



College Crossings

Rochester Community and Technical College

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SPRING SEMESTER EDITION

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Meeting Minutes

Click below:

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

Vacation Donation

I am pleased to announce that Marty Leonard, one of our Plant Maintenance Engineers, has been approved as a recipient on the state's vacation donation program. That also means I am writing today to ask for your help. Marty has been an employee at RCTC since July 1991, and he has been unable to work since September. He is critically ill with throat cancer, which has been surgically removed, but he will face additional medical and speech/swallowing therapy in the near future. Marty has used all of his accumulated sick leave and vacation leave, and has fallen off payroll as of 1/15/08. Without contributions, he will also lose health and other insurance coverage. Please consider a vacation donation to get Marty back on payroll and maintain his insurance coverage during this critical time for him and his family. Staff may donate up to 12 hours of vacation and faculty may donate up to a day and a half of personal leave per year. The Vacation Donation Contribution Form is available on the J Drive or in the Human Resources Office. I have also attached a copy of the form for your use, and have completed the sections needed to ensure your donation is credited for Marty. Staff may also donate on the State employee self-service website at <http://www.state.mn.us/employee>, choose "Other Payroll" then "Leave Donation." Faculty and administrators must use the hard copy form as their leave balances are not maintained in the statewide system. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you again for your help! Marty and his wife, Ann, also want to thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity; your support is greatly appreciated.

~ Beth Arntson

Admissions and Records Staffing Changes

Earlene Hackenmiller, CSS in Enrollment Services, will be retiring after many valued years of service to RCTC! She celebrates many great memories and Admissions and Records will be hosting a reception for her in CF 206/208 on her final day, Feb. 1, from 1-3 p.m. Please stop by to celebrate Earlene's retirement.

Tiffany Anderson accepted a CSS position located in Enrollment Services. Feel free to stop in Enrollment services and welcome her to campus.

Claryce Bany, CSS in Admissions and Records, will be observing her retirement from RCTC! Her final day will be Tuesday, Feb. 5. The Admissions and Records team congratulates her on this accomplishment and hopes she will enjoy her retirement.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to RCTC's Head Football Coach, Brad LaPlante who was involved in two awards presented at Monday night's Rochester Area Sports Banquet. Brad was named Area Coach of the Year and the RCTC Football Team was named Team of the Year. Way to go!

There's one good thing about snow, it makes your lawn look as nice as your neighbor's.

~Clyde Moore

Weekly Funny

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



"You cross the desert without a drop of water but can't go two days without a beer."

Thank You Notes

In appreciation.

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, Or sat quietly in a chair

Perhaps you sent a floral piece, If so we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, As any friend could say.

Perhaps you were not there at all, Just thought of us that day.

Whatever you did to console our hearts, We thank you so much whatever the part.

Thank you.

~ Shirley Wilson on behalf of her family in the passing of her father Sidney Glock

We have lost someone very special . . . thank you for sharing our grief.

~ The family of Vince Schmitt Evey Schmitt

It's a Boy!

Congratulations! Jasper Joseph O'Keefe was born to Rae Gravenish (Reading Instructor) and her husband, Joe O'Keefe, on Sunday, January 27 at 6:52 a.m. Jasper weighted in at 7 lbs. 2 oz.



Holiday Weight Challenge

This year the Health Services Office presented the Holiday Weight Challenge to encourage faculty and staff to stay in shape over the holiday season. Forty-five participants received weekly tips and recipes to help them achieve this goal and were instructed to weigh in weekly and keep track of their progress. On average, 18.9% of participants lost weight each week while an average of 18.3% maintained their weight. Participants were entered in the drawing each week they maintained or lost weight and upon conclusion, three winners were drawn. Congratulations to Sara Bunge, Pat Wolfram, and Thomas Soltau on your prize winnings and congratulations to all participants on your hard work and effort put forth in this challenge!

Power of 1 Retreat

The Assessment of Student Learning Committee invites your program/department to participate in a **Power of 1 Retreat**. See the attachment to this week's *Crossings* for all the details!

Get Your RCTC Mittens!

The RCTC Bookstore just got another shipment of 48 pairs of RCTC mittens and with the cold weather (and good price \$11.65) it might be a good idea to pick up a pair! They're MN made in Winona and are extremely warm as well as cute!!!



Service Learning – Flood Relief Fundraiser

Savvy Singles of Rochester is excited to host a Speed Dating event at the Mayo Civic Center Ballroom on Valentine's Day, Thursday February 14th starting at 6:30 P.M. Tickets are available for \$20.

You must pre-register and pay in advance. For tickets or more information visit <http://www.savvysingle.net> or e-mail Jtopness@charter.net or Lguenet@aol.com



All proceeds will be donated to the Houston Flood Relief Fund. Sponsored by the RCTC Service Learning Program.

Mass Communication Student Information

Some things of note about Mass Communication students at RCTC:

- Matt Seitz is a news anchor with the Rochester Instructional Television System on cable channel 22.
- Jon Haney has been hired as a reporter and has been accepted as an intern with the Dodge Center Star Record newspaper.
- Debbie Neville has been accepted as an intern with Rochester Magazine.

Supalla Scribblings



Although there are still some technical issues to resolve, overall the telephone conversion went quite well. Conversion to the new system involved hundreds of telephones and voice mail boxes, main switchboard, emergency communications network, data communications, and transmission cabling. The magnitude of the conversion was extensive, both in number of staff impacted and equipment serviced. If you haven't oriented yourself to the new CallXpress messaging system, please review the handouts that were left for you when your phone was converted. And, if you haven't activated your voice mail, please do so now. If the opportunity presents itself, please share your appreciation with Shelly Peterson, who coordinated the conversion with help from Art Leible and the IT team, Winona State University employees and the Transcend Communications technicians. If you are still experiencing telecommunications conversion problems, don't hesitate to call Shelly at 285-7474. Once completed, this conversion will provide improved service and features while reducing our annual telephone bill by several thousand dollars.

With grant support from the 3M foundation, MentorNet is joining with the Minnesota High Tech Association to extend the MentorNet initiative that was launched in 2007. Currently, eight private and public higher education institutions in Minnesota are involved in the original pilot project. RCTC has the largest mentorship involvement of any of the two-year colleges. Other MnSCU institutions involved in the project include Hennepin Technical College, Ridgewater College and Winona State University. Please contact Alex Kromminga at 285-7119 if you want more information about MentorNet.

The Trustee Candidate Advisory Council is a 24-member citizen council that recruits, screens, and recommends candidates for the MnSCU Board of Trustees. The purpose of the council's effort is to recommend to the governor a group of diverse, skilled, committed, and experienced individuals to serve as trustees. Four trustee positions, including two at-large positions, will be filled this year. If you know of someone that might be interested in serving as a trustee, please have them visit www.tcac.leg.mn for more information and an application.

On the National Scene...

➤ Nan Poppe, President of the National Council for Workforce Education, summarized our challenge as workforce educators during a presentation at a recent Council conference this way...

The pressure to fundamentally change our education and training systems, which were built to serve the industrial age, has never been greater or more urgent. We are riding the crest of a wave as we try to produce a workforce with the skills, abilities, and talent to keep our local, regional, state, and national economies globally competitive. As we work to effect change in our institutions, we know that we must break down the silos that we have created – the silos that exist between non-credit and credit, between lower division transfer and career technical programs, and between adult education and college level programs – because it is the synergy of these silos working together that will lead us to our most dramatic innovations.

➤ State-tax support for higher education climbed 7.5 percent in the 2007-08 budget year, to \$77.5 billion, according to a national survey released in January. It was the highest annual increase since 1985. The jump marks the fourth year of growth following a 2.1 percent downturn in the 2003-04 fiscal year, said James C. Palmer, director of the project conducted by the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University. Mr. Palmer warned that the upward trend may be short-lived, given that revenue growth has slowed in many states in the current fiscal year.

➤ More minority students are enrolling in college, and they're increasingly choosing two-year institutions, according to a new report by the Government Accountability Office. According to the report, while tuition and fees among all institutions increased over the last 12 years, tuition and fees at two-year public colleges increased by the smallest dollar amount and tuition and fees at two-year private colleges increased by the smallest percentage. The report also revealed that most students attend inexpensive colleges. According to the report, the majority of students attend colleges costing less than \$5,000; only 3 percent of students attend colleges costing more than \$25,000.

➤ College enrollment is expected to climb over the next decade, with the fastest growth among women and members of minority groups, according to a recent report released by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics. From 2005 to 2016, total enrollment is expected to rise 17 percent, to 20.4 million. Of that number, nearly 60 percent are expected to be women and more than a third will be members of minority groups. By 2016, 59.8 percent of all college students are expected to be women.



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

There are neither enough carrots nor enough sticks to improve undergraduate education without the commitment and action of students and faculty. They are the precious resources on whom the improvement of undergraduate education depends.

Serving for the past two weeks as a jurist was an amazing learning experience. But, it's great being back in the office.

Don

Equine Science News

Julie Christie has just published a peer-reviewed fact sheet called "Horse Behavior and Stable Vices" through the University of Minnesota Extension Program. These are colorful brochures that are distributed to horse owners throughout the Midwest. In addition, she has been asked to join the University of Minnesota Horse Team as a member of the Equine Advisory Committee.



Maxine Bach, an RCTC student who is studying both Equine Science and Veterinary Technology has won the Minnesota Horse Council 'Tony Gasser Scholarship'! Tony Gasser was a well-known Minnesota Horseman who left money in his will to start a scholarship fund for students in equine-related fields. Last year, Mag Kunesh (another RCTC equine student) won the scholarship.

Crossings Classifieds

FREE: HP 56 Black ink cartridge (new). Updated printer and had a new cartridge left over. Please contact Kari Takahashi at kari.takahashi@roch.edu or by calling the GRAUC office at 281-7786.

COMMUNITY EVENT: Roscoe's Root Beer and Ribs First Annual CHILI COOKOFF to Benefit the Alzheimer's Association - Wednesday, February 6th from 11:00-2:00 p.m. at Goonie's Comedy Club (7 2nd Street SW). Tickets are \$10 at the door, OR buy a bundle in advance: 5 tickets for \$45 or 10 tickets for \$90. Call the Alzheimer's Association at 289.3950 or email gerise.thompson@alz.org for more info or to purchase discount tickets.

Congratulations!

We are delighted to announce that Mike Froisland (GMW), is a new grandpa. His daughter, Heidi Froisland, gave birth to a 5 lb 13 oz little girl, Savanna Jean Froisland, on January 17th, 2008.

Mayo Clinic Seeking Volunteers

Mayo Clinic is seeking volunteers between the ages of 18-40 for studies that determine how the genetic makeup of heart, lung, and blood pressure receptors influence blood pressure regulation in healthy people. In order to participate in the initial study, volunteers need to donate a small blood sample for genetic determination. Depending on genetic makeup, volunteers might be eligible to participate in future studies if interested. Future studies may include arm or leg blood flow measurements, medication administration, exercise (handgrip, leg extension, or bicycling), breathing maneuvers, nerve measurements, or dietary salt manipulation. Participants will receive monetary compensation for time involved. Volunteers may not be on regular prescription medications, except contraceptives. Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is encouraged. Participation will take approximately 30 minutes for those who have pre-registered and approximately 60 minutes for those who have not. The Mayo Clinic research team will be at UCR from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13th on the third floor Atrium (AT302, staff lounge). There will be pre-registration offered on the first floor Atrium Monday, Feb 11th from 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. For more information on the Mayo Clinic Genotyping Study and/or to pre-register, contact Pamela Engrav at 507-255-6938 or e-mail engrav.pamela@mayo.edu.

You're Invited

The second event of the UCR Learning Center Think Academic Extravaganza (Ganza) will take place on the evening of January 31st. It is free and open to the public. **Thursday, January 31st, Time 7:00 p.m. - Room Singly Hall 110 (UCR Main Campus, 851 30th Ave. SE • Rochester, MN) Carbon Policy and Social Justice: A Discussion Featuring Larry Lohmann.** As our communities begin to grapple with carbon emissions, how will our decisions and policies affect us? What's more, how might our policies affect others? Join the Ganza and several community groups as we welcome Larry Lohmann, who will discuss community-based approaches to climate change and their impact for citizens.

Condolences

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing away of Lillian V. Stenehjelm on January 22, 2008. Lillian was a Child Care Development faculty at RCTC. She retired in 1981. Our thoughts are with Lillian's family.