



Spring Semester COLLEGE Crossings

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE...EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED.

Thought for the week...

“Never ruin an apology with an excuse.”

~ Kimberly Johnson

Thank You – Staff Development Day

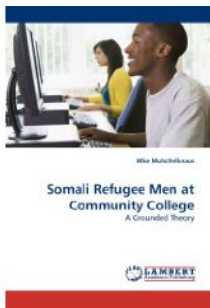
A Big Thank You to Chuck Blattner and the RCTC Jazz Band for the great entertainment they provided to all staff on Staff Development Day. They were great!

Also note the link here referred to by our keynote speaker.

<http://www.studentsfirst.project.mnscu.edu>

Academic Accolade

Congratulations to Dr. Mike Mutschelknaus of the English Department on the recent publication of a book based on his dissertation, *Somali Refugee Men at Community College: A Grounded Theory*, published by Lambert Academic Publishing. You all may remember Mike's great Faculty Lecture on the same topic. Check it out! And that's not all -- Mike has another book coming out soon, one he edited and one which has chapters written by Dr. Pam Whitfield and Dr. Steve Bein. Stay tuned!



Welcome – New Staff

The College Relations staff is pleased to announce that Kristina Sukalski has accepted the full-time position of Marketing and Graphic Assistant in College Relations. Kristina graduated Summa Cum Laude from Minnesota State University, Mankato with degrees in Communication Studies and Mass Communications with an emphasis in public relations. She will provide key support to Jenee McGurran, Michelle Messenger and the rest of the Strategic Operations division with her diverse talents and skills. Please take the time to stop by the suite to welcome her

~ Dave Weber



Photo Credit: Jamie Prasser

ATTACHMENTS

CLICK BELOW TO BRING UP
ATTACHMENT ON SCREEN

Shining Star Powerpoint from
Staff Development Day

Visit Guatemala and Earn
College Credit!



FINAL NOTICE

Faculty please inform students to go to the Foundation website to check out scholarship applications. **Deadline for most are March 1st!**

See the Foundation Scholarships website at <http://www.rctc.edu/foundation> for scholarship descriptions and applications or 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

Teaching and Learning Info Session

The next RCTC Teaching and Learning (T/L) Information Session is scheduled for Monday, March 1 at 1:00 p.m. in CF 206-208. Details regarding program/curriculum changes since the publication of our last catalog and other T/L projects will be shared. Please plan to attend!

“Cabin Fever” – Winter Concert

You are cordially invited to the RCTC Winter Concert, “CABIN FEVER” featuring tunes from the RCTC Concert Band, Concert Choir and special guest percussion artists, “Three Sticks”. Three sticks is comprised of the Knutson brothers, two of whom are alumni of RCTC Music, and all are drummers. Some of you may remember them from our winter concert a couple of years ago. These creative young men have devised some exciting and unconventional percussion artistry and I hope you’ll make time in your busy schedules to join us for a fun filled evening.

**Friday and Saturday ~ February 26 and 27, 2010
7:30pm in the Hill Theatre**

Tickets are \$6.00 each. All seats reserved. Cash or check only please. Make checks payable to RCTC Music. RCTC/WSU students receive one free ticket with valid student ID. You may order via email, stop by the Hill Theatre box office or phone 507-285-7200.

Upward Bound Fundraiser

Please continue to save and turn in **Kwik Trip MILK MOOLA** caps and bag tops found on your favorite Nature’s Touch Milk, Orange Juice, Water and Kwik Quencher products or the price ovals from Dozen or Half-Dozen boxes of Glazer donuts.

Upward Bound will earn 5c for each Nature’s Touch cap or bag top and 10c for each Glazer Donuts price oval turned in for redemption.

Upward Bound is also collecting **KEMPS “Nickels for Schools”** milk caps. These collections will continue until next August 2010. If you have any questions, contact the Upward Bound office at 507.280.5002 or email kathy.richardson@roch.edu



UCR IS NOW TOBACCO FREE
Effective as of January 1, 2010!

COOKIE/BAKE SALE

To support the Red Cross
Haiti Relief Efforts

On Thursday, February 25, 2010 the Winona State Student Association of Social Workers will sponsor a cookie/bake sale from 9:45am – 2:00pm in the UCR Atrium. All profits will be donated to the Red Cross for Haiti Relief.



Coupons for Soldiers

Please start saving coupons that you are not using and collect them until March 1st when Rose Conway can deliver to a mom who has a son in the armed services. He and service buds can use them at the PX's for discount price using these coupons. For instance, Proctor & Gamble, or coupons out of magazines; this helps the soldiers save some money when purchasing items they need, just like it helps us at the grocery stores here. I will keep collecting them after March 1st, but this is the first date I want to present these coupons to be sent overseas. You can put your envelopes of coupons in Box 12 for Rose. Thank you



SUPALLA'S SCRIBBLINGS

Both the House and the Senate have passed slightly different versions of the bonding bill and are awaiting the appointment of a conference committee who will work out the differences. Once a bill is finalized and approved by both bodies of the Legislature, it will be forwarded to Governor Pawlenty for his action. If all goes as planned the bill could be on its way to the Governor's mansion by the end of the week. Governor Pawlenty can approve the bill, line-item veto parts of the bill, or veto the entire bill and request the Legislature redraft the bill. Stay tuned.

This week the Governor presented his supplemental budget bill aimed at eliminating the state's \$1.2 billion deficit. While the Governor spared K-12 education, public safety and veterans' services, he reduced the budgets of all other areas of state funding. The Governor is recommending that higher education funding be reduced by \$47 million, including \$10.5 million for MnSCU, with the balance from the University of Minnesota. If the recommendation is enacted, RCTC will be looking to find ways to increase revenue or reduce expenses by approximately \$300,000 for FY11.

Last Thursday at the Minnesota Quality Council onsite evaluation exit presentation the team cited the following strengths:

- Senior leadership has created and systematically deployed the College's mission, vision and values. The shared governance system has built strong partnerships. Senior leadership and others are committed to continuous improvement.
- Systematic strategy development through the strategic planning and integrated planning processes is evident.
- Use of IT (balanced scorecard/dashboard) to more efficiently and effectively serve customers and allow for transparency of operations.
- Well-defined work systems – Level 1, 2, and 3.

The evaluation team also shared these opportunities for improvement:

- Focus on results and creating value by analyzing trend lines and taking action to improve where necessary.
- Systematic and effective execution of plans; review and refine some department-level plans and develop individual work plans
- Improve workforce development by analyzing what the organization needs to better accomplish RCTC's mission and vision; tie personal work plans to college, division and department goals
- Though improving, continue to enhance organizational sharing and learning; documenting and transferring the workforce knowledge of senior staff and retirees

Several members of the team and the Minnesota Quality Council staff will return to the campus on Thursday, March 25, to share the full feedback report and dialogue with staff about next steps. More details on their visit will follow.

Campus Kudos...

- Thanks to the Staff Development Subcommittee who put together a worthwhile day of activities for faculty and staff. Congratulations to all who were recognized with Shining Star awards and another round of applause for Chuck Blattner and the RCTC Jazz Band for the energizing music.
- Jerry Casper wrote the script and the most diverse cast ever assembled at RCTC presented a wonderful play, "Home of the Brave," based on the Rochester Reads book by Katherine Applegate. Ben Hain designed and created the set. The college is so blessed to have such talented theatre staff and a college and community of talented actors. Bravo!
- Congratulations to Coach Randy Rager and seven Yellowjacket wrestlers who move on to the NJCAA National Wrestling Tournament in Iowa. RCTC hosted the conference and regional competition in the Sports Center.
- Catch the last regularly scheduled home basketball game on Sunday, February 21. An earlier match-up against Minnesota State – Fergus Falls was postponed due to inclement weather. Both the women's and men's teams are playing great basketball. The women's game starts at 6 p.m. with the men's match-up to follow.
- Thank yous all around for those who had a role to play in making last week's Student Success Day a worthwhile event! Those students who took part found the day worthwhile. In the future, calendars will be scrutinized a bit more closely so as to not tempt students to cut a single day of classes to garner an early six-day spring break.

The Obama administration is stepping up its drive to compile detailed records on all students from preschool through adult employment, forming a panel of "national experts" to find ways of creating such databases while resolving political and legal concerns over privacy. A panel of 20 to 30 experts convened by the Education Department is meeting this month and plans within two months to issue a set of specific recommendations for use by state officials in assembling databases that will include records of individual student performance throughout their educational and job careers.

Thought for the week...

The biggest mistake people make in life is not trying to make a living at what they most enjoy. - Malcolm S. Forbes

Please forgive me if some newsworthy events have occurred since I wrote this on Tuesday. I'll catch you up next week. Stephanie and I are off to Naperville, Illinois, to enjoy the week with our daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters. **Don**



SPRING IS
ALMOST
HERE!

*26 days and
counting!*

Art Exhibit

EXIT: Making It Through by Catherine Kennedy will be in the UCR Art Gallery through March 2, 2010. For gallery hours go to <http://www.rctc.edu/studentlife/art>

Third Annual Dan Chick Memorial Ice Fishing Contest

It is time for the BUM Club Third Annual Dan Chick Memorial Ice Fishing Contest. The contest this year will be held on Saturday February 27 at Lake Zumbro – same location as the first year by High Banks. Registration starting at 10:00am with fishing to start at 12:00pm.

Access to lake at either Fisherman's Inn or the Ponderosa, then look for the big tent. Cost to enter is \$15.00 per person with no age limit. Over \$500.00 in prizes to be awarded.

Please look for the fliers in the halls or contact me for further information 280-3130. Thank you for your support of the BUM Club.

~ Tom Soltau



Crossings Classifieds

Welcome – New Staff

COMMUNITY INFORMATION: [CLICK HERE](#) for FREE TAX INFORMATION materials regarding partnership with AARP Tax Aide.

For more information contact: Kristi Kehrwald, Community Initiatives Coordinator at United Way of Olmsted County at (507) 535- 5519.

Condolences

Condolences are extended to Pat Kraemer (retired art instructor) whose mother, Ada Copp Larson, passed away on February 16, 2010. Our thoughts are with Pat and her family.

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



"I don't have to go to school. My mom teachers me."