Congratulations Basketball and Wrestling Teams!

Congratulations to Coaches Brian LaPlante, Chris Fernholz, Jason Bonde, Steve Schroeder and the RCTC Men’s Basketball for winning the MCAC State Tournament Sunday, Feb. 28. The team beat the nationally-ranked and very good Minneapolis Community and Technical College Team, 85-74. The team will now play in the NJCAA DIII National Tournament starting Thursday, March 11, at 3pm in Delhi, NY. Congrats to Demetrius Williams for being named the MCAC State Tournament and Region XIII Tournament MVP. Also congrats to Coach Brian LaPlante for being named MCAC and Region XIII Coach of the Year.

The RCTC Wrestling Program has produced another NJCAA All-American. Devin Clark (Sioux Falls, SD) went 5-2 in Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 27-28, to place 4th at 197 lbs. and earned All-American honors. This makes Devin a two-time All-American for RCTC as he was a National Champion in 2009. As a team, RCTC placed 7th among non-scholarship schools.

New Director of ITS Services

I am pleased to announce that Steve Higgins has accepted the offer to serve as the Director of ITS Services at RCTC. Steve has been serving as the Interim Director since March 2009, and has been directly involved in the operations of the Technology Support Center and related activities. He has a lengthy background at RCTC and other institutions in areas such as Media Services, IT, Help Desk, and Educational Technology. He has also been involved in many institutional initiatives such as RAQC, CQIN, Strategic Operations committee, The Collaborative and RCTC Leadership. He will continue report to the CIO in the Technology Division of RCTC, and manage the TSC and other IT resources.

~Scott Sahs

Students of Equine Science Compete

RCTC sent 7 riders to the regional IHSA (Intercollegiate Horse Show Association) competition held on March 6th and 7th in Crookston, MN. The qualifying riders were: Bekka Bunke, Yahna Zastrow, Marteena Bangston, Drew Underdahl, Michelle Falk, Laura Hedeen, and Vanessa Bohn. Teams are coached by Jonathon Holland and Julie Christie.
Common Book Announced
I am happy to announce that the common book for the 2010-2011 school year will be *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wudunn. This book will be available in paperback in May of this year. I have contacted the publisher and hope to have several examination copies available very soon. Meanwhile, I will put two copies of the book on reserve in the library tomorrow for any faculty interested in adopting this book for the coming fall semester. To find out more about this book, you can see an overview of several of its stories by going to the website: [http://www.halftheskymovement.org/](http://www.halftheskymovement.org/)

Spring “Rent an Athlete”
RCTC’s Men’s Basketball, Women’s Soccer, Volleyball and Football will be doing Spring “Rent an Athlete.” Get all of your “Odd Jobs” around the house organized for our athletes! More information to come, but we wanted to get the dates and times out to you so you have a chance to plan ahead! **Dates and times are:** Saturday April 24th 9am to 4pm, Sunday April 25th 11am to 6pm, Saturday May 1st 9am to 4pm, Sunday May 2nd from 11am to 6pm

~Brady LaPlante

Guest Artist
Eleanor McGough will be here from 9:00 - 2:30 on Wednesday, March 10th offering insight into her work as a painter and demonstrating acrylic painting techniques with various mediums (materials added to paint to change their surface or add texture).

9:00 - 10:00 Artist Talk, AH 201
10:00 - 11:15 Painting Demonstration, AH 300
11:15 - 12:00 Lunch Break
12:00 - 1:00 Artist Talk, CF 206/208
1:00 - 2:30 Painting Demonstration, AH 300

Contact kate.bauman@roch.edu with any questions.

Thank You
The International Students would like to thank Student Life, the Faculty and staff for their support to raise funds for the Haiti Orphanage. The students set an improbable goal of $500.00 which was raised through Valentine candy baskets. Although the students asked for a $2 donation, many faculty and staff dropped $5 and $10 for the candy. We have raised the funds and soon will complete the bureaucracy then will forward the funds on.

~Glen Saponari, ISC Advising

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**Spring Break Hours**

**Food Services: March 12-19**
Cafe Express, open 9am to 1pm
Heintz Center Cafe, Closed
UCR Main Cafe, Closed

**Learning Center: March 12-19**
Math 8-4
Writing 8-4
Science 10-2
Computer 8-4 (Friday - Wednesday only)
Speech 9-12 (Monday – Wednesday only)
[http://www.roch.edu/learningcenter](http://www.roch.edu/learningcenter)
507-285-7182

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Calculus: The Musical!
**Presented by**
Think Extravaganza, RCTC, WSU, and Mu Alpha Theta
**March 24 – 1:30 and 7 p.m.**
**March 25 – 10 a.m.**
Area high school calculus students have been invited to the day performances, which are free to students. The evening performance is a fundraiser for Mu Alpha Theta – tickets are $15. Seating is general admission. The show lasts one hour. Tickets required for all performances. Contact ViAnn Olson for tickets. 507-285-7457

CLICK HERE FOR FLYER

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Special Guest Lecturer
**Dr. Tyrone Hayes, Ph.D.**
**Thursday, April 29**
11 a.m. at Hill Theatre
Hayes will present “Silent Spring to Silent Night: a Tale of Toads and Men.” Hayes is a professor in the Dept. of Integrative Biology at the University of California at Berkeley.
CLICK HERE FOR FLYER

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Rescheduled
Teaching and Learning Info Session
**Monday, March 8**
1 p.m. in HS136
UCR IS NOW TOBACCO FREE
EFFECTIVE AS OF JANUARY 2010
The hectic craziness usually reserved for the last couple weeks of the legislative session is already apparent in St. Paul. Serious conversations between the bonding conferees and representatives of the Governor’s Office continue in hopes of reaching a resolution in the near future. Speculation is that if a compromise can’t be worked out in the next week or so, it might not happen until end of session. House and Senate committees continue to hear testimony regarding proposals to balance the billion dollar budget deficit. On Tuesday Chancellor McCormick testified in the House Higher Education Committee and reminded legislators that the proposed $10.5 million reduction will be difficult to handle, especially considering MnSCU’s significant enrollment increases.

This week MnSCU issued a news release regarding the record growth of 14,338 students counted this spring semester. Even though approximately 700 of those new students enrolled at RCTC, our college’s 6.8 percent increase was under the two-year college average of 10.1 percent and the 7.1 percent average for all MnSCU institutions. “This large enrollment increase clearly shows Minnesotans are turning to their state colleges and universities when times are tough,” said Chancellor James McCormick. “We are glad to help them pursue their goals. Equally important, we will have more graduates ready in the next few years to help Minnesota’s employers rebuild the state’s economy.” RCTC’s record new spring semester enrollment growth is made up of dislocated workers, employees upgrading their work skills and students who went away to college fall semester but found themselves back in the Rochester area at the start of the new year.

Campus Kudos…

- Please take a moment to congratulate RCTC students Jesse Buhl and Vlad Popescu as this year’s Phi Theta Kappa All-Minnesota Academic Team members. Jesse and Vlad were recognized, along with 38 other MnSCU two-year honor students at a March 3 luncheon celebration in Eagan. The award winners were joined at the luncheon by Foundation Director Lisa Baldus, Interim Dean Ginny Boyum, PTK Chapter Advisor Allan O’Bryan, Vlad’s Dad and yours truly. What an impressive array of academic achievers. Our future is in their capable hands.
- Did you catch the print interview with Carla Hanson, adjunct music instructor, in the most recent edition of Rochester Magazine? Pick up a copy of the free publication and page to the back of the magazine.
- Thanks to Holly Bigelow, Paula Carlsen and a number of other RCTC reps who joined with the American Association of University Women and the Olmsted County Youth Commission to coordinate another successful “College is Possible” workshop last Saturday.
- RCTC sports teams continue to excel. The women’s basketball team took home third place honors at the recent conference tournament. The Yellowjacket men knocked off three teams, including powerhouse Minneapolis CTC, to win the conference and regional tournament and earned the right to play in the NJCAA national tourney in New York. Congratulations to both our basketball teams. Good luck, Guys! Once again, a member of the RCTC wrestling team captured NJCAA All-American honors. Devin Clark, from Sioux Falls, SD, placed fourth in the national tournament to earn All-American status for the second year in a row. Congratulations to Coach Randy Rager and the Yellowjacket wrestling team that placed seventh nationally among non-scholarship schools.
- Brian Watters, Danielle Wannarka and a host of RCTC Law Enforcement students volunteered at this year’s Rochester Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics. The event organizers were so pleased with the wonderful work of our students and staff that they wrote a full-page letter of thanks. Included in the compliments…Finally to the students who worked. They did a very nice job for having never been around that crazy place before. Many things changed throughout the day as we needed extra support and all the students responded quickly and with eagerness to accomplish the tasks at hand. They were very professional, courteous and supportive. Great job to all!

Rochester Fast Facts…

- Rochester is the third largest and fastest growing city in Minnesota. Our population has increased by 20,000 since 2000. As of January 1, 2010 the Rochester population is estimated at 104,500. (Be sure you and our students complete the census form.)
- The minority population in Rochester was 2.6% in 1980, and is around 17% at this time. Minority population was estimated at more than 17,000 in 2008.
- In the 2008-09 school year, over 30% of the students in Rochester public schools qualified for lunch subsidies.
- In 2008, 26% of the jobs in Rochester had average weekly wages equivalent to less than $15 per hour and 9% of the jobs less than $10 per hour.

Thought for the week…

In today’s world creativity is not just a nice thing to have. It is a grave necessity. We need more innovation and invention, first to save the world from self-destruction, and second, to contribute to the mental health and power of individuals. Imitating the past is not good enough; only the creative society will survive.

– Edgar Dale

Be innovative, be inventive, and be creative. And, enjoy rising temps, warm sunshine and spring break. ~Don
OAO Open Forum
The Distance Education Committee will be hosting an open forum on March 11 at 3:00 pm in CF202 to discuss the Online Accelerated Program – its successes, concerns and things we have learned as a community since its in inception in Fall of 2008. Please mark your calendar, and plan to join us to listen and share comments as we evaluate the continuation of this online delivery option for students.

~ Shirley Wilson

Crossings Classifieds
FOR RENT: $1050/1 bedroom – Renter needed by May 1st, 2010 (South Minneapolis) – Internet/Cable, TV/Washer/Dryer Provided. Share Garage & Small yard, 2 blocks from Light Rail. Contact Sarah at 507-271-8947.

-Suzanne Edwardy

Condolences
It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing away of Betty Gordon (retired Secretary for the Director of Nursing), on Wednesday, March 3, 2010. Betty worked for the former Community College from 1975 until her retirement in 1986. Our thoughts are with Betty’s family.

Condolences are extended to Roman Staloch (Building Maintenance Foreman) whose father, Roman Joseph Staloch, passed away on Monday, March 1, 2010. Our thoughts are with Roman and his family.

March is Women’s History Month
You can find more information about Women’s History Month and some wonderful women’s biographies at http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womenshistory1.html or at http://www.nwhp.org/whm/history.php.

SPRING IS ALMOST HERE!
12 days and counting!

Snapshots at jasonlove.com

"Yes, I'm very punctual. I always use commas and periods."

Feb. 24: Day at the Capitol
Photo Credits: Stan Cram