

Sharp Talk

Back To School

Editor

Lisa O'Donnell Connors
Extension 6803

More than 100 Post employees recently headed back to school for fall semester classes, thanks to the newspaper's tuition reimbursement program. These "stu-

ment program, which is administered by the Organization Development & Training Department.

With the financial support from the tuition reimbursement program, **AURORA GONZALEZ**, Circulation, is on track to receive her bachelor's degree in business from Strayer University in 2005, the same year her son, Bryan, will graduate from DeMatha Catholic High School in the District.

"I graduated from high school in 1984 and after my son was born in 1987, I promised myself I would go back to school when he turned 10...I didn't want to take the time away from him when he was little. In 1997, I started taking classes at Strayer, across the street from The Post. I started taking classes just to get my feet wet and then decided on a business major," she said. "I've been able to put into place some of the things I've learned toward my job at The Post, especially in customer service."

Gonzalez now studies alongside her son. "It's hard and stressful to find the time, not just for me, but also for my son," explains Gonzales, who takes two classes each quarter. "I talk to him about how this is

a good thing and will help us both in the long run. I also think I'm setting a good example that will motivate him in school."

Working full-time while working toward a degree isn't new to **ARTHUR FULLER**, Information Technology. Fuller worked his way through the University of the District of Columbia to obtain his bachelor's degree. He is now utilizing the tuition program to obtain his masters degree in computer systems management at the University of Maryland. "If The Post is willing to reimburse me for the tuition, I might as well take advantage of it. It's an investment in myself," he said.

ANDY DENAULT, Circulation, credits the tuition reimbursement program for enabling him to fulfill a promise to his father when he was still paying for his own children's college bills.

"I got married in 1972, between my sophomore and junior years at Central Connecticut State University," explains Denaunt. "My father was worried about me finishing school. Then the kids starting coming and I had to quit school to take care of my family. I promised



AURORA GONZALEZ
with her son, Bryan.

dents" are working toward undergraduate and graduate degrees, or taking a class to learn a new job skill or to brush up on a foreign language. They are also juggling their jobs, family life and class work.

Full-time and part-time employees who meet eligibility requirements can receive up to \$2,500 in tuition reimbursement each calendar year, through the tuition reimburse-

PHOTO PROVIDED BY GONZALEZ

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Life Is Short – The End

ShopTalk's summer series of "Life Is Short" essays written by Post staff comes to end this week. The final four essays are below.

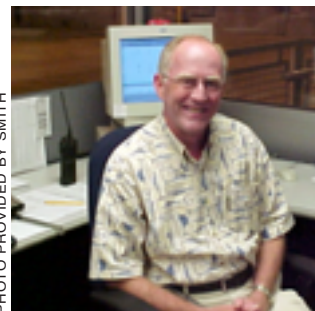
"Feeling like a spy in the house of humanity, it is my job to give their words a face, and in doing so, as often is the case, we become friends for an hour or more... knowing

I shall never see them again. And some of their truths are hard to bear. The irony of the column I shoot, "Life is Short", only recently dawned on me. As I deal with my best friend's breast cancer, August, coincidentally, became a month of cancer/suicide pieces. David, 40, with a deadly disease, asked a

pointed question about my personal life...and as I left he said 'Life IS Short.'"

—**REBECCA D'ANGELO**
Photographer for "Life Is Short" in Sunday's Style section

"It happened when I was 12. My neighbor was going on vacation and asked me to substitute on his newspaper route. I had no idea at the time that this favor would change my life forever. His manager gave me the details of a carrier pro-



RUSTY SMITH

motion and showed me a catalog of prizes. In no time, I had a new basketball, a bicycle, and things that I can't remember now - 34 years later. I learned that this was a business that offered rewards for hard work. Make the most of your time here and you will live a fruitful life."

—**RUSTY SMITH**
Circulation Dispatch Transportation Department

"Another day, another dollar. Wake up at the crack of dawn. Diet coke breakfast on the way to the clean subway called Metro. Boxed like sardines...I pay \$2.50 to



JENI d'AGUSTE

people watch. Off the Metro, McPherson Square. I'm early...yet must hurry, must walk like I'm on a mission, this way I'll fit in with the "sidewalk crowd." Side entrance, show my badge to one of the security guards with a bright white smile. "Good Morning." My comfortable desk, my mail...voicemail... e-mail... CHECKED. Ten messages is better than one. I work at the Washington Post and wouldn't trade that for anything in the world!"

—**JENI d'AGUSTE**
Advertising



AMER YAQUB and son, Zain

"I was promoted to a sales management job the same year that I became a father. The differences between the two roles are many - like not being responsible for the sales staff's college tuition bills! There are similarities, too. At Borders, books beckon me with hollow promises of how I can be the best manager/father in the world if only I followed the authors' ten point plans. I spend a lot of time thinking of how I can help my reps realize the awesome potential they have - much like I do for my son. Both jobs are initially challenging but ultimately rewarding...."

—**AMER YAQUB**
Advertising

PHOTO PROVIDED BY D'ANGELO

REBECCA D'ANGELO

PHOTO PROVIDED BY YAQUB

PHOTO PROVIDED BY SMITH

my father that I would finish, but five years became 10 and the time just flew. My father passed away in 1995 and I realized I hadn't fulfilled my promise."

In 1996, the youngest of the four Denault children graduated from college. "The kids encouraged me to go back. I got my transcript from Connecticut and realized I only needed 15 credits to get my undergraduate degree." Denault was able to take the credits at the University of Maryland. Maryland transferred the credits to Central Connecticut State University and he graduated in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. And, he didn't stop there.



Denault finished his requirements for a master's degree in administration management this July.

"I wanted senior management to know that I was

ARTHUR FULLER, IT employee and University of Maryland student.

more than just a pretty face," he commented with a hearty laugh. "I couldn't have done it without the tuition reimbursement program."

STEPHANIE BEARD, an assistant editor for Style, begins her second class at the Corcoran College of Art & Design next week. Her goal is to obtain a certificate in print design, a program that requires five design classes.

"I started at The Post as a news aide in the art department and volunteered to work on graphics to learn more about design. I thought it was time for me to get more formal

training and to broaden my design skills," said Beard. "It will be tough...My shift ends at midnight and I have to be at class at 9 a.m. It's something I really want to do. The fact that The Post pays for it is a great incentive."

For information on the tuition reimbursement program, contact **VONDA COULBOURN**, Organization Development & Training administrator, at x5435. In order to receive the tuition reimbursement, employees should fill out the program's application prior to taking a class or classes.

2001 20-Year Club Members

According to records in Personnel, the staff listed below will have reached their 20-year anniversary at The Post in 2001 and will become members of the 20-Year Club. If you or someone else you know is eligible for the 20-Year Club and is not listed, please contact **LISA MARTIN** at x6489.

William Alston
John Anderson
William Baur
James Beasley
Paul Beasley
Wayne Berbig
Raymond Booker
Dewayne Brown
Kenneth Brown
Russell Brown
Sheila Brown
Cheryl Butler
Carol Camero
James Carter
Carmen Chapin
Dionne Cohee

Douglas Collier
Donna Curtis
Dennis Daniel
David DeGrouchy
Thomas Dimond
Jerry Donley
Douglas Dozier
Diane DuBois
Douglas Dykstra
Robert Eck
Thomas Edsall
B. J. Engel
Gregory Estep
Thomas Foley
Kevin Forbes
Benjamin Forgey

Norman Frazier
Bruce Froitzheim
Chester Gage, Jr.
Frank Gaither
Lee Galvin
William Gard
James Garrison
Phyllis Gaskins
Luis Gavidia
Margaret Glaser
Anne Glick
Arlynne Goines
Donald Goldsmith
Lawrence Gorham
Susan Graham
Dale Green
Jill Grisco
Sherry Gryder
Harry Hairfield
Willie Hare
John Harper
Patricia Harris
Kenneth Harrison
Reginald Harrod
Myra Hatala
Lisa Heidemann
Nancy Martin-Heislup

Donald Henderson
Tryst Hensell, Jr.
Fred Hiatt
William Hill
Joseph Howard
Kenneth Ikenberry
Reuben Izlar
Bridget Jackman
Juanita Jackson
Jeffrey Jaeger
Larry Jiggetts
Ronald Johnsey
Robert Johnson
Edward Johnston
Richard Jones
Denise Jordan
Michael Kelly
Steven King
Timothy Koebler
Howard Kurtz
Doia Lawson
Khai Q. Le
Nhan H. Le
Nancy Lewis
Nancy Little
Paul Lord
Gerald Lowe
Raymond Lustig

Theodore Lutz
Victor Lyon
John Lyons
Quinzenia Mack
Alan Madison
Anthony Matthes
Caroline Mayer
Ernest McClanahan
Ralph McDuffie
Darlene McGiveron
Mary McGrory
Lacy Melvin
Helen Mills
Tony Mineart
Molly Moore
Bernadin Mornot
William Murphy
Vernon Nash
Alan Neiss
Hong Nguyen
Hung Nguyen
Phuc-Tue Nguyen
Joseph O'Brien, Jr.
Martin Oberman
Omar Olson
Larry Parker
Derrick Patten
James Peacock

George Pelletiere
Peter Perl
Bruce Perry
Ngia Thi Phan
Donald Phillips
Eric Pianin
Daniel Pironto
Donald Podesta
Carol Porter-Esmailpour
Thomas Presgrave
Patricia Priest
Richard Reed
John Reikowsky
John Reynolds
Raymond Reynolds
Roger Roadhouse
Edward Roberts
Camille Ross
Steven Sarlouis
George Seminara
Eric Sewell
Richard Short
Timothy Slane
Christopher Smith
David Smith
Dita Smith
Victor Smith

Paulette Snowden
Joseph Sorbello
John Spargo
Gary Steward
Sandra Sugawara
Rozinna Swain
Jacqueline Talley
Claudia Townsend
Hung V. Trinh
Dorothy Troy
Terry Troy
Stephen Vaughn
Uldarico Villacrusis
Joel Vlahos
Kathleen Vaughn
Thuy Duc Vuong
Sheldon Walker
William Walkup
Patricia Webb
Diane Weeks
Wesley Royce Weeks
Judith Weinraub
Joseph Whalen
Ernestine Williams
James Wills, Jr.
Jonathan Yardley
Molli Yood
Cynthia Zeiss

POST SCRIPTS

BLOODMOBILE AT NORTHWEST BUILDING

The next bloodmobile will be held on Wednesday, September 19 at the Northwest Building in the 9th floor community room. The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Donors can make an appointment by calling the Health Center at x7192. Approximately 50 employees are needed to fulfill The Post's pledge of 40 units.

CHOLESTEROL QUIZ AT SPRINGFIELD PLANT

September is National Cholesterol Education Month. The Springfield Plant Health Center has a Cholesterol Knowledge Quiz, including questions

about what cholesterol numbers mean, and where cholesterol comes from. For more information on the quiz, or to get a copy, call x2240, or stop by the Springfield Plant Health Center.

SOCCER DAD BOB LEVEY

Columnist **BOB LEVEY** was a proud soccer dad in late July, when his son Allie's Potomac Cougars soccer team won the national championship of the under 14 boys division at the annual US Soccer Association Tournament in Indiana. The



LEVEY with son, Allie.

proud dad also notes that Allie is the only freshman at Sidwell Friends to make the boys varsity soccer team.

SHOPTALK STORY UPDATE

The January 18, 2001 issue of *ShopTalk* featured a story on how through the efforts of the Circulation Department unsold copies of The Post were being sent to the U.S. troops still stationed in Kosovo. The program began with a request from Arthur Thexton, a Post reader in South Carolina, who coordinated the delivery of the newspapers to Kosovo through the Kuwait Embassy. To date, The Post is the only U.S. newspaper providing newspapers to Kosovo. In a recent letter to ShopTalk, Thexton wrote, "It's hard to believe more than six months has passed since we started our project for the members of the armed

forces in Kosovo. I receive emails monthly stating how much they appreciate The Post. On a postcard sent to Thexton, the command sergeant major at Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo wrote, "About 0400 this morning I visited an outpost. A young soldier was droning with about two more hours of duty. I gave him a Washington Post for later. All of a sudden he lightened up and said, 'Hey, this is from my home town.' It made his day. Thanks."

FREE PASSES TO PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR

The Public Relations Department has a limited number of free one-day passes to the Prince George's County Fair, valid for September 6-9 at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro. There is a four-pass limit per employee. The passes are available in the Public Relations department on the 7th floor of the Northwest Building, or call x7969.

MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE: Practically new Precor Precision electronic treadmill. Electronic displays for speed, distance, calories, time. Manual incline feature. Originally \$1,200/asking \$500. It's been moved to my garage (in Loudoun County) and ready for your to take away! Contact Ellen at x7762 or (703) 327-3685.

FOR SALE: 27" SONY TRINITRON with picture in picture and remote, excellent condition, \$200. Yamaha RX350 stereo receiver, Magnavox CD changer and pair of Bose bookshelf speakers, excellent condition, \$100 for all. Call Jonathan Yardley at (202) 544-7779.

FOR SALE: Pontiac Grand Am GT, moonroof, power windows/locks, 75K miles, V6, auto., original owner, black/black, CD player, cruise, stereo controls on steering wheel, electric traction system, \$5,979/OBO. Call Jeni at x5960 or (703) 938-3497

FOR RENT: Seeking female roommate for fall semester (4-5 mos.), share home in quiet neighborhood in Silver Spring, close to public transportation. Reasonable monthly fee. Call Carol at x4551 or (301) 565-2599.

ISO: (2) Redskins v.s. Arizona Cardinals tickets on Sun. Sept. 16th. Any section will do. Please call Marc at (703) 313-9748 or contact at masonm@washpost.com.

FOR SALE: Mauve 3 cushion sofa, approx. 7 ft., \$150/OBO; metal base, glass top coffee table and stacking tables (3) \$50 for set; Microwave w/under counter attachment, \$35; full set of hunter green dishes (bowls, small and large plates, coffee mugs and salad bowl), \$45; Wooden desk painted green, \$50. Call Whitney at x5792 or (202) 237-1578, or e-mail pattonwj@washpost.com.

FOR SALE: 2 Adult Freedom Pass (a yearly pass) for Colonial Williamsburg. Paid \$70 for both tickets. Asking for \$35 for both tickets. Call Sandra at x5393 or (301) 772-3626.

FOR RENT: Two-level condo in quiet Silver Spring community. 2 BR, 2 full BA; living room has cathedral ceiling, fireplace, walk-out to balcony; table-size kitchen. Lots of sunlight! Includes access to rec. facilities: swimming pool, tennis, basketball, volleyball, tot lot. \$1,050 per month plus electric and water. Perfect for roommates. Contact Sheila on x4502 or (301)333-1425.

FOR SALE: Slide-In Camper (for 8' bed pick-up), sleeps 4-5, AC/heat, BA with shower!, frig/freezer & sep. icebox, 4-burner stove & oven, queen bed over cab. Excellent working con., interior good con., exterior fair con.. \$2,500/OBO. Also: 1989 Ford F-150 4wd. Long bed. Good working truck. Just passed Virginia inspection, asking \$2,500. Please call JoAnn at x7715 or (540) 286-1080.

FOR RENT: Seeking female to share 2 BR, 1 BA apartment in Bethesda. Walk to NIH and Bethesda Metro station. \$440 per month, includes all utilities. Call (301) 365-8171 or e-mail (wollew@washpost.com).

WANTED: Your old metal gas or kerosene cans, red, yellow, blue, whatever. They must be metal! At least 2- or 5-gallon type or larger. Call Donna x6437 or (301)589-5381.

FREE! FREE! Ads in marketplace are free to employees of The Washington Post. Join thousands of satisfied customers who have bought and sold through Marketplace. The deadline is Friday at noon for the next Thursday's issue of ShopTalk. Send your ad with your extension and home phone number via e-mail to ShopTalk, or fax to x4963.

MARKETPLACE DEADLINE: Noon Fridays. Please include your name, extension and home phone number. **ADS ARE FOR POST EMPLOYEES ONLY.** Send ads to Shop Talk, 7th floor, or call x6803. To send ads via fax dial x5609; via e-mail send to shoptalk. Ads run two issues unless otherwise requested. One ad per employee, please.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

