



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

Congratulations to Our Shining Stars!

Congratulations to the "Shining Stars" recognized at the Tuesday, February 20th Staff Development Day activities: Amy, Dale; Benson, Jon; Bequette, Mike; Bunge, Sara; Clement, Annie; Cleveland, Bill; Cram, Stan; Diekmann, Beth; Hammill, Tara; Higgins, Steve; Huelsbeck, Simon; Jackson, Derrick; Knox, Craig; Krook, Scott; LaPlante, Brad; McCormick, Scannell; Morris, Bob; Mousel, Margaret; Nichols, Sharon; Nurmi, Carol; Olson, Kathy; Olson, Mary; Pyfferoen, Michelle; Roy, Rashmi; Scholer, Sheryl; Schunke, Jim;; Siefert, Chuck; Stoltz, Lori; Tjoefat, Ivonne; Tolmie, Teresa; Whelan, Ann; Whitfield, Pam; Wink, Jodeen; Wolf, Tony; Ziebell, Dan. . A copy of the acknowledgments are attached to this week's *Crossings*.



FUN Sub-Committee

A new "FUN Sub-Committee" is looking for a few fun people! A new sub-committee has been formed that aligns with one of RCTC's values... **FUN**...and they are soliciting new members. At this time the group is brainstorming ideas, but some suggestions have been to organize activities on and off campus. These may include coordinating a "President's Club" where faculty/staff are chosen at random each month to have lunch with the President, a "Milk and Cookies" time with the Academic Leadership Team, a Family Picnic (in the spring); and maybe even a "Sundaes on Fridays," and I'm sure you'll guess what that one is about. If you are interesting in joining some "FUN" people by serving on the "FUN Sub-Committee," it's not too late. Non-faculty members interested should contact Judy Kingsbury. Faculty members interested should submit their names through Gregg Wright. Winters almost over, so let's begin planning some "FUN" events!

New Wellness Challenge!

The Health Services office would like to present our new wellness challenge, Plant the SEED. The focus of this challenge is on well-rounded, healthy lifestyles. The challenge will emphasize four important aspects of health: Self-care and prevention, Exercise, Emotional Health, and Diet and nutrition. Participants will receive newsletters every two weeks with a list of challenge options and their points value. Contestants can choose which challenges, if any, they'd like to complete. **Prizes** will be awarded after each segment and at the end of the challenge! As part of the challenge, Yoga and Tai' Chi and Meditation classes will be offered for a minimal fee. Take these classes and score the daily double! Everyone is welcome to join in on the fun and Plant the SEED for a healthier life! Sign up by Tuesday, February 26th. See our flyer for more details!

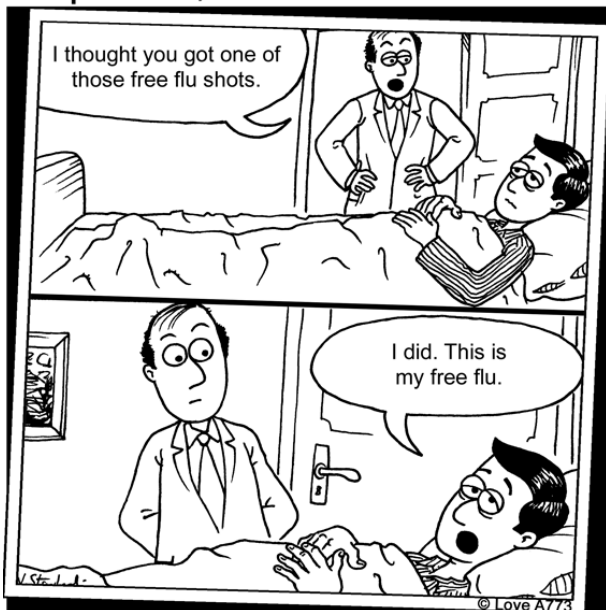


If you don't like something change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it.

~Mary Engelbreit

Weekly Funny

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



Crossings Classifieds

FOR SALE: Need a Chocolate fix? World's Finest Chocolate Candy Bars - Almond (\$1); proceeds benefit an After School Program that does tutoring and mentoring for children grades K-12. Brooke Kosok x7160 or email Brooke.Kosok@roch.edu I'll come to you or you can stop down to SS140 for some great chocolate.

Teaching and Learning Info Session

You are invited to attend the next Teaching and Learning Information Session! Come and learn more about what is happening in Teaching and Learning at RCTC on Monday, February 25th from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in the UCR Charter Room.

Physics Demonstration

We are doing two public physics demonstration shows at RCTC this spring, Saturday March 1 at 7 pm and Sunday March 2 at 2 pm, with the shows lasting about an hour and twenty minutes. The location is Hill Theater. Admission is \$5 for anyone, tickets for sale at the door starting 45 minutes before the show. Students in the Physics and Engineering Club along with yours truly will be the presenters. Spread the word to others you know, especially kids. There will be some fire, high voltage, etc - no equations!

~ Rod Milbrandt

Club Meeting

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

Faculty of the Year

Congratulations to the two faculty who have been selected as RCTC Faculty of the Year, 2007-2008: Robin Fruth-Dugstad and Lynn Guenette!



Robin Fruth-Dugstad is the lead faculty/ Program Leader in the Horticulture Program, and has been a vibrant contributor of student learning for many years. She has provided many opportunities for students to visit and attempt to understand the horticultural issues around the world.

Lynn Guenette is a sociology instructor in the Division of Social Sciences, and she has been involved for many, many years in helping students learn about what social commitment means, and how service learning can be a part of all classes at RCTC.

There will be more information out shortly regarding a reception we in their honor.

You're Invited!

"FUSION OF CULTURES" will be held on Saturday, March 1st 2008 from 6-8 PM in the Heintz Center Commons Area. The Asian Students Organization and I as their faculty advisor are cordially inviting you to attend this annual event. Our Asian and international students have again worked hard this year to put together a wonderful show, which includes the coconut dance, songs, martial arts, fear factor, fashion show and more! After the show everyone is invited for a free dinner buffet catered by Hunan Garden restaurant. Please come and enjoy the talents of our students. We would appreciate it very much if instructors can encourage their students to attend. The proceeds of this annual event go to scholarships for our students. Tickets can be purchased in the Atrium or at the door on that Saturday.

~ASO and Ivonne TjoeFat

Congratulations!

The Echo editor's brought home awards from the Associated Collegiate Press' Best of the Midwest competition this past weekend. Kelly Huberty, Editor-in-Chief, won a third-place award for Page Design. The winning design is this month's center spread on "Hate in America". Kristina Ludewig, Managing Editor, won a third-place award for Editorial/Commentary Writing for her fall editorial on sex offenders. Kristina also won a first place award for Feature Writing for her story "What Happened in Jena" in this month's Echo (part of the "Hate in America" section).

Dorothy Leeds on Campus

Market Yourself: The Ultimate Job Seeker's Guide on Feb. 25th, 12-1pm, at Hill Theater AND Good Lessons from Bad Women (in History): A Theatrical Adventure on Feb. 25th, 7-9pm in Hill Theater.

Supalla Scribblings



Colleges could play a far greater role in improving the education attainment of Americans if they focused their efforts on classroom instruction, better measurements of learning, and new methods to finance institutions, Gail Mellow, president of City University of New York's LaGuardia Community College, told college leaders at the opening session of the American Council on Education's annual meeting. For a gathering that typically attracts far more officials from four-year colleges than two-year institutions (only 12 percent of attendees are from community colleges), the selection of Ms. Mellow as the keynote speaker was notable. Indeed, Ms. Mellow used the occasion to educate – and at times criticize – her colleagues from the four-year sector. “As higher-education leaders, we have allowed the baccalaureate and community college systems to develop separately and unequally, with tenuous points of integration and inadequate financial support,” Ms. Mellow said. “We have to come to a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of our students.” Ms. Mellow's pointed out, for instance, that the overall number of bachelor's degrees awarded annually in the U.S. would drop by 700,000, or almost half, if not for community colleges. That's because some 300,000 of those bachelor's degrees are awarded to students who transfer from a community college, and an additional 400,000 are earned by “reverse transfers,” or students who started at a four-year college, returned to a community college, and subsequently completed a bachelor's degree. “Community colleges,” Ms. Mellow said, “are as fundamental to the higher education ecosystem as clean air and water are to the environment.”

~From the 2/15/08 CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

High school guidance counselors are one of the “top influencers” of college choice among high school students, according to a study by Stamats, a leading provider of integrated marketing solutions for higher education. High school guidance counselors help students plan for postsecondary education. They are the gatekeepers of information – the ones targeted by colleges and universities when sending admissions and marketing material to high schools. Ultimately, what they say to students may impact, positively or negatively, community colleges. The study found counselors are primarily favorable toward community colleges. On the down side, the study found that counselors had mixed feelings about the open-admission policies at two-year colleges and about how well community college academic programs measure up to those at four-year institutions. More than 90 percent of counselors agreed or strongly agreed with these eight statements about community colleges:

- Concurrent enrollment programs help prepare students for college-level work.
- Tech-Prep programs are effective in preparing students for the workforce.
- Community colleges prepare students to transfer to a four-year college or university.
- The community college nearest to the high school where they work has a good image and reputation.
- High school students who cannot afford tuition at a four-year institution should consider enrolling in a community college.
- Their high school has a good relationship with the local community college.
- They have a high level awareness of and familiarity with community colleges.
- Community colleges provide students with a quality education.

Counselors with a high level of familiarity with community colleges and who received frequent information from them were more favorable toward two-year institutions than those who did not. The sources of information they considered most helpful were the catalog, college programs or fairs, visits from college representatives, and the college's Web site.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities has received clarification that the system is exempt from the hiring freeze announce by Governor Pawlenty this week. While we are exempt from the freeze itself, we remain concerned about the dire economic condition of the state budget. Chancellor McCormick has advised all of us to exercise caution and good judgment in making decisions to fill positions. As per the Chancellor's advice, I've requested that any future employment openings be carefully reviewed and thoroughly discussed by the leadership team to determine whether we move forward with the search, delay the posting, reassign the responsibilities, etc. The college will exercise good judgment in making decisions to fill positions. Those vacant positions which can remain unfilled for a few months without compromising service to students may not be filled. This makes good sense in light of the Governor's order and the State's poor economic condition. A new, and probably not so rosy, state budget forecast will be released on February 28.

Chancellor McCormick has urged representatives of several colleges who are considering remodeling to visit the recently renovated Heintz Center. Visitors from several sister institutions have already checked it out. If you haven't visited the remodeled building yet, I urge you to drop in for the Re-Grand Opening on Wednesday, February 27, 4-7 p.m.

Advice for the Week...Drop out of the “ain't it awful” club and surround yourself with successful people.

You are the average of the five people you spend most time with. -- Jim Rohn, Self-made Millionaire and Successful Author

Ask yourself...What five people have I been spending the most time with lately? **Don**

Heintz Re-Grand Opening

You're invited to attend the Re-Grand Opening of the Heintz Center and also Career and Technical Education Month on Wednesday, February 27th from 4 pm - 7 pm. In addition to showcasing the updated Heintz Center facilities, several programs will be highlighted. These include: Automobile Mechanic, Building Utilities Mechanic, Carpentry, Computer Aided Drafting, Equine Science, Dental Hygiene, Dental Assisting, Horticulture Technology, Law Enforcement, Veterinary Technology and Surgical Technology. Tours, demonstrations and refreshments will be provided. For more information, please contact Michelle Messenger at 280-3178.

