Service Safari a Success!
Service Learning co-coordinators Lynn GueneetteGunette and Colleen Landherr Maddox hosted 23 agencies who met with students looking to fulfill service learning hours during spring semester at the January 20th Service Safari. Agencies and students both found it to be very successful. Thanks to all the instructors who support and advocate service learning.

H1N1 Vaccination Clinics on Campus
H1N1 flu vaccinations for employees will be available at RCTC in room CC 300 (the cafeteria area) on Wednesday, January 27th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. With your supervisor’s approval, work time can be used to attend the workplace clinic. By bringing your Minnesota Advantage Health Plan member ID card, you are able to receive a H1N1 flu shot with no out-of-pocket cost to you. Without your member ID card, the seasonal flu shot will cost $10.00 (check or cash). These clinics are designed for state employees only.

H1N1 flu vaccinations will be available for students in Student Health Services (HS 140) on Tuesday, January 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The cost is $10.00 (check or cash only).

Thought for the week...
“People don’t notice whether it’s winter or summer when they’re happy.” ~ Anton Chekhov

CHAT WITH THE PRESIDENT
January 27, 2010
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Heintz Center (HA104)

Please join President Supalla for the next CHAT WITH THE PRESIDENT SESSION!
Scholarships
The application process is now in place for over 200 scholarships that are available for incoming, current and students who will graduate this year from RCTC. See the Foundation Scholarships website at [http://www.rctc.edu/foundation](http://www.rctc.edu/foundation) for scholarship descriptions and applications.

For any additional questions please contact the RCTC Foundation Office at (507) 281-7771 - Heintz Center, Room HC109. Applications are to be submitted on-line by March 1, 2010, at www.rctc.edu/foundation/html/scholarships.html

Academic Accolades
On January 16th, the University of Minnesota hosted a Horse Owner Education Day in Rochester. RCTC Equine Science Instructors Pam Whitfield and Julie Christie were involved in the planning and were both speakers at the event. The attendance was excellent and the audience was impressed with the Heintz Center renovations.

Congratulations
Congratulations to Joe Schlichenmeyer (Low Voltage Cable Technician) for being presented with the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award, the Lion’s Club International Foundation’s highest honor. The Fellowship Award recognizes a person’s commitment to humanitarian service, and the presenter stated during the presentation that Schlichenmeyer exemplified the qualities of the Fellowship, through his 15-plus year of Lion’s Club service and his assorted leadership roles in the local and now regional clubs. Joe also serves at the 2nd Vice District Governor and is a member of the St. Charles Lion’s Club.

Condolences
Condolences are extended to Laurel Panser whose father, Maynard O. Panser, passed away on January 16th. Our thoughts are with Laurel and her family.

Snapshots at jasonlive.com

Hopelessly behind in the score, Jack decides to soak the judges.

Nakoma Volkman on Campus Monday
Nakoma Volkman is an artist, writer, lecturer, singer and traditional dancer of Anishinabe-Lakota heritage, who will be appearing on campus to teach our students, faculty, staff and the general public about Native American studies. Please attend if you can and encourage your students to attend; make it a part of your curriculum if possible. Please join us on Monday, January 25 in room CF206-208 from 5:30-8:00pm. This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.
Following the official drop-add period, it appears that spring semester full year equivalent enrollments will be up just over 4.5% and headcount is up a bit more than 2%. There are some late start classes and last minute emergency drops that might change the final number slightly. An amazing 708 new students enrolled in RCTC for the first time spring semester. Thanks to all who did exceptional work to accommodate the needs of both new and returning students.

Even though the official start of the 2010 legislative session is February 4, several legislative committees are already hearing bills and taking testimony. Marilyn Hansmann represented RCTC at a Senate Higher Education Committee meeting on the co-located Workforce Center project last week. Both Marilyn and I will be joined by Randy Johnson of Workforce Development, Inc., on Tuesday, January 26 as we present capital bonding testimony to the House Higher Education Committee meeting in the morning and to the Senate Economic Development Committee in the afternoon. The Governor has released his recommended bonding list and it does include $50 million for MnSCU HEAPR (repair and replacement) projects and the twice-vetoed funding for the renovation of vacated nursing labs in Plaza Hall. That’s the good news out of St. Paul. On a less positive note are the dismal budget projections that were released recently. The legislature will need to grapple with how to balance a $1.2 billion shortfall in this biennium and a projected $5 billion shortfall in the upcoming biennium. Since we are likely to see less state funding for the foreseeable future, it’s critically important that we grow enrollments and assure the retention and return of current students since the tuition generated locally stays at RCTC.

If you look outside or listen to weather forecasts, you are aware that nasty weather is always a possibility this time of year. Please know that the leadership team takes the cancellation of classes or closing of the campus very seriously. We consult with emergency management contacts, public safety personnel, weather forecasters, and maintenance staff and then try to make a timely decision that balances the safety of students and staff with the accountability of stakeholders. Sometimes hazardous driving conditions vary greatly within just a few miles. If you haven’t reviewed RCTC’s inclement weather policy recently, I encourage you to do so by clicking on this ink…

http://www.rctc.edu/policies/html/weather.html

Always remember that your decision to drive to campus and each student’s decision to attend classes is up to the individual who needs to consider their own personal circumstances and safety. The college publicizes inclement weather decisions using a variety of media and tools. One of the best ways to stay updated on emergency announcements, including inclement weather decisions, is to sign up for the STAR Alert notification system. If you haven’t already done so, I encourage you to access the RCTC Web site home page and click on the STAR Alert logo. Do it now!

Did you know…

Way to go LiHua Zhang, RCTC math students and Paul Kinion, Math League advisor. RCTC student LiHua Zhang took home first place honors in the Central Region Round 1 competition. The RCTC team stands in third place in the 19-team Central Region competition, just behind Century College and Normandale Community College. I noted that the top four scores in the team competition were garnered by Minnesota institutions.

Congratulations to Mo Amundson who received a Carl Perkins mini-grant to work with the Rochester Public Schools, Mayo Clinic and RCTC to increase the number of underrepresented students in the bio-technology and allied health pathway. Ricki Walters recently received a $7500 grant to conduct a diversity assessment of faculty/staff at three or four of the Southeast Minnesota two-year colleges.

A new personal safety curriculum was launched this week to enhance the security of MnSCU students and staff. The curriculum, comprised of a comprehensive video training program, is intended to help individuals take responsibility for their safety and security by offering techniques for avoiding and handling dangerous situations. RCTC’s security staff is making plans on how the curriculum will be disseminated. Campuses are encouraged to consider making it available through Web portals, during student orientation and staff development sessions or class presentations. Stay tuned for more information on this important topic.

Thanks to all the RCTC donors who stepped up and adopted a CHOICES family during this year’s Holiday Program. One homemaker wrote, “How do you begin to thank someone you will never be able to adequately thank for all they did for your family?” The gift of giving makes the donor feel good all year.

AAA reports reveal that texting drivers are 23 times more dangerous than attentive drivers. Texting teens, on average send 2500 messages per month and 51% of teens say they text message while driving. Scary isn’t it?

Thought for the week…

Most people give up just when they’re about to achieve success. They quit on the one-yard line. They give up at the last minute of the game, one foot from a winning touchdown. — H. Ross Perot

Go Vikings! ~Don
UCR Blood Drives

Monday, January 25 from 12:00 – 3:30 and Tuesday, January 26 from 8:30 – 10:30 & 12:00 – 3:30 in AT 302. Please call Mayo Blood Bank at 284-4475 to schedule an appointment. Walk in appointments are available, but appointments are requested. Appointments will receive priority over walk-ins. Thank you for your support of this program!

~ Katie Swegarden BSN, RN

Crossings Classifieds

COMMUNITY EVENT: Civic League Day Nursery’s 8th Annual Families, Friends & Flapjacks event will be held on Saturday, February 13 from 9:00am to 12:00 noon in the RCTC Cafeteria (east entrance: door 6). Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, juice, milk and coffee. Tickets are $5.00 in advance and $6.00 at the door. Proceeds benefit tuition assistance at both centers.

COMMUNITY EVENT: Elder-Network Murder Mystery at the Plumber House on February 12th or 13th from 6:00-8:30pm. Cost is $30/person. For more information, CLICK HERE or contact Kathy Richie at x7251 or kathy.richie@roch.edu.

FOR SALE: The American Cancer Society Daffodil Days is March 15-19th. Rose Conway is the contact person for RCTC. CLICK HERE to view items for ordering or contact Rose Conway at rose.conway@roch.edu.

FOR SALE: Rose Conway will be taking orders through mid-February for our American Business Women’s Association (ABWA) Spring event: http://www.dutchbulbs.com. Zone 4 is our order area. Please contact Rose if you are interested #7260 or Box 12. All proceeds go to the scholarship fund through our organization.

FOR RENT: 3 Bdrm home in NW Rochester for Rent: 2-car garage; available now for $900.00; will take a short-term lease. Call Rose Conway/Joe 272-8864.

Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle...a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud striving to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream. ~ Barbara Winkler