

COLLEGE *Crossings*

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

Thought for the week...

Never let a computer know that you're in a hurry.

~Author Unknown

Congratulations March Best Bee Team!

Please congratulate the Assessment of Student Learning Committee on being selected RCTC's Best Bee Team for the month of March. The members of this committee include the following: *Don Baldus, Teresa Brown, Mike Bequette, John Buchl, Ruth Casper, Pat Costello, Deb Ellsworth, Matt Hafar, Jamie Malcore, Tom Meyer, Christine Miller, Jamie Parkin, Deb Rogne, Dave Weber and Stacey York.*

The group's nominator provided the following: This small but committed group of faculty and staff has met on a biweekly basis to help move the College's assessment efforts forward. The development of RCTC's Core Outcomes has been a meaningful yet challenging task. The Team demonstrates the RCTC Values in many ways.

Innovation: The group is always seeking new ways to encourage, support, and share valid measures of student learning.

Excellence: More dedicated colleagues cannot be found!

Fun: Laughter is a key component of every ASL meeting!!

Learner-Centered: The group believes in measuring learning not only to understand our students' specific skill sets and knowledge base, but also so that new curriculum and instructional methods may be developed to improve student learning. (Assessment is ALL ABOUT THE LEARNING)

Respect: The group is quite diverse in terms of academic fields. Although everyone may not agree on a particular topic, our discussions are always open and respectful. Everyone is a valued member of the team.

Teamwork: This crew has worked together to prepare and deliver many presentations, Power of 1 events, and the Core Outcomes. None of these tasks could have been accomplished without teamwork!

The Best Bee Team will receive a pizza party and be recognized with individual certificates. Congratulations all!



ATTACHMENTS

CLICK BELOW TO BRING UP
ATTACHMENT ON SCREEN

[Suits to Success Event](#)

[Guatemala Trip Info](#)



Upcoming Events

Regional Sport Center

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
 March 21-Mental Aerobics Wrestling Tournament
 March 24-Lourdes Indoor Track Meet
 March 26-Byron Indoor Track Meet
 March 28-Northland Youth Wrestling Tournament
 March 29-Special Olympics Regional Basketball Tournament

Academic Accolades

Last week, RCTC's student newspaper, Echo, won best of show at the Associated Collegiate Press Best of the Midwest convention held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Minneapolis. The newspaper competed in the two-year college category. Approximately 60 schools and 400 students participated. Congratulations to Mike Carter, editor in chief; Jonathan Wood, managing editor; Brianna Long, news editor; Alex Bartholomew, sports editor and Tony Pileggi, layout and design editor, for their hard work. Also cited for excellence were Tony Pileggi, for his November center-spread layout of "I just couldn't do it. It was sickening to breathe in there" and Jon Wood for his December editorial, "Surveys reveal underlying problems."

UCR Ganza Event

Please join us for: Is Geology Important?: Rocks, Water, and the Landscape of SE Minnesota on Wednesday March 4 at 10:00 am in Coffman 206/208. Jeff Green, a Karst Groundwater Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, will elaborate on southeastern Minnesota's landscape, why it looks different from the rest of the state, and how the geology influences the groundwater supply. He will also provide some examples about water resource management issues in this area. Join us on this figurative walk around southeast Minnesota.

CROSSINGS CLASSIFIEDS

GIVE AWAY: Wood burning fireplace with fan. Audrey Lidke x7469 or (h) 288-8726 5 minutes from college.

FOR SALE: 1992 Gulfstream Conquest Ltd. 29ft Motorhome. \$12,000 or best offer
 Click here for more info: <http://www.findcars.com/a.php3?q=336576>
 Pat Wolfram, (work 280-5525) (home 507-545-2433)

FOR RENT: April 1st, 3 bedroom home in NW Rochester; fireplace in lower family room; washer & dryer; fenced back yard; 2-car garage; NP,NS; \$975.00. Call Rose Conway at 272-8864

FOR SALE: Crosley electric stove, almond color, 4 burners, works great, exhaust fan with overhead light included, \$95 OBO. Crosley Never-Frost Refrigerator, 17.6 cu. ft. 29" w x 29 1/16" d x 60" tall, almond color, works great, \$95 OBO. Unique wood bookcase on rotating pedestal, approximately 27" square. 12 shelves, 3 per side. Asking \$225. Call Rachele Splittstoesser at 507-421-7525.

Counseling Assistance

The RCTC counselors would again like to assist you with student issues involving attendance, academic problems, or other issues interfering with student success. Please provide the following information for any referrals: student name and ID number; class; description of the problem; your recommendation, such as tutoring, referral to other services, to contact you, to withdraw from class, etc. We will contact the student on your behalf.

~ Robert B. Ekstam, Counselor, NBCC, NCC, DCC



SERVICES DOWNTIME

The conversion of RDB databases to Oracle is scheduled for March 5-9, during which time many ISRS-based services will be affected. A website with daily updates and the latest news has been published at http://www.its.mnscu.edu/rdb_to_oracle_conversion/index.html for those interested in obtaining more information. It is important that individuals and departments relying on ISRS for business activities be aware of the impact to their work, and communicate the downtime to students and other users. The plan is to have services restored by Monday, March 9th if the migration goes as planned. Please visit the website above to obtain the most recent updates, and contact us if you have questions.

~ Scott Sahs, CIO



Chat with the President

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

March 10 from 1:30 – 2:30PM
 UCR ~ 3rd Floor Lounge
 Stop in for treats and refreshments!

SUPALLA'S SCRIBBLINGS



RCTC was well represented at last week's legislative Town Hall meeting held in the Heintz Center Commons. Between 350 and 400 citizens packed the meeting space. More than 100 pre-registered to testify and just more than half shared their thoughts and ideas before time ran out. Constituents from the area testified on a wide range of topics that included higher education, K-12 education, health care, teenage homelessness, taxes and more. Fifteen Minnesota senators and representatives listened intently to the formal testimony and many stayed after the meeting, willing to engage in informal dialogue. I was pleased that Gregg Wright, Lori Halverson-Wente, Pam Whitfield and Susan Swanson joined me in delivering higher education testimony. More than 20 Town Hall meetings were held across the state and legislators have promised to consider what they heard as they grapple with balancing the State's budget problems.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities facilities staff continues to press for an "emergency bonding bill" in hearings at the Capitol. The System would like to see the State fund \$50 million of HEAPR (repair and replacement) projects and the five projects that Governor Pawlenty vetoed following the last legislative session. Included on the list are repairs to University Center elevators and renovation of the Plaza nursing labs that were vacated with the opening of the Health Science Center. Earlier this week, Olmsted County reps testified on a bill that would provide \$6 million in state funding (matched by \$6 million in county funds) to construct a steam line from the Olmsted County Waste-to-Energy Center to University Center. Master campus plans call for the future connection of heating/cooling utilities to the County's renewable energy supply. Stay tuned for future updates as this legislation works its way through the legislature.

Marilyn Hansmann and Randy Johnson (Rochester Workforce Center) joined me and MnSCU facilities reps at the State Designer Selection Board meeting this week to listen to the presentations and ask questions of three architectural firm finalists vying for the right to provide design documents for the co-located workforce center project. MnSCU, with lots of local input, has selected BWBR Architects, Inc. as the design firm for the project. BWBR is the same firm that provided architectural services for the UCR Health Sciences Center. Design work on the project will begin in the next few weeks.

Severe economic pressures have created a defining moment for colleges and universities, which must fundamentally reinvent themselves to survive, E. Gordon Gee, president of Ohio State University, said during a keynote address at the American Council on Education. To avoid "slouching into irrelevance," he said, universities must structure themselves horizontally, rather than vertically, change the way they reward faculty and staff, and learn to better collaborate with each other. While partnerships with business, elementary and secondary schools, and governments are crucial, he said. "We must see one another as allies, not opponents," said Mr. Gee. "Sharp elbows and zero-sum thinking are utterly useless in the work to fuel our country's resurgence. He pointed in particular to the need for deeper relationships between community colleges and four-year institutions. "We have now an act-or-lose opportunity," said Mr. Gee. "We should approach each day with an urgency of purpose—one we all share as keepers of this remarkable legacy."

Campus happenings...

- Chuck Blattner and the RCTC concert band and choir put on a wonderful performance Wednesday evening. Following intermission, the audience enjoyed some terrific blues and jazz from the "Med City Jazz Collective." I encourage faculty and staff to take advantage of the many cultural enhancement opportunities available on campus.
- Nirmala Kotagal represented RCTC on the Rochester Regional Science Fair Planning Committee. The Fair was held in the UCR Regional Sports Center February 17-20. The quality of the projects and the explanations of the students were remarkable. From the Rochester Regional Science Fair, 45 projects and 9 research papers by students in grades 6-12 will progress to the Minnesota State Science Fair in St. Paul. Two outstanding projects were selected to participate at the 60th ISEF which will be held in Reno in May. Thanks to all who volunteered and helped make the event a great success.
- Time is drawing near for the often delayed IT conversion from RDB to Oracle. The plan is to bring systems down after close of business on Thursday, March 5. Although MnSCU doesn't anticipate the conversion taking a full four days, users should be prepared to have no ISRS access through Monday, March 9. Please watch for future RDB to Oracle conversion updates as the implementation date approaches. Direct questions to Scott Sahs.
- MnSCU has released the summary data on MSCF hiring practices. RCTC's current percent of UFT is 69.7 percent, in contract compliance and above the system average of 68.15. In addition, RCTC posted 8 faculty positions between 10/27/08 and 2/9/09. Three MnSCU two-year colleges were out of compliance for the reporting period.
- Good luck to the Yellowjacket women and men basketball players who are seeking a berth in upcoming national tournaments.

**Thought for the week...What is important is to keep learning, to enjoy challenge, and to tolerate ambiguity.
In the end there are no certain answers. -- Martina Horner**

~ Don

FACULTY LECTURE SERIES

Please mark your calendars now! Ann Olson (WSU, Nursing) will be presenting "Just How Dense Are We?" The Winona Area Perimenopausal Bone Density Project, on Wednesday, March 25 in the Hill Theatre at 11:00 am. Ann will be presenting information that she collected for her doctoral dissertation, and her presentation has been designed to meet the MN Board of Nursing Requirements for Continuing Education so nurses can receive one contact hour.



Martial Arts Club

RCTC Martial Arts Club meets Mondays from 6-9pm 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



They say that animal behavior can warn us of impending danger.

Condolences

Condolences to Brad LaPlante (Head Football Coach/Physical Education) whose mother-in-law, Shirley Bronte, passed away on Tuesday, February 24, 2009. Our thoughts are with Brad, Christie and their family.

Thank You – To My RCTC Friends...

Thank you all so much for the basket of plants sent in memory of my mom. My family and I feel so overwhelmed with your generosity of memorials honoring mom with contributions to RCTC scholarships, American Cancer Society and other organizations. All your beautiful cards, kind words, hugs and shoulders to cry on have meant so much to me during this difficult time. A special thank you to Craig, Karri, Lisa and Gloria for taking care of callers and visitors in my absence allowing me to spend time with mom.

~ Margie, Chuck, Sarah, Josh, Gabrielle & Jakob Barrows
The Family of Marjorie Suhr

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month, which is prompting me to write about gender equity issues. In 2007, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) conducted research on gender pay equity and published their findings in *Behind the Pay Gap*. Below you'll find some highlights from this study. There is still much work to be done.

- Women working full time earn about 75 percent of what men working full time earn.
- Even after considering job tenure, years in the labor market, occupation, education, and other factors usually associated with pay, about 20 percent of the gap remains unexplained.
- One year out of college, women working full time earn only 80 percent as much as their male colleague.
- Ten years after graduation, women fall farther behind, earning only 69 percent as much as men.
- Controlling for hours, occupation, parenthood, and other factors normally associated with pay, college-educated women still earn less than their male peers.

Some Reasons for the Gap

- 41 percent of survey respondents said that the pay gap is a result of women prioritizing family over work and being less committed to their careers.
- An identical number (41 percent) said it was because employers discriminate against women in their hiring and promotion practices.
- About 28 percent indicated gender differences in negotiation and assertiveness as a leading reason for the pay gap.
- 12 percent think there is a wage gap because men are more likely to have the education and skills needed for higher paying jobs.

What can be done?

- Gender inequity must be publicly recognized as a problem.
- Flexible, meaningful part-time work opportunities and expanded provisions for medical and family leave are important to help both women and men better balance work and family responsibilities.
- Improvements to federal equal pay laws are needed.
- Action by individuals, employers, and federal and state governments is needed.

You can read the full study at:

<http://www.aauw.org/research/behindPayGap.cfm>

~ Ricki Walters
Regional Diversity Trainer/Investigator



Daylight Savings Time begins March 8th!

Resume Roadshow

Please announce to your students that the Resume Roadshow will be at Heintz Center on Tuesday March 3 from 10:00-11:00am and 12:30-2:00pm; and Wednesday March 4 from 10:00-11:30am and 1:00-3:00pm. Both days the event will be in HA101B. (Note that there are some time changes from previously communicated information). Students should bring a current resume. If you have questions, contact Annie Clement at x3138.

Chief Human Resources Officer Named

The Human Resources Search Committee forwarded the names of three quality candidates for my consideration. I am pleased to announce that I have offered the appointment to Renee Engelmeyer, and she has accepted. Renee has been serving as Interim Chief Human Resources Officer for the past several months. Her interim assignment, professional experiences, educational attainment and communications skills will be put to good use in this important leadership position. Renee holds a Bachelors of Art Degree in Sociology from the University of Minnesota and a Masters of Art Degree in Organizational Management from Concordia College. She is currently serving as Board President for the Rochester Human Resource Association, has been an adjunct instructor for RCTC's Supervisory Management Program and St. Mary's Graduate Program, and is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management.

~ Don Supalla, President

NEW DIGITAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Goddard Library is making new digital resources available on our web page in the form of streaming videos. What are streaming videos? Streaming videos are videos that appear on a web page every time you browse to that page. They are basically the same technology that you find on web pages that have embedded video. If you have watched a YouTube video or seen the latest news clips on CNN.com or ESPN.com, you have used streaming technology. Goddard Library's streaming videos will be academic in nature, and have the appropriate streaming rights from the publishers of the videos. Some of the videos will be accessible from on campus only. Others may be accessed remotely after you have provided your barcode and password. We are very excited about this new resource, and hope that you will find streaming videos beneficial to your academic pursuits.

Condolences

Condolences to Kathie Mangan (WSU) whose husband passed away on Thursday, February 26, 2009. Our thoughts are with Kathie and her family.

BUM Ice Fishing Tournament

The Second Annual Dan Chick Memorial Ice Fishing Contest is back on for March 7th. This year's proceeds will go to help Joe Geike's medical expenses and Dan's memorial Scholarship.

***Chester Woods Park
March 7th
12:00 to 5:00pm***

There is a \$10:00 registration (plus a \$5.00 park use fee per vehicle that Olmstead County is charging)

Prizes will be awarded for the biggest 3 fish in 4 different categories. This event is sponsored by: BUM (Building Utilities Mechanics) Club. We will try to have some hotdogs and pop available for purchasing.

If you would like a (or some) flyers for the contest, please contact me. Also, if anyone that can't come would like to make a donation to either or both of the causes, please send the money to me and I will make sure the recipients get it.

*~ Tom Soltau
BUM Club Advisor*

