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; Crum, Stan; Dickmann, Beth; Hammill, Tara; Higgins, Steve; Huelsbeck, Simon; Jackson, Derrick; Knox, Craig; Krok, Scott; LaPlante, Brad; McCormick, Scannell; Morris, Bob; Mousel, Margaret; Nichols, Sharon; Nurmi, Carol; Olson, Kathy; Olson, Mary; Pyfieroen, Michelle; Roy, Rashmi; Schooler, 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 interested 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
**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.

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**Weekly Funny**

Snapshots at jasonlove.com

I thought you got one of those free flu shots.

I did. This is my free flu.

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**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.

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**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

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**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

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**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.

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**Congratulations!**

The Echo editor's brought home awards form 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).

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**Dorothy Leeds on Campus**

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 point, 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