



College Crossings

Rochester Community and Technical College

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SPRING SEMESTER EDITION

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Attachments

(CLICK on links below to read)

- ❖ Guatemala Trip Poster
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- ❖ HealthBuzz Newsletter
- ❖ Dance Program Town Hall Meeting Notice
- ❖ Student Communication



Meeting Minutes

Click below:

http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting_minutes.html

Best Bees for January 2008

Congratulations to Sara Kling-Punt, for being selected as a Best Bee, for the month of January! This is what Sara's nominator had to say:

"Although Sara is a relatively new employee, she is exceptional at customer service. She collaborates with faculty to help students attain their academic goals, while she advises a very diverse group of students. She is thoughtful and courteous to everyone. If a co-worker is busy or unavailable, Sara doesn't hesitate to step in and provide assistance. She's friendly, cheerful and fun to be around. Her background with the Workforce Center makes her a valuable member of planning teams." Thanks, Sara, for showing exceptional customer service to our stakeholders!



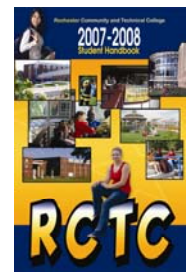
Congratulation's also to Matt Haack, for being selected as a Best Bee, for the month of January! Matt was actually nominated by several students, and here is some of what they had to say: "Matt is great with computers and technology, but what makes him great is his ability to help other staff and students with technology by educating them. Matt is always friendly, positive and willing to accept a challenge. Like RCTC, Matt always tries to continuously improve and be the best while displaying empathy. Matt promotes RCTC by being a great co-worker, dedicated employee and extremely helpful IT person. Matt also supports decisions to hire international students who have difficulty getting jobs. Matt is one of the nicest people I have ever met, and he's stayed to teach me how to fix a computer beyond his work hours.." Thanks, Matt, for all your contributions to RCTC!



Both Matt and Sara will receive an upfront parking spot at UCR.

Student Handbook

The Office of the Vice President of Student Development and Services annually publishes a FREE Student Handbook to familiarize students with important information regarding services available to students, College policies/procedures, and a planning calendar. The FY08 Student Handbook can be downloaded directly from the RCTC website at:



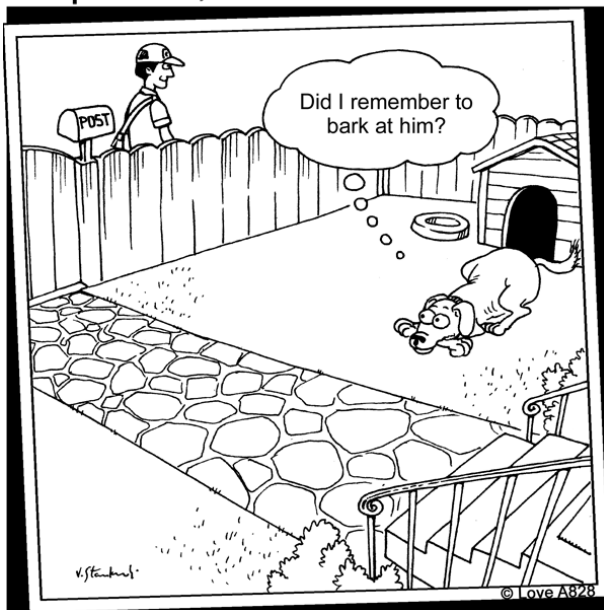
http://www.rctc.edu/publications/html/student_handbook.html

Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.

~Oprah Winfrey

Weekly Funny

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



Academic Accolades

RCTC seems to be flush with nominees for the prestigious Pushcart Award this year. Jodeen Wink has had her poem "Gardener" nominated.

Check it out at:
http://www.mainchannelvoices.com/jodeen_wink.htm

Congratulations, Jodeen!

Condolences

Condolences to Don Baldus (mathematics instructor) whose father, Francis, passed away on Monday, December 24, 2007.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the unexpected passing away of Vincent Schmidt (husband of retired nursing instructor, Eve Schmitt), on Wednesday, January 9, 2008.

Thank You

Dear RCTC Family . . Thank you for the beautiful floral arrangement that overshadowed the many beautiful flowers at my dad's funeral. A memorial fund has been established at the high school where my dad taught for 16 years. Thanks also for your prayers and support.

~ Don Baldus

Marketing Corner

The week of the 14th, Anna Hanson will have 2 small group visits (one from Wabasha and one from Triton HS) on campus. She will also have a Large Rochester Rotary Club STRIVE Event Called "RCTC Grub Night" at the Heintz Center on January 17th from 5:45-8:00pm.

Commencement Planning for Keynote

Even though the winter holidays aren't even here yet, spring is just around the corner and that means it will soon be time for commencement. Individuals are being sought to help with the planning and coordination of the May 15th graduation ceremony. If you'd like to be a part of the Commencement Planning Committee, your time would be greatly appreciated. Non-faculty members interested in serving should contact Roxy Roadway at roxy.roadway@roch.edu. Faculty members interested in serving should submit their names through Gregg Wright.



The committee will be meeting in the next few weeks to plan for a keynote and the planning committee is always interested in the possibility of having a former student or motivational speaker give an engaging keynote address. If you have any suggestions, please forward your information to Stan Cram (stan.cram@roch.edu).

Also, if you don't have time for another committee but have suggestions for improving the ceremony, please send your ideas to roxy.roadway@roch.edu. Your thoughts and comments are welcome!

Reminder

RCTC WILL NOT HOLD CLASSES OR EVENTS AFTER 6:00 P.M. in recognition of the Minnesota caucus night - February 5, 2008. Because the caucus night was changed, regularly scheduled classes WILL meet the evening of March 4, 2008.

Club Meeting

RCTC Martial Arts Club meets Monday nights from 7-9:30pm. All students are welcome.



Supalla Scribblings



For those of you that had some time off during semester break, welcome back. While you've been off campus, staff has been busy accommodating spring semester enrollees and thousands of spectators who took in sporting contests in UCR Sports Center. Renovation and remodeling work occurred at both Heintz Center and UCR Main and a number of "loose ends" will be tied up in the next couple of weeks (including installation of the new phone system). It seems hard to believe, but during the last semester, the enrollment task force and class size task forces

submitted their recommendations, we've celebrated the grand opening of the Health Science Center and the ground breaking for the stadium, discussed new OCAAT and concurrent enrollment opportunities, hosted a record number of legislative visits, completed an AQIP forum and strategic planning process, participated in CQIN innovation curriculum and visioning workshops in Michigan and Wisconsin, analyzed the Baldrige feedback report, and garnered a national championship in NJCAA Division III football. You did all this and more, as you continued to provide quality learning opportunities and services. And, we have a jam-packed agenda and "to do" list for spring semester.

Campus Kudos...

- The MnSCU Center for Teaching and Learning has awarded Paul Kinion and co-planners \$10,130 to plan and manage a Mathematics Discipline Workshop at the MinnMATYC Spring Conference. More than a 1000 mathematics educators are expected to attend from K-12, college and university institutions. Congratulations, Paul.
- Jodeen Wink has had her poem "Gardener" nominated for a prestigious Pushcart Award. If you love gardening, like I do, you'll want to read it at http://www.mainchannelvoices.com/jodeen_wink.htm. Great work, Jodeen!
- Deb Rogne has been appointed to the Minnesota Perkins Career and Technical Education State Plan Advisory Task Force. Deb is representing the post secondary student support services staff on the Task Force. The college encourages faculty and staff to service on state, regional, community and system task forces and committees.
- Marilyn Harstad and the Bookstore staff packed 47 cartons of books for the "Books for Africa" program. The UCR Bookstore serves as a drop off and packaging site. The program picks up and ships the recycled books.
- I hope some of you caught the recent "Belau Report" on Channel 10 that featured Suzanne Dinusson. The program focused on Suzanne's involvement in, and the Retail Merchandising Program's service to, the Salvation Army Thrift Store. Did you know that Guy Hamernik films, edits and produces the Belau Report?
- KSMQ, the regional public television station based in Austin, will be opening a branch office at UCR soon. Look for more information on how you might utilize the station to promote or deliver instruction for RCTC programs. Recently KSMQ's Board of Directors presented the KSMQ Beyond Television, Infinite Possibilities (BTIP) Award to Mike Bequette. In order for a person to be selected for the BTIP Award, they must meet four of five criteria. The station was motivated to give Mike the award at this time as he has just transitioned from being Board chair from the organization's inception until now. The award read: KSMQ proudly presents to Michael K. Bequette the BTIP Award for unmatched leadership and support during the station's transition years. Mike continues to serve as the Board's immediate past president. Way to go, Mike!
- On December 29, RCTC was honored to co-sponsor the Black Data Youth Computer Training at UCR. The college made available three computer labs and waived set-up fees. In exchange, the college was listed as a co-sponsor on BDPA materials and a link to our Web site was placed on the Black Data Processing Association Web site.

Facts at a Glance... People who attend college typically go on to earn more money during their lifetimes, save more for retirement, and generally enjoy a healthier existence, according to a new College Board study. The findings indicate that students who enroll in college immediately after high school typically earn enough in the first 11 years of employment to compensate for time spent outside the workforce and to foot the bill for their college tuition. What's more, the report finds that access to employer-paid health benefits and retirement accounts increases with employees' level of education. College graduates also reportedly live healthier lives and are more active in their communities than those with no postsecondary education. College-educated citizens typically exhibit higher rates of volunteering, voting, and blood donation. In addition, the report finds, socially valuable behaviors, such as tolerance for the opinions of others, increase with education. Community College Journal, December 2007/January 2008



Thought for the Week from the Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education...

Learning is not a spectator sport. Students do not learn much by sitting in classes listening to teachers, memorizing pre-packaged assignments, and spitting out answers. They must talk about what they are learning, write about it, relate it to past experiences and apply it to their daily lives. They must make what they learn part of themselves.

Don

December Best Teams

Congratulations to the Maintenance Staff (first and second shift): The department has just been so helpful lately, in spite of the moves and extra work they had to do. Every time I have had an issue or request, they have responded and been extra helpful. Several examples were cited by multiple nominators:

- Moving the Heintz Center staff out and back into the building, the Health Sciences building move and many other faculty and office moves/changes. These moves were completed with short time constraints, and with minimal staff to keep Heintz Center operational during the summer and get ready for fall classes at both Heintz and UCR Main; all while still doing their regular work.
- Repairing the distiller for the Dental Clinic, building and installing shelving and moving display cases.
- Keeping the grounds well maintained: the dedication to having our grounds look so presentable to students, faculty, and the public is a wonderful plus to the our public image..

They should be commended for doing an exceptional job during hectic times – they don't show favorites, they are helpful to people across the board. I have seen them work together and call upon each other to help when needed!! Several of them have also served on search committees to support the college during this busy period.

Congratulations also to Deb Ellsworth and Paula Theisen: On Saturday, November 3rd, a football player from Rainy River was injured in Rochester and had to go to the hospital. Paula and Deb took it upon themselves to go with this young man to the hospital and contact his family in Kentucky. They let the player's mother know that they were there for her son and kept her updated on everything the doctor was reporting until her son was released. In the mother's words, "Paula and Deb were angels" sent by God to help her son. No-one asked Paula and Deb to provide this support, they just cared enough to take the extra step and go out of their way to help another person.

Official Student Communication

There is an expanding dependence on electronic communication among students, faculty, and staff at RCTC. This is motivated by the convenience, speed, cost-effectiveness, and environmental advantages of using email rather than printed communication. Because of this increasing dependence and acceptance of electronic communication, RCTC has an Official Student Communication Policy and Procedures. The intent of the policy is to utilize electronic mail as a means to communicate important information to our students in a timely manner. All students enrolled in credit bearing course work are assigned an official RCTC e-mail account, and official college communication shall be sent to these accounts.

The Office of the Vice President of Student Development and Services is the keyholder of the official student e-mail addresses. All items for student wide distribution must be submitted to Roxy Roadway according to the guidelines listed below. The Office of the Vice President of Student Development and Services has the right to deny requests based on these guidelines.

Guidelines:

- * Items must be submitted to Roxy Roadway in **electronic** format.
- * The use of attachments is discouraged.
- * The use of web links is strongly encouraged.
- * Requests must be received at least ten working days prior to the intended e-mail distribution date.

Examples of Appropriate Student Wide Distribution:

- * Communicating Student Life Activities and information
- * Communicating important deadlines (drop/add, payments due date, last days to withdrawal, etc.)
- * Surveys that are sanctioned for UCR/RCTC purposes.

Examples of Inappropriate Student Wide Distribution:

- * Information unrelated to UCR/RCTC business
- * Solicitation
- * Promoting political viewpoints
- * Messages containing confidential information such as grades, financial aid awards, etc.
- * Emails that violate the Official Student Communication Policy.

The Official Student Communication Policy is attached.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Roxy Roadway at roxy.roadway@roch.edu or 285-7127.

Holiday Reception/Teddy Bear Drive Update

The final count of the 10th Annual Teddy Bear Drive totaled 109, bring the grand total stuffed animals donated to the Olmsted County Sheriff's Department to 1,010 over the last ten years! Way to go, and THANK YOU!

In case you didn't know, the annual Teddy Bear Drive began during a holiday reception in December of 1998 in appreciation for local law enforcement personnel that assisted in the search and rescue of an RCTC employee's son, Myatt Helmers (son of John Helmers - Faculty Member), during a horseback riding accident.

For those of you that may remember both John and Myatt, we were delighted to get in contact with Myatt over the winter break, and he was more than happy to share with us an update on his progress. After much therapy and rehabilitation, Myatt graduated from high school and went on to attend Augsburg College. After five dedicated years, Myatt graduated in 2006 with a Bachelor's degree in Native American Studies. Myatt told me his thesis was on Crazy Horse, and even had the chance to join his family a few years back to actually visit the Crazy Horse construction in South Dakota. Currently Myatt resides in downtown Rochester and volunteers many hours a week at the Family Y working in the Kids Care Section. In addition, Myatt also volunteers his time at the Hawthorne School. Myatt's long-term goal is to obtain a position as a paraprofessional in a school.

Myatt was featured in a presentation in the Post Bulletin back in 2006. You can access the archived interview by going to: <http://postbulletin.com/multimedia/flash/index2.asp#> Myatt's interview is entitled "Ignoring the Odds" toward the end of the website.

What an inspiration Myatt has been to many of us. We are so delighted to be able to share with you his progress and are pleased to know the caring of our RCTC Family 10 years ago continues on today through the Annual Teddy Bear Drive! Thank you!

*~ Judy Kingsbury
Office of the President*

Parking Permits

Please remember to purchase your Spring Parking Permit! They are now available in the Cashier's Office. Price is \$4.00 per credit, maximum of \$60.00 per semester. If you purchased an annual permit in August, that is valid through August 2008. Ticketing for Permits will begin January 21, 2008.