded financial aid on your household. Engage officials in discussion about support for educational research and investment. I have found that elected officials clearly understand their role and responsibility to their constituents. It is our responsibility to let them know what's on our minds and why the communities they represent need those well-educated citizens now and in the future.

To that end, I have established a new area within my office to work with all areas of government and external relations. Dr. J. Michael Durnil began on July 1, 2005, and works with me in engaging local, state, and national leaders on topics that directly impact our students, faculty and staff. From time to time, we may need to enlist your help in working with officials in educating them about higher education from the parent's perspective and specifically assisting Roosevelt University.

Michael can be reached at (312) 341-2323 or by email at [jdurnil@roosevelt.edu](mailto:jdurnil@roosevelt.edu). He will be happy to talk with you about any of our current projects or government and higher education issues.

Thank you for your partnership with us in educating your student in this tradition of civic engagement and social responsibility.

Charles R. Middleton  
*President, Roosevelt University*

## TRiO Info

An estimated 2 million students have graduated from college since 1965 because of the special assistance and support of the nation's TRiO programs.

The programs were originally established in 1965 to ensure equal educational opportunity for all Americans, regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstance.

TRiO counselors work one-on-one with students, which accounts for the high retention and success rate. TRiO professionals are also committed to building personal relationships, which are critical to the success of every TRiO program.

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## You're Invited!

**Fourth Annual New Deal Service Day**  
Saturday, April 8

Chicago & Schaumburg Campuses

Register to participate at [www.roosevelt.edu/newdayday](http://www.roosevelt.edu/newdayday) or call (312) 341-2198.

**Symphony Orchestra & Conservatory Chorus Concert**  
Wednesday, April 19

7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium Theatre

**Parent Reception** at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium Building

Call (847) 619-7920 to RSVP for the reception & complimentary parent concert tickets.

ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY  
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