



# College Crossings

Rochester Community and Technical College

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SPRING SEMESTER EDITION

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## Attachments

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- ❖ College for Kids Course Proposal
- ❖ Market Yourself Presentation
- ❖ Good Lessons from Bad Women Presentation
- ❖ Power of One
- ❖ Women's History Month
- ❖ Guatemala Trip Poster
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## Meeting Minutes

Click below:

[http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting\\_minutes.html](http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting_minutes.html)

## Best Bee for February!

Please congratulate Shelly Peterson for being selected the Best Bee of the month for February! Here is what her nominators had to say about Shelly: "Shelly has had a chance to touch most of the staff here at RCTC either directly or indirectly during the month of January. Shelly has been in charge of the process of installing the new phone system at RCTC. She has spent many hours locating and tagging all phones. Especially noteworthy is Shelly working all day on the Friday of the cut-over and staying until after 2:15 a.m. to see the job done. Following this extra long day, she again came in to work on Saturday as the team tried to complete the cut-over of the phones at the Heinz Center. Shelly has worked in a professional manner and is respected by the entire phone installation team as the person who has the answers. Shelly consistently showed dedication, professionalism and exhibited cheerfulness throughout the entire process." Thank you Shelly and congratulations on being named the "Best Bee of the Month!" Shelly will receive the "Employee of the Month" parking space for the month of February.



**Staff Development Day – Tuesday, February 19, 2008**  
 Click [HERE](#) for complete agenda

## Black History Month

February is African American/Black History Month. It's a time to commemorate the many significant contributions African Americans have made to our country. African Americans have participated fully in this country's development since colonial days, but often, their contributions were not included in our history books. Dr. Carter Woodson, a Harvard scholar and son of former slaves, introduced Negro History Week on February 19, 1926. He chose the second week of February because the birthdays of Fredrick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln are observed then. His hope was that the important contributions of black Americans to our history would be recognized. He dedicated his life to this idea. In 1976, Negro History Week was expanded into Black History Month. Today, it is celebrated in communities across the country with programs and activities that recall and honor the history and accomplishments of African Americans. You can find more information about Black History Month and distinguished African Americans at:

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/bhml.html> or  
<http://www.biography.com/blackhistory/>.

~ Ricki Walters  
 Regional Diversity Trainer/Investigator

**My goal in life is to be as good a person as my dog already thinks I am.**  
 ~Author Unknown

**Weekly Funny  
Snapshots** at jasonlove.com



"Save your money -- he's a quack."

**Staff Changes**

Please help the Academic Support Center in welcoming Anna (Pingree) Hanson as she makes the move from her current position as the Marketing and Outreach Coordinator to her new position as Special Needs Advisor. Anna's new office is SS171, so feel free to stop by and welcome her.

Please welcome Andrew Halvorsen who has joined the college community as the Director of Institutional Research. Andrew is a native of southern Minnesota and has recently moved back to the area with his wife. Andrew has a BA in Mathematics from St. Olaf College and an MS in Statistics from Iowa State University. His office is located in Coffman (CF213) in the College Relations and Effectiveness Suite. Andrew can be reached at 292-5130.

Please help the Finance/Facilities Division welcome Carrie Thiesse as she joins RCTC. Carrie will provide administrative support to the VP Finance/Facilities and reception duties for Associate VP for Academic Affairs from Winona State. Carrie's office is SS211.

**It's a Girl!**

We are delighted to announce the arrival of a new member to the RCTC Family! Annelise Medora was born on Saturday, January 30 to Sarah (adjunct Anatomy & Physiology instructor) and Ted Lytle. She came into this world weighing 7 lbs 4 oz and 29 inches long. Congratulations, Sarah and Ted!

**Thank You**

Friday, February 1st was my last official day on campus ending a 27 year career at the College. I am so appreciative to all who stopped by the office, sent email messages, and attended the reception hosted by my thoughtful coworkers. I am truly grateful to have shared this wonderful experience at RCTC with all of you and the countless students who crossed my path. I plan to visit campus and stay in touch with you.

*~Earlene Hackenmiller*

**Valentine Candy**

The International Student Club (ISC) will be selling Valentine candy gift baskets for \$3.00 and buttons for 50 cents in the Atrium on Valentines day from 10-1. However if you would like a special button made with a loved one's name on it, please email Glen Saponari before Thursday, and the club will produce one...click [HERE](#) to see sample. Thank you for your support in all our projects.



ISC/Glen Saponari

**College For Kids**

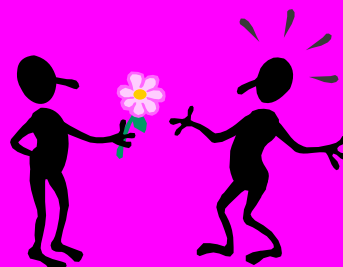
Now is your opportunity to plan and teach a class full of eager learners! Consider teaching College For Kids 2008. Classes will be offered to students in grades 3,4,5 or 6,7,8 who have been identified as gifted & talented. This annual summer program is highly regarded in the community as a direct result of the outstanding teaching staff. Camp course proposal forms and more information are attached to this edition of



**2008**

*Crossings*. If you have questions, please don't hesitate in contacting Colleen Landherr Maddox, RCTC Community & Youth Program Director at [colleen.landherr@roch.edu](mailto:colleen.landherr@roch.edu) or 280-3113.

**Flowers for Your Valentine!**



**Thursday Feb. 14 from 8am to 4pm**

Horticulture Technology Center at the Heintz Center  
Variety of arrangements available.  
Price range: \$5 to \$40

## Supalla Scribblings

With the Minnesota Legislature set to convene on February 12, a grassroots network of faculty, staff, students, community members, and alumni have launched the Friends Action Network, or FAN, to promote the state's investment in capital improvement projects for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities during the 2008 session. Members of the Friends Action Network are urged talk to their friends, family, neighbors...and especially their elected officials...about the value that the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system delivers to the state. This session, RCTC has a HEAPR proposal that will provide funding for the Heintz Center roof; tuck point and concrete building repairs at UCR Main; and some small-life safety projects. In addition, we are asking the legislature to fund renovation of the vacated nursing labs in Plaza Hall. GRAUC and a number of partners have joined us in requesting schematic and construction design funding for the new co-located Workforce and Career and Technical Education Center at Heintz. Preliminary indications out of St. Paul are that some legislators are promoting the early adoption of the bonding bill. Some legislators believe that getting projects started this spring would take advantage of lower costs resulting from the current construction slow down, and would infuse the labor market with an influx of construction jobs. Some bonding bill hearings have already been scheduled for as early as the opening day of the session. The 2008 legislative session will be key to gaining support for the MnSCU capital investment and repair and replacement projects. It is critical that our students, faculty, staff, alumni and community supporters work together to build public support for the state colleges and universities at the Capitol and throughout the state. For more information and to become a FAN, visit <http://www.fan.mnscu.edu>.



American business leaders think that college graduates should arrive at the nation's work places with real-world skills. But a new survey released in January by the Association of American Colleges and Universities reveals that many employers believe today's applicants are not ready to advance within their corporations. Worse still, employers have little use for some of academe's more traditional assessment indexes of student achievement and preparedness, including standardized tests and college transcripts. The association found that a majority of the executives surveyed were reasonably confident that most recent college graduates who applied for positions at their companies had the necessary preparation to succeed at entry-level positions. But a third of the executives thought only half or fewer of such applicants were sufficiently prepared. Employers thought that graduates who applied for positions at their companies were best prepared in the areas of teamwork, ethical judgment, and intercultural skills. But they said applicants needed to improve considerably in the areas of global knowledge, self-direction, and writing skills. When asked what learning approaches and assessment methods companies valued most in evaluating a new hire's potential

for success, employers overwhelmingly favored integrated, applied-learning experiences like faculty-supervised internships, community-based projects, and comprehensive capstone projects. They ranked those experiences just above essay tests and electronic portfolios of student work, which they said were also helpful in demonstrating an applicant's analytic, problem-solving, and writing abilities. Colleges, they said, should develop methods to assess students' preparedness to apply what they are learning to real-world settings, and to place less emphasis on multiple-choice tests of general knowledge. "This isn't a multiple-choice world," Wayne C. Johnson, vice president for worldwide university relations at Hewlett-Packard, said in a telephone news conference. The findings, he said, reflect a frustration and sense of urgency among businesses, which, he said, have increasingly had to look overseas to find qualified employees.

**From the October 26, 2007, CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION...** *For the majority of community college professors, teaching is the most important part of their jobs. And it's not easy. Community college students are a diverse bunch that often faces a particular set of challenges. Many entering students are not prepared for college-level work. Community college students require teachers who are engaging, creative, responsive, and energetic...and who understand their students' needs. Here are a dozen tips...many from seasoned professors...for those just starting out or for veterans who want fresh ideas.*

1. Remember that your students are freshmen and sophomores. One trap new faculty members fall into in their first jobs out of graduate school is to harbor inflated expectations.
2. While setting realistic expectations is important, you must also share them with your students. If you are a stickler for grammar, let it be known on Day 1. Tell students if you'll give grace periods for assignments or if you will not.
3. Take advantage of the technology-training courses, but don't feel pressured to use technology for its own sake. Sample everything that interests you, find the applications that best fit your teaching style, and try to incorporate them into your teaching.
4. Look at the whole experience...including the syllabus, the textbook, and the classroom...from your students' perspective. Are the books affordable? Is the classroom comfortable? Are assignments well spaced? It pays to think like your students.
5. Consider keeping a teaching journal. Journals are a great way to track your experiences, including successes and failures, challenges, aspirations, inspirations, expectations, and complaints.
6. Be mindful of the pressures on students, some of whom have families, jobs, or long commutes. Use the Internet to make course material, assignments, and feedback available online, so students can log in any time from home.
7. Know what services are available at your college to help struggling students. Distribute a handout noting college resources at the start of the semester and approach individual students if they need a hand.
8. Make sure students understand why the subject matter of the course is worth learning, and how it relates to the real world. If you get students invested, they will put in more work.
9. Encourage your students to give you feedback on your teaching. Distribute index cards half way through the semester and ask students what they would like more or less of. Students appreciate being asked.
10. If you're concerned about plagiarism, consider increasing the load of in-class work. You will learn quickly who is struggling and it helps procrastinators. It also teaches students to work better under pressure.



11. *Develop at least one assignment that requires each student to meet with you, one on one, in your office. You'll be amazed at how beneficial even a brief face-to-face meeting can be for you and the student.*
12. *Identify at least one quality you appreciate in each student, and keep it in mind every time you come in to class. It'll make you smile when you walk in to the classroom and look around the room.*

### *Thought for the Week...*

*If we are to truly invest in this generation of workers, we must offer a brain to pick,  
an ear to listen, a model to follow and, sometimes, a push in the right direction.*

*-- Anonymous*

Keep pushing! **Don**

## What's New at Goddard Library

The Library has added 2 new databases to our collection. They are:

### *Literature Resource Center*

This resource provides a wealth of information on literature. It contains 130,000+ author biographical entries, 70,000+ full-text literary criticism, 7,000 overviews of frequently studied works, 650,000+ full-text articles from journals and literary magazines, and much more.

### *Biography Resource Center*

This resource contains biographies on over 340,000 people from around the world and throughout history. There are in-depth and brief biographies in addition to full-text magazine articles on some individuals.

## Graduation Application Deadline

The Spring and Summer Graduation Application Deadline is Thursday, February 28, 2008. Graduation applications may be located online @ [http://www.rctc.edu/admissions/html/graduation\\_application.html](http://www.rctc.edu/admissions/html/graduation_application.html) or may be picked up in the Admissions & Records Office. A separate application is required for each major/award. Incomplete applications will be returned to the student. Questions may be directed to the Admissions Office (507) 285-7268.

## New Program Information

An information session for the NEW Histology Technician Program has been scheduled for March 10th from 3:30-4:30 in CF 202. This new program which will begin in Fall 2008, articulates with the Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences offered by the University of North Dakota. Students who complete this program can continue their next 2 years of student at UND. This is an affiliated program with the Mayo School of Health Sciences. Please tell others about this new offering and encourage them to attend. If you would like more information about this new program, I would like to invite you to attend.

### Thank You

Dear RCTC Staff: Thank you for the beautiful arrangement of flowers. Mom really enjoyed her time as a teacher at the Vo-Tech and we know she touched the lives of many young women. Several have sent us cards telling us how instrumental she was in seeing that they became "good teachers" too. Very gratifying for us!

*~ The Family of Lilliam Stenehjem*

### Condolences

It is with a sad heart that we announce the passing away of Virginia Danuser (wife of Gordon Danuser - retired RCC Music Instructor) on Saturday, February 2 at Beverly Living Center East in Rochester. Mrs. Danuser was 91 years old. Our thoughts are with Gordy and his family.

### Congrats!

The Echo has been honored with a First Place Award for Best Headline Writing by the Minnesota Newspaper Association in the 2006-07 Better College Newspaper Contest. The award was presented Friday, Jan. 25. If you have any of the Echo staff in your classes or see them in the hallways, please offer them congratulations for their hard work.

**Martial Arts Club meets Wednesdays from 7-9PM in SC108. All are welcome.**