

# COLLEGE *Crossings*

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

*Thought for the week...*

**Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It is already tomorrow in Australia.**

*~Charles Schulz*

## President Supalla's College Update

For those of you who were unable to attend the Staff Development Day on 2/17/09, you can access the power point used by President Supalla for his College Update at this link:

<http://www.rctc.edu/intra/staffdevelopment/index.html>

## Teaching and Learning Info Session

The next RCTC Teaching and Learning (T/L) Information Session is scheduled for Monday, February 23rd 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!

## SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHING

Please remind your students that only one week remains to apply for RCTC Scholarships! There are over 200 scholarships available for students who plan to attend Rochester Community and Technical College for Fall 2009/Spring 2010 or who will graduate from RCTC this spring and pursue studies elsewhere.

**Applications are to be submitted on-line at:**

<http://www.rctc.edu/foundation/html/scholarships.html>

The deadline for scholarship application is March 2, 2009. Additional information on scholarships offered is also available at the UCR Counseling Center or the RCTC Foundation Office – Heintz Center Room HC109. Scholarships are awarded on a variety of criteria unique to each scholarship.

For additional information call: 281-7771.



## ATTACHMENTS

CLICK BELOW TO BRING UP  
ATTACHMENT ON SCREEN

*Suits to Success Event*

*Faculty Lecture Series*

*Emergency Response Unit Drill*

*Guatemala Trip Info*

*Shining Stars*

*Spring/Summer Construction*



## Upcoming Events

### Regional Sport Center

Feb 24-Crossroads College Basketball Game  
Feb 27 & 28-NJCAA National Wrestling Tournament  
Feb 27 & 28-HS Girls Subsection Basketball Games  
March 5-HS Boys Subsection Basketball Games  
March 7 & 8-RCYBA Boys Tournament  
March 12, 13, 14-NJCAA National DIII Women's Basketball Tournament  
March 13, 14, 15-MN/USA State Folk Style Wrestling Tournament

## Academic Accolades

Mass Communications student Mary Mehrkens has been accepted to the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts Summer Program. She will be taking a class in Music Video Production where she will be able to complete her own music video as well as get tips from special guest speakers. The USC School of Cinematic Arts was established in 1929 and is one of the top film schools in the country. Mehrkens can also be heard on the KROC, 106.9 FM, morning show where she is currently a RCTC Mass Communications intern.

Congratulations to the following students who were winners of the Darwin Day competitions:  
Poetry Contest: Meghan O'Connell; Darwin Trivia Quiz: Barbara Weinmann; Evolution Quiz: Chung Meng.

## Congratulations to Our Shining Stars!

Congratulations to the "Shining Stars" recognized at the Tuesday, February 17th Staff Development Day activities: *Tiffany Anderson, Lillyam Arroyave, Don Baldus, Carolyn Bell, Chuck Blattner, Teresa Brown, Peter Burton, Peggy Candler, Jerry Casper, Alan Charon, Julie Christie, Annie Clement, Rose Conway, Pat Costello, Doug Courneya, Kevin Dobbe, Bob Ekstam, Renee Engelmeyer, Nick Fijacko, Steve Flint, Robin Fruth-Dugstad, Anne Green, Lynn Guenette, Matt Hafar, Mikaela Hagen, Lori Halverson-Wente, Guy Hamernik, Katherine Hanson, Carla Hanson, Deb Hare, Rosemary Hicks, Terri Hill, Darin Hoffman, Jamie Johnson, Richard Jordan, Cris Kellas, Ron Klingsporn, Terry Knight, Terry Krieger, Travis Kromminga, Scott Krook, Jon Krusmark, Colleen Landherr-Maddox, Brian LaPlante, Brad LaPlante, Peter Larsen, Dennis Lawler, Don Lien, Sarah Lytle, Jamie Malcore, Jean Marconett, Denny McGuire, Jenee McGurren, Rod Milbrandt, Steve Monson, Craig Narveson, Carol Nurmi, Mona Permann, Janelle Peterson, Randy Renken, Julie Rodakowski, Mike Russell, Bob Sanborn, James Scott, Nancy Shumaker, Ruth Siefert, Lori Stoltz, Sue Sundlee, Don Supalla, Darlene Voeltz, MJ Wagenson, Dave Weber, Jonathan Wetenkamp, Pam Whitfield, Gregg Wright.* A copy of the acknowledgments are attached to this week's *Crossings*.

THE NEXT...

## Chat with the President

(A series of informal opportunities for faculty and staff to chat with President Supalla on issues important to you!)

**February 25, 2009 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. ~ Heintz Center ~ HA104**

**March 10, 2009 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. ~ UCR ~ 3rd Floor Lounge**

Stop in for treats and refreshments!



## Transfer Specialists on Campus in March

Transfer specialists from visiting colleges will be on the RCTC campus at tables in the Atrium on the following dates:

Monday, March 2, 2009  
10:00-1:00 Minnesota State University-Mankato

Friday, March 6, 2009 10:30-1:00  
Northwestern Health Sciences University

Tuesday, March 24, 2009  
9:00-1:00 Augsburg College

Please encourage students to visit with these transfer specialists. If you have questions and cannot be there, please let me know.

~ Audrey Lidke, Counseling

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Faculty Lecture Series

**February 24, 2009**

We hope you can come!

# SUPALLA'S SCRIBBLINGS



The State of Minnesota and RCTC are facing a significant budget challenge in the next biennium and beyond. The Governor's proposed biennial budget would reduce the MnSCU appropriation by 10.7 percent or \$146 million. This loss of funding is on top of the \$20 million unallotment the Governor ordered for the current fiscal year. The MnSCU Board of Trustees has made keeping 2009-10 tuition increases to a minimum a priority and they've tentatively recommended a 2 percent tuition increase for two-year colleges and a 3 percent increase for state universities. Double-digit tuition increases that have been used in the past to off-set large state appropriation decreases are out of the question. Although the Governor's recommendation is the first step in the legislative budget building process, it's very likely that the final legislation will significantly impact base funding for the coming year. Thus, RCTC and our sister institutions are beginning to prepare for difficult financial times. In the coming weeks, we'll be asking for your input...both through listening posts and surveys. In a nutshell, we'll be seeking your response to the following general questions:

- 1) **What could your department or the college do to generate additional revenue?**
- 2) **What could your department do to reduce expenditures and/or increase efficiency?**
- 3) **What could others do to increase revenue, reduce expenditures and/or increase efficiency?**

Your thoughts and input will be much appreciated as we grapple with difficult budget decisions in the coming weeks.

The Senate Capital Investment Committee met this week for the first time this session to discuss asset preservation projects throughout the state. Facility representatives from the MnSCU system office presented the system's HEAPR (repair and replacement of existing infrastructure) needs. Representatives provided some details of "shovel ready" projects and noted that the object of the asset preservation list this year is fast execution of projects at all of MnSCU's 32 institutions. A bill has been introduced by the Capital Investment chairs in both the House and Senate, appropriating \$35 million in HEAPR bond proceeds for the University of Minnesota and \$50 million for projects in the MnSCU system.

## Big Numbers...

- With the February budget forecast just weeks away, financial analysts are beginning to speculate on what the updated biennial deficit might be. All indications are that the number has grown from the November projection of approximately \$5 billion to what some believe will be closer to \$7 billion. The State Commissioner of Finance noted this week that if these numbers come to pass, it will require an 85 percent rewrite of Pawlenty's original budget proposal. The new forecast is tentatively scheduled for release on March 4. Please stay tuned for ongoing updates.
- Faculty and staff in the UCR Learning Center have shared some raw usage numbers for the Center for fall semester. Student utilization of the Center continues to exceed expectations and projections. In summary:
  - Total Visits = 8538 (it's likely the number is closer to 10,000 since students don't always sign in)
  - RCTC = 8391                      WSU = 141                      Other = 6
  - Distinct Users = 1353 students
  - Heaviest Use by Discipline
    - Math (4387)    Science (1314)    Writing (1040)    Computer Applications (504)    Reading (411)
- The Office of the Chancellor has released summer and fall term online credits pulled from the system data warehouse by institution. The preliminary numbers indicate that RCTC's ranking has slipped as other institutions are increasing the number of online credits sold. Institutions delivering more credits than RCTC (in rank order) are: St. Cloud State University, Metropolitan State University, Inver Hills Community College, Lake Superior College, Anoka Ramsey Community College, and Minnesota State University – Mankato.

On Tuesday evening, RCTC hosted the first "New Neighborhood" public forum. A good cross section of the community was on hand in Hill Theatre to listen to eight community residents tell their personal Rochester stories. Two of the presenters spoke highly of their experiences at RCTC. New Neighborhood is envisioned as an opportunity to listen and witness our neighbor's struggles and efforts to enhance Rochester today and into the future. As a community we have been faced with many changes over the past several decades during Rochester's rapid growth. Challenges continue to arise as people of varied cultures, faiths and traditions move to Rochester with their special customs, rituals, and unique needs. Our success today and especially tomorrow depends upon our willingness to learn about each other and to truly know each other as neighbors. Watch for future New Neighborhood events or find information at [newneighborhood.net](http://newneighborhood.net).

## Thought for the week...

*Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions. – Albert Einstein*

~ Don

## 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 27<sup>th</sup>. [CLICK HERE](#) for all the details!



## Martial Arts Club

RCTC Martial Arts Club meets Mondays from 6-9pm in SC108, and Thursdays from 8-10pm in SC108.

Learn kickboxing, jujitsu and more! No experience needed. Come trail with us for a month and get a FREE club t-shirt!

## Snapshots at jasonlove.com



Suddenly Kip hit an area not marked on his Creaky Board Floor Map. The curfew police would not be sympathetic.

## Women's Defense Class Offering

The RCTC Martial Arts Club is sponsoring a women's self-defense seminar from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon on Saturday, February 28, in Chatfield. The cost is a \$5 donation, 100% of which will go to a local women's shelter. Contact [steve.bein@roch.edu](mailto:steve.bein@roch.edu) with questions.

## Winter Concert This Week!

The RCTC Winter Concert featuring the RCTC Concert Band and Choir and special guests, "Med City Collective" will be held on Wednesday, February 25 and Thursday, February 26 in Hill Theatre at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$5.00 each with reserved seating. Refreshments will be served at intermission. Contact Rhonda Jensson at x7200 for tickets or more information.

## On-Line Tuition Waiver System

Beginning Summer Semester 2009, we will use the new MnSCU online system to request tuition waivers. Paper forms will no longer be used. Login Instructions: You will use your user ID and password to gain access to the Tuition Waiver system. If you are new to the system, your user ID is your RCTC Tech ID and your password is your birth date (yy/mm/dd). If you have trouble logging in, please contact Kim Leitzen in Human Resources (507) 280-5007, e-mail [kimberly.leitzen@roch.edu](mailto:kimberly.leitzen@roch.edu)

### On-Line Tuition Waiver Link

<https://webproc.mnscu.edu/tw/waiver/summary.do?campusid=306>

### Process

Submitting tuition waiver requests using the new system is very simple. Just follow these steps: Log in using the link, user ID and password described above. Create and submit your tuition waiver request(s). Check back in the Tuition Waiver system to see when the waiver is processed by HR.

*NOTE: Do not print the form. The Business Office will run a report that will show them all the waivers for their institution that have been approved by HR. They will use this report to process waivers, applying dollar amounts to student bills. Make sure your student checks their billing information to make sure the tuition waiver gets processed in a timely manner.*

### Quick Reference Guide

The Office of the Chancellor has prepared a quick reference guide that will give you just enough information to use the system without overwhelming you with details. A link to the reference guide is located below and available on the RCTC/HR web pages.

[http://www.oocr.mnscu.edu/CurrentEEs/OnlineTuitionWaiver/Employee\\_ORG.pdf](http://www.oocr.mnscu.edu/CurrentEEs/OnlineTuitionWaiver/Employee_ORG.pdf)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Human Resources Department.

~ Renee Engelmeyer