



This issue's
winning JRR Idea –
"Passport to Success"



Jostens Renaissance Review #13 March 13, 2008

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Conference Information

Conference Registration Rates

Once again, it pays to get your Jostens Renaissance National Conference registration in early. Register early to take advantage of the available price break! The registration fee includes admittance to all sessions, conference materials, five meals and a Jostens Renaissance National Conference T-Shirt. The postmarked date determines the registration fee:

- Registrations postmarked by **5/15/08 - \$275**
- Registrations postmarked **5/16/08 – 7/3/08 - \$300**
- On-Site registration (**after 7-3-08**) - **\$325**

Registration forms and online registration will be coming at a later date.

Conference Location Link!

Jostens Renaissance is very pleased to announce that the 2008 Jostens Renaissance National Conference will be held in **Phoenix, Arizona July 11-13, 2008**. All Jostens Renaissance sessions will be held at the **Phoenix Convention Center** and the luxurious **Hyatt Regency Phoenix Hotel** will serve as our host hotel!

To view all hotel information, visit the following link: http://www.jostens.com/edserv/renaissance/ren_350.asp



Your Ideas

This issue's winning JRR Idea - Passport to Success: Anything's Possible!

Submitted by: **Denise Hitch**

Oakdale High School

Oakdale, CA

Shocking data often serves a purpose, jarring us into motion to make a change or move things up the "priority list" and search for solutions. That is what happened at Oakdale High School when we heard the staggering statistic from Rick Dufor's book, *Whatever It Takes*. Dufor states that, of the students who drop out of high school, 75% of them make that decision by October of the freshman year. They may "stick around" for four years and enjoy the social offerings at your school, but they are not there for the academics because it does not meet the needs of their plan to drop out. What can you do as an educator with such distressing news?

At OHS, we implemented our first ever "Passport to Success: Anything's Possible!" Scheduled right after the close of first quarter, freshman got to hear from those in the trenches - students and staff with real life stories to share about "how to do high school right." Students began in the Main Gym for a short opening and then traveled with their "passport" to four stations. One stop was in the theater to hear from seven high profile students who shared how they have overcome obstacles to be successful in school. One young man, a star football player, told how he has had to "go it alone" since his father died when he was twelve. A cheerleader challenged the students, asking them if they thought it was hard to get out of bed in the morning. She shared that, because of her juvenile arthritis, she knows what it is like to not be able to get out of bed in the morning. She talked about the pain she feels every day but pushes herself to be a successful student and cheerleader. Our star quarterback shared how he is not able to accept offers from colleges that are currently recruiting him because he did not take college prep classes and get the required grades.

Another station allowed students to hear from select, positive staff members who shared tips on how to do well in school. Students were divided into four small groups so about thirty went to one of four classrooms. Popular teachers shared a David Letterman style "Top Ten" power point on the do's and don'ts of being successful in school. Another stop was in the small gym where students saw a skit between the Vice Principal (playing the role of a student) and a highly visible senior (playing the role of the VP) who has battled cancer and is a star athlete. The skit was concluded with this young man telling his story, his personal triumph over cancer while maintaining his college prep status.

Another station included a short motivational video and students got to try on the famous Oakdale High School red Jostens graduation gown and sign their name on a gown as their commitment to graduate in 2011 with their class.

Although it is too early to measure the effectiveness of this program, quarterly follow up will be done with students by checking their progress and awarding prizes to students who are being successful, moving toward earning passing grades and those who have excellent attendance. Teachers submit names of freshman students who are working to be successful in school and drawings are held throughout the quarter for movie passes, gift cards, and iPods.

For more information about the Oakdale High School Passport to Success: Anything's Possible! program, contact Denise Hitch at dhitch@oakdale.k12.ca.us

For submitting this issue's winning idea Denise will receive a Jostens Renaissance hooded sweatshirt and now becomes eligible for the 2008 JRR Idea of the Year grand prize.



It's TIME to become a Rock Star - Submit Your Ideas!

Once again Jostens Renaissance will be running our annual "Idea of the Year" contest. If you submit the winning idea, you'll receive ROCK STAR TREATMENT at the 2008 Jostens Renaissance National Conference.

What's Rock Star treatment?

- Airfare for two to the Jostens Renaissance National Conference
- Limousine transportation from the airport to the host hotel
- Upgraded Hotel accommodations
- Complimentary registrations for you and your guest
- VIP Dinner
- Official Jostens Renaissance National Conference Tour Jacket
- Limo ride back to the airport
- More information to be revealed in upcoming issues

How to submit your idea

Do you have an idea from your Jostens Renaissance program that has improved your school's environment? Submit your ideas to charley.nelson@jostens.com. We'll select a "winning idea" for each issue and the individual submitting the published idea will receive a Jostens Renaissance Review sweatshirt and be eligible for the 2008 Idea of the Year Contest.

Hot Stories

Jostens Renaissance National Conference Featured Presenters Now Posted on Website

Click on the link below to check out the lineup of outstanding presenters scheduled to present at the 2008 Jostens Renaissance National Conference.

http://www.jostens.com/edserv/renaissance/ren_315.asp

As we receive and accept breakout session submissions, we'll post them to the site as well. You'll be able to start determining the sessions that you'd like to attend in advance! Keep checking the Jostens Educator Services website for updated information on the 2008 Jostens Renaissance National Conference.

Program Enrichment

Contribute to the Discussion Board - Win an i-Pod Shuffle!

In an effort to maximize the potential of the Educator Services Discussion Board, we will be holding a drawing every two weeks for an i-Pod Shuffle. All you have to do is **make a contribution to the discussion board between now and March 13th** and you'll be eligible to win a Shuffle.

There are already numerous active discussions, so just post your comment and join in! Better yet, feel free to start a new discussion area. Post a Renaissance question and hear back from some of the greatest educational minds in North America. Ask a question about attendance, discipline, staff morale, anything and you'll get great responses.

The Discussion Board can network thousands of educators and provide you with insights from experienced educators. All you have to do is get involved! And hey, you might win a Shuffle along the way!

To get started, just click on this link - <https://edserv.jostens.com/default.asp>

Congratulations to Diane Casey!

Diane's name was drawn from all those who made a contribution to the Educator Services Discussion Board over the past two weeks. As a result she is our **12th i-Pod Shuffle winner.**

Star Fish Story Available Online and on DVD

As we enter the "dog days" of the school year, the star fish story can prove to be the perfect thing to inspire you until spring. To view the Star Fish Story, just click on this link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wuSaNCIde4>

If you'd like to purchase a copy of the Star Fish DVD, email Norma Christenson at norma.christenson@jostens.com. Cost is \$12.



New You Tube Video Posted - "Get Into It!"

To date over 5000 people have viewed the Starfish Story on line. We've had such a great response that we've added another video on You Tube and this one's just for fun while still sending a strong Jostens Renaissance message.

Just click on the link below and take a look at "**Get Into It!**" We know that you'll enjoy it!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MITtrQz5Ws&feature=user>



Following Freshmen Blog

A new addition to the Jostens Educator Services website home page is Following Freshmen. Alex, Bailey and Caitin are blogging their freshman year college experience. This is an invaluable resource for high school seniors as it provides insight into what college life is really like. Find out about the academic stresses that college places upon students; how do you meet new friends; what do you do when your roommate literally stinks; what's it like to be away from home? Discover what the freshman experience is like through the eyes of a freshman.

Take a look at the last posting to get an idea of the honest and invaluable information that is at your fingertips on the Following Freshmen Blog:

[Almost Done](#)

Well last week wasn't too exciting, but I did realize why I felt like I hadn't been doing anything so far this semester. Three out of my five classes are huge lecture halls, unlike last semester where I only had one. So in those classes, you generally don't get assigned homework, your grade is just based solely on about four tests throughout the semester. The only test that I've taken so far was a Psychology test and I got a C on it; not too happy about that. As of now I'm majoring in Psychology and I have to get a 2.5 GPA in all my Psych classes before I apply to the school and last semester I got a C overall, so it would really help if I got a B or higher this semester, so I have to do a lot better on my next one.

It seems so strange to think about, but I have about a week and a half until spring break, and after that there's only a month and a half until school's done for the year! This year has gone by sooo incredibly fast, I can't believe it. I can't wait until summer, because then I'll be home, won't have to do any school work etc, but I know I'm going to miss it here like crazy. My friends and I already have talked about taking a road trip back here to stay with one of my friends and hang out for a weekend.

Postings are made three times a week. To follow the freshman journey of Alex, Bailey and Caitlin, just go to the Jostens Educator Services home page and click on the Following Freshman link.

<http://www.jostens.com/edserv/default.asp>

Statistic of the Issue - Top 10 College Majors*

Beloit College prepares an annual list to help teachers understand the mindset of the freshmen entering college in a given year. Here are the latest aspects of the current crop of last fall's freshmen. There may be lists that are more startling as to what a given group of young people has never or has always experienced, but this one has some aspects that may be surprising. Here are 50 things that I found interesting.

1. What Berlin wall?
2. Humvees, minus the artillery, have always been available to the public.
3. Rush Limbaugh and the "Dittoheads" have always been lambasting liberals.
4. They never "rolled down" a car window.
5. Michael Moore has always been angry and funny.
6. They have grown up with bottled water.
7. General Motors has always been working on an electric car.
8. Nelson Mandela has always been free and a force in South Africa.
9. Pete Rose has never played baseball.
10. Rap music has always been mainstream.
11. "Off the hook" has never had anything to do with a telephone.
12. Music has always been "unplugged."
13. Russia has always had a multi-party political system.
14. Women have always been police chiefs in major cities.
15. They were born the year Harvard Law Review Editor Barack Obama announced he might run for office some day.

16. Classmates could include Michelle Wie, Jordii Sparks, and Bart Simpson.
17. Half of them may have been members of the Baby-sitters Club.
18. Eastern Airlines has never "earned their wings" in their lifetime.
19. Wal-Mart has always been a larger retailer than Sears and has always employed more workers than GM.
20. Being "lame" has to do with being dumb or inarticulate, not disabled.
21. Wolf Blitzer has always been serving up the news on CNN.
22. Katie Couric has always had screen cred.
23. Al Gore has always been running for president or thinking about it.
24. They never found a prize in a Coca-Cola "MagiCan."
25. They grew up in Wayne's World.
26. U2 has always been more than a spy plane.
27. They were introduced to Jack Nicholson as "The Joker."
28. American rock groups have always appeared in Moscow.
29. On Parents' Day on campus, their folks could be mixing it up with Lisa Bonet and Lenny Kravitz with daughter Zöe, or Kathie Lee and Frank Gifford with son Cody.
30. Fox has always been a major network.
31. They drove their parents crazy with the Beavis and Butt-Head laugh.
32. Women's studies majors have always been offered on campus.
33. Being a latchkey kid has never been a big deal.
34. They learned about JFK from Oliver Stone and [about] Malcolm X from Spike Lee.
35. High definition television has always been available.
36. Smoking has never been allowed in public spaces in France.
37. Time has always worked with Warner.
38. Tiananmen Square is a 2008 Olympics venue, not the scene of a massacre
39. MTV has never featured music videos.
40. The space program has never really caught their attention except in disasters.
41. Jerry Springer has always been lowering the level of discourse on TV.
42. They get much more information from Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert than from the newspaper.
43. They're always texting 1 n other.
44. They will encounter roughly equal numbers of female and male professors in the classroom.
45. They never saw Johnny Carson live on television.
46. Chavez has nothing to do with iceberg lettuce and everything to do with oil.
47. Illinois has been trying to ban smoking since the year they were born.
48. The World Wide Web has been an online tool since they were born.
49. Dilbert has always been ridiculing cubicle culture.
50. Food packaging has always included nutritional labeling.

**Source - Beloit College Mindset List*

Events & Reminders

Events

Upcoming Jostens Renaissance Events

March 14, 2008 - North West Coalition of Renaissance Schools, Aberdeen, WA - Rick Morton at rick.morton@jostens.com

Upcoming Jostens LeaderShop workshops

March 19, 2008 - Saddlebrook, NJ - Pete Sabatino at pete.sabatina@jostens.com

April 15, 2008 - Tucson, AZ - Brent McCasland at brent.mccasland@jostens.com

Reminders

Platinum Program Coupon Books

They're FREE and they are going fast! Bigger and better than ever with more offerings from brand-name companies. Order now: http://www.jostens.com/edserv/renaissance/ren_500.asp

Educator Services Website

Provides information about Jostens Renaissance. Register and get full access to all the program information. www.jostens.com/edserv

Renaissance Review Archive

Provided to you on our new website: http://www.jostens.com/edserv/renaissance/ren_400_20.asp

Post Cards -Personalize Recognition for Students

We've made post cards out of the three student related motivational posters. The cards are 5" x 7" are packed individually. Cost is \$.10 per card. To order, email norma.christenson@jostens.com and list the number of cards you'd like and the address to ship them to. We'll put an invoice with the shipment.

National Conference MemoryBook now available on OurHubub.com

Use this Promotion Code: **RENA4RA8** for 15% OFF the price of your memory book!



Black History Commemorative Poster

To order, please e-mail norma.christenson@jostens.com. Include # of posters, your name, school name, address. \$1.00 per poster plus postage. An invoice will be included with your order.



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