Thought for the week…

Never iron a four-leaf clover because you don’t want to press your luck!

~Author Unknown

REMINDER – NO CROSSINGS ON MONDAY, MARCH 16TH DUE TO SPRING BREAK

Award for Business Excellence

Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility

In May of 2008, RCTC was awarded an Honorable Mention for the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility. This national award recognizes employers who are successfully using workplace flexibility to meet both employer and employee goals. We are applying for this award again this year. The process involves the submission of an application combined with an employee survey. One third of the score comes from the employer application and two thirds from the employee survey. If our application places us in the finalist category, employees will be surveyed by e-mail in early May. Further communication will be distributed upon review of our application. Our goal is to continue to foster a workplace environment that is conducive to meeting both the institutional and employee goals and become an “Award Winner” in 2009. You are encouraged to review our 2008 application at this link:

http://www.rctc.edu/hr/documents/WhenWorkWorks.pdf

FREE Concert on Tuesday

On Tuesday, March 10th at 7PM in Hill Theatre RCTC will host a spectacular FREE concert as a part of the (H)Our Music Concert Series. Music will be by 38 Stings: A Dialogue featuring: Sunita Staneslow and Gary Raynor. Sunita is a Minnesota native now living in Israel and will be playing traditional, Celtic, Jazz, and Israeli Folk. She will be in “dialogue” with Gary Raynor on Acoustic Bass. You may recognize Gary’s name as a regular performer on MPR’s “A Prairie Home Companion” This one-hour concert will be sure to be a wonderful experience for ALL AGES. Give yourself and your friends/family a treat by attending this FREE concert.

~ The RCTC Music Department
Upcoming Events

Regional Sport Center
March 12, 13, 14-NJCAA National DIII Women’s BB Tourney
March 13, 14, 15-MN/USA State Folk Style Wrestling
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

Chat with the President
(A series of informal opportunities for faculty and staff to chat with President Supalla on issues important to you!) Join us on March 10 from 1:30 – 2:30PM at UCR in the 3rd Floor lounge area. Stop in for treats and refreshments!

Goddard Library Reading Lounge
The reading lounge, located on the second floor of the library is a relaxing place to spend some time between classes or at the end of a busy day. The lounge houses current issues of our most popular periodicals from fashion magazines and business publications to professional journals. Some of the libraries newest books are also displayed and available for your perusal. Current issues of newspaper s such as the Christian Science Monitor, Pioneer Press, Star Tribune, New York Times, Post Bulletin and the Wall Street Journal are among the titles available. Please stop in, relax and explore the Goddard Library Reading Lounge!

CROSSINGS CLASSIFIEDS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Special Olympics Minnesota – Rochester Regional Games (basketball and aquatics) the weekend of March 28-29. This is a great opportunity for students who need community service hours, teachers or professors looking for an extra credit project or community members who want to get involved. Contact Emily Halbur (mailto:halbure@somn.org) or 612-604-1274.

WANTED: Obama buttons, pens, paraphernalia. Contact Audrey Lidke x7469 - Box 12.

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 Wolfgam, (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, $75 OBO. Crosley Never-Frost Refrigerator, 17.6 cu. ft. 29”w x 29 1/16”d x 60” tall, almond color, works great, $75 OBO. Unique wood bookcase on rotating pedestal, approximately 27” square. 12 shelves, 3 per side. Asking $195. Call Rachelle Splitstoesser at 507-421-7525.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!
On Tuesday the Minnesota Management and Budget Office released the long-awaited February forecast. The State of Minnesota faces a $4.6 billion shortfall for 2010-11. The $4.6 billion is $278 million less than forecast in November. This is primarily due to the federal stimulus offsetting a $1.2 billion reduction in forecast revenues. Without the federal assistance, the projected state shortfall would be $6.4 billion. Forecasters now expect a longer and deeper recession than was assumed in November. Real GDP is expected to begin growing again by early fall but job growth is not expected until 2010. The new deficit number will guide lawmakers for the remainder of the legislative session as they come up with a plan to balance the State’s budget. Now that the federal stimulus money is forthcoming, Governor Pawlenty has indicated he will share a revised budget in the next few weeks. The Governor has proposed the use of one-time money, accounting shifts and cuts to erase the deficit.

DFL legislative leaders have yet to propose a budget balancing plan, but have indicated that they will share their proposal shortly. The stimulus money has also erased the current fiscal year deficit, so a second unallotment will not occur. Details on the budget are available on the MMB web site at http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/. Please stay tuned for ongoing updates as the legislative session progresses.

This week the System Office released spring semester enrollment numbers that reveal an influx of new and part-time students helped boost enrollment at MnSCU’s 32 institutions by 3.7 percent over a year ago. The state college and university system has 183,270 students, an increase of 6,503 students from last spring’s 176,767. The number of new students was up 8 percent from last spring, and part-time enrollment increased by 5 percent over a year ago. The numbers released are the official enrollment count of students taking credit-based courses on the 30th day of the spring semester. RCTC’s spring semester enrollment grew to 5,808 – a 6.2% increase, significantly higher than the two-year college system average of 4.8 percent. The largest college growth occurred at Anoka Technical College (12.5%), South Central College (11.5%), and Central Lakes College (10%). Speculation is that these double-digit enrollments were largely the result of concurrent enrollments. The largest enrollment declines occurred at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (-12.8%), Rainy River Community College (-8.7%), Itasca Community College (-3%), and Northland Community and Technical College (-3%). Enrollment at the seven state universities increased by 1.5 percent spring semester. Special thanks to the many RCTC staff and faculty who contributed to our better-than-average increase.

Campus Kudos…

- RCTC garnered three community youth grants from the Rotary Clubs of Rochester. The awards will be presented at a joint meeting of the three Rotary Clubs on March 18. Recipients include: Colleen Landherr’s “Get Up, Get Moving” summer camp, Suzanne Nordsvig’s Upward Bound Program, and Dale Amy’s Basketball Camp. Congratulations to all!

- If you didn’t find the time to take in one of the “Candy Freak” performances at Hill Theatre or the Rochester Civic Theatre, you missed a great play. Bob Sanborn wrote the script for the Rochester Reads book of the same name. Several other faculty members and staff contributed to the production and the student actors were superb. Bob will begin another collaborative effort as rehearsals for the next production, “The Golden Fleece,” begin on March 9. Make plans now to purchase tickets for what’s certain to be another entertaining performance.

- The women’s and men’s basketball teams kept their seasons alive with good performances at the Minnesota College Athletic Conference championships. The women’s team, with a record-setting undefeated season and ranked #1 in the country, took on the Riverland Blue Devils for the Regional Tournament championship on Friday evening. A win earns them a berth in the NJCAA tournament that’ll be held next week in the UCR Sports Center. Devin Clark, Yellowjacket wrestler, took home the national championship in the 184-pound class, and Parker Brand earned the national runner-up title at 197-pounds in last week’s NJCAA Championships held at the UCR Sports Center. Please take a few moments to congratulate all of RCTC’s great student-athletes and our coaches.

- Heather Sklenicka served as a manuscript reviewer as well as an art reviewer for the First Edition of “General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry” by Janice Smith. Heather’s edits certainly improved the final version of the text.

- Kevin Dobbe is one of five candidates needing your vote in the Rochester Symphony Orchestra & Chorale’s Aspiring Conductor contest, a fundraiser for the Orchestra and Chorale. The contest runs through April 15 and each dollar counts for one vote. Ballots are available from Kevin or the Symphony Office, 400 South Broadway.

- Shamil Mirzoev, RCTC student and PTK International Vice President, has been selected as a 2009 Coca-Cola Gold Scholar ($1,500) and a Guistwhite Scholar ($5,000). Way to go, Shamil!

Thought for the Week…

Difficulties are opportunities to better things; they are stepping-stones to greater experience…

When one door closes, another always opens; as a natural law it has to, to balance. – Brian Adam

~ 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.

Snapshots at jasonlove.com

Women’s History Month Events
Women in Science: Challenges and Rewards on Wednesday, March 11 from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm in the Art Gallery, CC200. Please bring your lunch and join in a discussion of the challenges and rewards of being a woman working in the sciences.

Cathy Bao Bean, The Chopsticks-Fork Principle on Thursday, March 12 at 7:00 pm in the Hill Theatre. With delight and good humor, Cathy Bao Bean crosses disciplines and encourages people to revel in the playgrounds and minefields of being at least bicultural (by ethnicity, gender, generation, etc.).

THANK YOU
I would like to thank my RCTC family for the their prayers and many kindnesses at the death of my father, Ted Hollister. The plant was much appreciated and amazingly still alive and beautiful. Special thanks to the nursing faculty for their caring presence at the service. My mother, Helen Hollister, is as delighted as I am that I work in such a supportive environment.

~ Elizabeth Wirt

Martial Arts Club
RCTC Martial Arts Club meets on Mondays from 6-9pm in SC108 and Thursdays from 8-10pm in SC108. Learn kickboxing, jujitsu and more! No experience needed.

Come trail with us for a month and get a FREE club t-shirt!

Women’s Basketball News
The Yellowjacket Women’s Basketball team won its second MCAC State Championship in a row with their 76-56 win over rival Riverland Community College on Sunday, March 1. RCTC had previously beat Itasca Community College 71-61 on Friday, February 27 and Anoka-Ramsey Community College on Saturday, February 28 73-53. RCTC will now host Riverland in the Region 13 A Championship this Friday, March 6, 2009 at 7:00pm. Should be an exciting game as the winner will advance to the NJCAA DIII National Tournament on March 12-14, 2009 also be hosted jointly hosted by RCTC and the Rochester Amateur Sports Commission. Congratulations to Sam Sikkink for being named MCAC Tournament MVP and Tess Milczark was named to the MCAC Tournament team as well. Other awards for RCTC this season: Anne Breland and Amanda Degnan were named to the MCAC 1st team All-State and 1st All-Southern Division team. Sam Sikkink and Chelsea Wand were named to the MCAC 2nd Team All-State and 2nd team All-Southern Division team. Head Coach Steve Hucke was also named MCAC Southern Division Coach of the Year.

Wrestling has National Champ
The RCTC Wrestling Program has produced another NJCAA National Champion. Devin Clark (Sioux Falls, SD) won five matches to become the National Champion at 184 pounds. Not only did he win five matches, but he came through the most difficult part of the bracket with all of his opponents reaching the All-American status in the end. Parker Brand (Rushford, MN) was a NJCAA National Runner-up at 197 pounds. Brand won four matches, including a win over last year’s National Runner-up. For the team race, RCTC was the National Runner-Up among Division-III schools. Last year we placed third, so I guess we are taking steps in the right direction.

Condolences
Condolences to Teri Hill whose aunt, Dorothy Johnson, passed away on Wednesday, February 25th and whose grandmother, Frieda Jorganson, passed away on Saturday, February 28th. Our thoughts are with Teri and her family.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing away of Alice Davis (retired Rochester Junior College English and Spanish Instructor from 1961-1976) on Friday, February 20, 2009.
Rochester Community and Technical College
AFSCME Labor/Management
Minutes for Tuesday, November 25, 2008 – 3:00 p.m. – AT109

Present: Administration: Bequette, Cram, Engelmeier, Hansmann, Sahs, Supalla
AFSCME: Becker, Clark, Edwardy, Lunning, Martin (Business Agent), O’Dea, Tucker
Recorder: Kingsbury

ITEM 1 (AFSCME) GMW Posting – Martin questioned whether the current GMW posting should reflect a College-Wide work area. Hansmann reported the posting should reflect “Work Area C.” Action: Hansmann will have the posting reflect Work Area C.

ITEM 1 (Admin) Search Update – Engelmeier distributed a spreadsheet reflecting the status of all searches. Martin announced several state agencies are filling vacancies with temporary hires or work-out-of-class appointments until the February forecast is available; adding over 100 state employees were recently laid off in St. Peter, which has resulted in claiming opportunities for vacancies. Martin reminded administration that the claiming process may result in the claimant bringing with them state seniority, and should a layoff occur in the future, the newest hire may not necessarily be the one laid off at your institution. Supalla reported, although MnSCU is not doing a hiring pause, the Chancellor has made it clear that all presidents are accountable for the reviewing and approving of every posting on their campus. Supalla added that RCTC has already begun the practice of having every vacancy reviewed and approved through Leadership Council. Supalla thanked Martin for his suggestions and reminders of the claiming rights of AFSCME employees. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 2 (Admin) E-Time Update – Engelmeier provided an update on the status of e-timesheets, adding RCTC still plans to move forward in the February pilot with a small group of cohorts (Office of the President, Human Resources Department, Business Office Department). Lunning reported that Riverland has already gone 100% in the e-time reporting and only those with very unusual schedules have had problems. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 3 (Admin) Holiday Office Hours – Supalla reported the College is not closing during the winter break and employees are encouraged to work with their supervisors to accommodate vacation day requests. In addition, Supalla reported entire offices are allowed to close as long as proper notifications are posted for the public. Hansmann also reported that the 2nd Shift Building Services Supervisor was working with the Maintenance Department Staff to ensure adequate coverage in the Sports Center during the break. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 4 (Admin) Work Area Study Update – Hansmann distributed a document that outlined the goals of the GMW Work Area Study. Martin reported that the state-wide RFP has been put on hold in order to determine what the RFP would accomplish and what standards should be considered (i.e. standards for a warehouse are not the same standards for a hospital). Martin also indicated that AFSCME would like to have input in determining when new areas are bid out. Hansmann agreed that AFSCME input would be solicited. Supalla questioned how an ongoing process would be addressed so the final document is kept up-to-date as facilities change. Martin suggested the task force remain in place to address remodeling changes. Martin also suggested item #13 reflect a prioritized list, and yearly reviews be added to the list. Action: AFSCME supports the pilot with the suggestions discussed.

ITEM 5 (Admin) Alternate Schedule Requests – Hansmann reported that several employees have utilized the piloted Alternate Schedule Request form. A discussion followed that questioned whether the length of time should be limited. Martin responded the approval for a long period of time (i.e. six months) may not provide the flexibility needed by management should others in the same area have a similar request in the future or management needs to alter the schedule to meet the needs of the College. Tucker reported that his original hours of employment were changed due to the scheduling of staff meetings, and questioned whether he would be allowed to return to his former hours of employment (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.). Martin encouraged management to “think outside the box” and see if there is a better way or time to schedule the staff meetings. Supalla agreed that the meeting schedule deserved further discussion with the employees. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 2 (AFSCME) Holiday Reception – Clark questioned if schedules would be adjusted to allow employees to attend the Holiday Reception. Action: Hansmann will make the option of adjusting schedules to participate in the Holiday Reception available to everyone.

Adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, March 6, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. – AT109