Academic Accolades

Laurel Panser recently was invited to give three lectures, two at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and another at the University of Minnesota-St. Paul. On February 6, she gave a guest lecture in two Regional World Geography courses at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse entitled ‘Capitalism vs. Socialism: Germany During the Cold War Compared to Post Reunification.’ On February 14, she gave a presentation at the ‘What’s Up in Sustainable Agriculture?’ seminar series at the University of Minnesota-St. Paul entitled ‘Collective Farming in East Germany During the Cold War & Post Reunification.’ Way to go Laurel!

Artist Talks

Please join us on Wednesday, February 28th from 2:00 pm -3:00pm in CF 206/208. David Rich, the artist currently featured in our UCR Gallery, will be giving us a presentation about his work and how it has developed over decades into the more minimal abstraction that we see on exhibit today.

David Rich is a twin cities artist who has been a painting professor at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design for over the past twenty years. This exhibition of his newest body of work currently on exhibit is titled Local Implications. It combines the physicality and immediacy of urban landscape with the openness and layered improvisation of abstract painting. Configurations of light punctuate dark passages with bold and brilliant color. David is a passionate artist and a motivated speaker- so please join us!

Regional Science Fair

The 49th Rochester Regional Science Fair will be held at RCTC from February 27-March 2, 2007. Paper presentations will be held at Heintz Center on Tuesday, February 27. The Semifinal round will be from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and the final round from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. The poster presentations will be held at the Regional Sports Center on Thursday March 1, and Friday March 2, 2007. The event will culminate with the awards ceremony to be held at the John Marshall High School Auditorium on March 2 from 7:00-9:30 p.m.
Weekly funny…

Snapshots at jasonlove.com

What do you mean, you can't come out? You advertise 24-hour service.

Not 24 hours in a row.

Marketing Corner
On February 27th, Earlene Hackenmiller, Cheryl Morgan, Anna Pingree, Paula Theisen, and possibly others will be going to Century High School to give a 50 minute presentation to their Senior Class. 400 students are anticipated to be in attendance for the presentation. This is a great opportunity for RCTC and the Century Contact, Shane McBroom, seems to be a real advocate for the college. He is also an alum!

Marketing Fact
Since the summer of 2005, 56% of all inquiries have applied to RCTC. Approximately 3 in 10 or 33% enroll. 60% of applicants enrolled.

THIS WEEK…

Retirement Party!!!
32 years of Service

For: Maureen Welder
When: Tuesday, February 27, 2007
Time: 11:30am - 2:00pm
Place: Staff Lounge: Atrium 3rd Floor

Significant Historic Events for Women
Below is an abbreviated timeline of recent important accomplishments by women. This information comes from “Women’s History: Timeline.” February 2007. Thomson Gale. 19 February 2007. You can view the entire timeline, dating back to 4000 B.C., at:

1997
• Czech-born American diplomat Madeleine Albright is unanimously confirmed by the Senate and becomes the first female U.S. Secretary of State.
• Poet Lisel Muellner wins the 1997 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for her collection Alive Together: New and Selected Poems.
• Anna Lelkes, a harpist, becomes the first official female member of the Vienna Philharmonic after the orchestra votes to end its all-male policy.
• The eight-team Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) debuts.

1998
• Women's ice hockey teams compete for the first time at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. The U.S. Women's Hockey Team wins the gold medal.
• General Motors and Saturn Corp. officials announce that Cynthia M. Trudell will become Saturn's new president and the first woman to head a U.S. car company on January 1, 1999.
• The all-woman music festival Lillith Fair grosses $28.3 million, making it one of the most successful musical tours of the 1998 season.

1999
• Shaikh Jabir As-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Amir, reinstates women's right to participate in the democratic process in Kuwait, where for many years only men had the right to participate in politics.

2000
• Hillary Rodham Clinton is elected to the U.S. Senate representing New York, becoming the first First Lady to be elected to a political office.
• Doris "Granny D" Haddock finishes her 3,200-mile walk across the United States to advocate campaign finance and a voice for the people of the nation. Haddock is 90 years old.

2002
• Halle Berry becomes the first African-American woman to win an Academy Award for best female actress.

2003
• Californian Nancy Pelosi becomes the first woman to serve as Democratic Minority Leader in the U.S. House of Representatives.

2007
• Nancy Pelosi becomes the first woman to serve as Speaker of the U.S House of Representatives.

Condolences
Condolences to Rena Pecinovsky (Vet Tech Program Lab Assistant) whose father, Thomas Roberts, passed away on February 15th. Our thoughts are with Rena and her family.

Ricki Walters
Regional Diversity Trainer/Investigator
Supalla Scribblings

The Minnesota House of Representatives Ways and Means committee, the committee that has ultimate jurisdiction over the state budget, will be hosting a town hall meeting Monday, February 26 at Kellogg Middle School at 7:30 p.m. The topics being discussed will be property tax relief, health care and higher education. Besides those signing up to testify at the committee hearing, there will also be an opportunity for those in the audience to participate during the open mic session. Legislative committees don’t often leave St. Paul to take testimony, so I encourage you to take advantage of this unique opportunity and see democracy in action.

Thanks to all of you who shared your wisdom and talents with colleagues at the February 20 staff development day. The preliminary report is that both presenters and participants found the day worthwhile. I continue to be very impressed with the quality of RCTC faculty and staff. Please take a few moments to complete the electronic feedback survey that will be shared in the near future. Your input will help the Staff Development Subcommittee develop future programs.

On the Federal Scene…

- Congress finally completed work on a spending measure to finance higher education programs for the remainder of the 2007 fiscal year that will raise the maximum Pell Grant award by $260. The Senate and House votes and presidential signature ends what has been one of the more difficult and long-lasting Congressional appropriations processes in years and clears the way for Congress to consider Mr. Bush’s 2008 budget, released this earlier this month.
- Patricia Stanley, the U.S. Department of Education’s new deputy assistant secretary for community colleges, told a group of college leaders that raising the national profile of two-year colleges would be one of her top priorities for the next two years. In order to do that, Ms. Stanley said, she planned not only to “preach to the choir” but also to talk to groups of business leaders, four-year college officials, elementary and secondary school administrators, and citizens about the work of the nation’s community colleges. She also indicated that she would also focus on raising community colleges’ profile within the Education Department itself and developing an online portfolio of best practices and key data for those institutions. Ms. Stanley took office in December, when the Education Department’s then-vacant community college liaison position was elevated to a senior-level post.

Campus Kudos…

- Congratulations to Colleen Landherr for coordinating a very successful GATEway Science Fair. Almost 140 elementary students and their families were on campus February 16 for the event. The Science Museum of Minnesota presented a well-received keynote address in the evening.
- Thanks to Mike Bequette, Stan Cram and Paula Theisen who joined me for the Chinese New Year celebration last Saturday evening at Willow Creek Middle School. The Mayor’s Office, Rochester City Council and RCTC VIPs were guests of honor, which garnered us front row, center stage, seats for an evening of song, dance and merriment.
- RCTC has received notice that our PTK Chapter has achieved the Pinnacle Bronze level in PTK’s 2006 Scholarship Award Program. This award recognizes chapters that increase their membership over the previous year. Congratulations to the Omicron Chapter and Advisor Allan O’Bryan!
- Suzanne Dinusson and her Retail Merchandising students performed their decorating magic for yet another community service project. Marcia Edson wrote…How can we ever say thank you adequately to you and your students for all of your work and vision to give this year’s auction (CAE Benefit) such a beautiful look? I’m certain that the presentation of the items which you worked SO hard and long to create was a HUGE part of the ultimate success of the event!!! I just saw some of the numbers from the auctions and the large increase in bidding was certainly because the items were so appealingly presented!!! Thank you so much!!

Quote for the Week…

College access starts with middle school. Studies show students that enter college with a plan are much less likely to change majors and more apt to complete on time.

-- Dana Cox, Senior Manager, Kuder Assessment Services, Inc.

Dave Weber and I will be in San Antonio from Wednesday through Friday participating in the Continuous Quality Improvement Network (CQIN) Summer Institute planning session. See you next week.

Don