Thought for the week…
Smile! It increases your face value!
~Author Unknown

Dean’s List – Fall 2008
Excellence in scholastic achievement is recognized each semester by compiling a Dean’s List. To qualify for the Dean’s List, a student must successfully complete at least 12 college-level credits in the same semester, with a minimum term grade point average of 3.0 or better in the same semester. Additionally, the credit courses completed must have earned grade points. Credits for P and grades of I, AU, CR and W are excluded from the count. Letters of congratulations are sent to students receiving a GPA of 3.5 and above. The Dean’s List is posted in the Admissions and Records area and at the Heintz Center, as well as distributed to local media. The listing can also be downloaded by going to: http://www.rctc.edu/about/html/Deans-list.html.

Congratulations to all who made the list! There are 1,222 students who made the Dean's List for Fall Semester, 2008.
* 4.0: 263 students
* 3.5 - 4.99: 421 students
* 3.0-3.49: 538 students

Questions regarding the Dean's List can be directed to Roxy Roadway in the Office of the Vice President of Student Development Services at (507) 285-7127 or by e-mail at: roxy.roadway@roch.edu.

Plant the Seeds a Success!
RCTC hosted 24 community partners, highlighting Service Learning. Over 150 students visited at least four different tables and got information on Service Learning and volunteer opportunities in the Rochester community. Colleen Landherr Maddox and Lynn Guenette, Service Learning Co-Coordinators illustrated the theme for the day, "Plant the Seeds of Service Learning" courtesy of costumes from Olmsted County Public Health. If you have questions about service learning and volunteer opportunities, contact Peas and Carrot OR better know as: Lynn.Guenette@roch.edu or Colleen.Landherr@roch.edu.
Upcoming Events

Regional Sport Center

Jan. 27 - RCTC Wrestling vs. Saint Olaf 7pm
Jan. 28 - RCTC Basketball 6pm/8pm
Jan. 31 - RCYBA League Playoffs
Feb. 2 - Home School Defenders BB Games
Feb. 6 - Home School Defenders BB Games
Feb. 6 - Crossroads College Basketball Game
Feb. 7 - RCTC Basketball Games 1pm/3pm
Feb. 7 - Crossroads College Basketball Games 6:30pm

Faculty Lecture Series

The next presentation in the Faculty Lecture Series will be given by me. I will be discussing a program evaluation that I conducted on the TOUCH Continuum—a theatrical performance presented to all 2nd and 5th graders in Rochester, teaching them about appropriate and inappropriate touch. TOUCH had been performed for over 10 years, without anyone wondering if students actually learned anything from it. There was also some interesting research that indicated that some children become afraid after participating in these types of programs. So my research was aimed at (1) finding out if students actually learned anything after participating in the program, and (2) identifying which children are likely to become afraid. So join me if you can: Tuesday, February 24th at 1:00 pm in the Hill Theatre. A flier with more information is attached.

~ Ruth Casper

Assessment of Student Learning

PUZZLED ABOUT ASSESSMENT!? DON’T KNOW WHERE TO START? DON’T UNDERSTAND WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU? Your experienced colleagues are ready and willing to help you demystify the process! The Assessment of Student Learning Committee invites your program/department to participate in a Power of 1 Retreat on Friday, February 13th OR Friday, February 27th. See attached flier for all the details!

~ Dave Weber and Marilyn Hanson

New Staff

I am very pleased to inform you all that Joanna Boyd has accepted the 30-hour temporary position as the Coordinator of the UCR Proctoring Center for Spring 2009. Craig Johnson (WSU-R COO) and I agree that Joanna should serve our joint students well, in this capacity. She began accepting faculty requests for test proctoring on Wednesday, January 21. Ms Boyd had worked with RCTC in the recent past as a student worker and as a temporary employee in Enrollment Management, where she was responsible for proctoring RCTC admission tests. She brings a lot of understanding of people and processes to this new assignment. Presently, she is concluding her BFA from UM-Duluth.

~ Mike Bequette, Chief Academic Officer
Presented here are the top ten issues most likely to affect public higher education across the 50 states in 2009, in the view of the state policy analysis and research staff at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. While numerous topics shape state higher education policy, each affecting the issues of affordability and quality, the Association’s focus is on the overarching issue of college access.

#1 – States’ Fiscal Crises
It’s almost a certainty the almost every state will reduce state appropriations for public postsecondary education.

#2 – Tuition Prices and Tuition Policy
In the wake of reduced state funding for higher education, increases in tuition are sure to follow.

#3 – State Student Grant Aid Programs
The pressure will be on at the state level to maintain, if not bolster, need-based aid.

#4 – Enrollment Capacity
Although the bubble in the Baby Boom echo has popped – with the largest high school graduating class having taken place in 2008 – any leveling off of enrollments at many of the nation’s colleges may be postponed due to burgeoning demand that is often witnessed during a recessionary period.

#5 – Implementation of the Higher Education Opportunity Act
Increased transparency and accountability were key themes in the long-awaited reauthorization of the HEOA in 2008.

#6 – The Incoming Obama Administration
Considerable potential exists for the actions of the new administration to impact state higher education policy decisions in 2009, both through enactment of Obama’s various campaign policy proposals and through inclusion of higher education as part of the administration’s economic recovery strategy.

#7 – College Readiness
The need to increase the number of high school graduates who are prepared for college will continue to be a critical issue over the next year. More than a quarter of the entering freshmen take at least one remedial course in college, and this proportion is much higher at open entry community colleges.

#8 – Veterans’ Education
The upcoming August 1, 2009 implementation of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act will be a watershed moment in the history of educational assistance for veterans and service members.

#9 – Undocumented Students
Higher education access and affordability for undocumented students will continue to be debated in 2009. Congress has repeatedly failed to pass a measure such as the DREAM Act that would support states’ rights to offer in-state tuition to these students.

#10 – Sustainability
With the backdrop of high energy prices, greater recognition of the causes behind global warming, and continued conflict in the Middle East, federal and state policy actions in 2009 may accelerate campus sustainability projects and fund campus-based research endeavors while generating so-called green collar jobs in the process.

Rochester Community and Technical College nursing graduates (both PN and RN) scored very well in first-time pass rates for the fourth quarter 2008 licensure exams. The Practical Nursing pass rate for the quarter was 100 percent; and 100 percent of RCTC students taking the exam this year passed on their first attempt. (RCTC is one of just two programs in the state to achieve a 100 percent year-to-date pass rate. The state PN program first-time pass range for the year was 72.97 – 100 percent.) Eighty percent of RCTC’s Associate Degree students passed the exam on the first attempt fourth quarter; and RCTC students achieved a 91.3 percent pass rate for the year. (Out of 20 AD programs, RCTC ranked fourth in the state. RCTC’s students out-performed students from all other institutions that use Mayo for clinicals.) Congratulations to the students and thanks to the faculty and staff for their dedication and commitment!

How much of life are you missing out on? A man sat at a metro station in Washington DC and started to play the violin. On that cold January morning he played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During this rush hour time it was calculated that thousands of people went through the station, most on their way to work. A middle-aged man noticed there was a musician playing, slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds before hurrying up to meet his schedule. A woman threw the violinist his first dollar tip without stopping. Someone leaned against the wall to listen to him, but the man looked at his watch and started to walk again. Clearly he was late for work. The one who paid the most attention was a three year old boy. His mother tagged him along, but the kid stopped to look back at the violinist. Finally the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk, turning his head toward the musician. This action was repeated by several other children. All parents, without exception, forced the children to move on. In the 45 minutes the musician played, only six people stopped and stayed for a while. About 20 gave him money but continued to walk their normal pace. In all, he collected $32. When he finished playing and silence took
over, no one noticed it. No one applauded, nor was there any recognition. No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the best musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written, with a violin worth $3.5 million dollars. Two days before his playing in the subway, tickets for Joshua Bell’s performance at a theatre in Boston were sold out and the seats averaged $100. This is a real story. Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and priorities of people. The questions being raised were: In a common environment at an inappropriate hour, do we perceive beauty? Do we stop to appreciate it? Do we recognize the talent in an unexpected context? One of the possible conclusions from this experience could be: If we don’t take a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world playing the best music ever written on one of the finest violins ever made, how many other things are we missing?

Thought for the week…

Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love, and you can be that servant.
– Martin Luther King, Jr., U.S. civil rights leader, 1929-68.

There are many ways on campus and in the community to serve. I hope you’ll find a way to be that needed servant.

~ Don

Snapshots at jasonlove.com

“Alphabetically, thank you.”

Thank You

We have lost someone very special…thank you for sharing our grief. Our deepest thanks for the beautiful floral arrangement honoring Chris Struckmann.

~ Sincerely, Harry, Cindy Kerr and Family
Employee News

Condolences to Kathy Richardson (Academic Advisor for Upward Bound) whose son-in-law, Scott LaRue, passed away on December 23, 2008.

Condolences to Tom Soltau (Building Utilities Mechanic faculty) whose father-in-law, Robert “Bob” D. Mulvenna, passed away on Wednesday, January 14, 2009.

Condolences to Anna Hanson (Special Needs Advisor) whose grandfather, Gerald (Jerry) Pingree, passed away on Saturday, January 17, 2009.

Condolences are also extended to Elizabeth Wirt (Nursing Instructor) whose father, Edward (Ted) Hollister, passed away on Saturday, January 17, 2009.

It is with deep sorrow we announce the passing away of Edward “Ed” W. Krautkramer on January 20, 2009. Ed taught history at RCTC from 1964 until his retirement in 1994. He was 76 years old. Our thoughts are with Pat and his family.

Our thoughts are with these employees and their families.

It’s a Girl!

It is my pleasure to announce the arrival of a new member to the RCTC family.

Born January 21, 2009 at 2:19 a.m. – we welcome Milena Zamfira Meier, daughter of Daniela and Jason Meier (English Faculty). Milena weighed in at 8 lbs, 10 oz and is 20 inches long!

Please join me in welcoming Milena to the RCTC family!

Crossings Classifieds

COMMUNITY EVENT: Save the date of March 24 to attend the United Way of Olmsted County’s Celebration of Caring and Giving. Click HERE for more info.

Cheryl Morgan x2953.

Guatemala

The Guatemala Trip still has openings for this next Summer 09 trip. If you would like to speak to me about this trip – please find me Mondays – Thursdays 9-3:00 in EH 107. Also, we once again have Guatemalan Organic Coffee and Crafts for sale – socially conscious gifts make great Valentine’s Day presents! see trip website at:

http://www.roch.edu/dept/worldlanguage/guatemala/

~ Lillyam Arroyave
Spanish Department