



College Crossings

Rochester Community and Technical College

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SPRING SEMESTER EDITION

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Meeting Minutes

Click below:

[http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/
meeting_minutes.html](http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting_minutes.html)

March Best Bee!

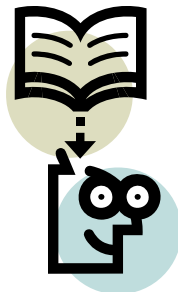
Congratulations to Steve Higgins for being selected as the Best Bee for March! Here is some of what Steve's nominator had to say:

Steve has excelled with the Educational Technology department re-organization. He has been instrumental in continuing to offer great customer support and is innovative in the use of technology in the classroom. He is always upbeat, positive, and goes out of his way to help others. Steve goes out of his way to support distance education efforts at the college. He has worked late hours and weekends online, in person, and over the telephone. He is a GREAT representative of the college and embodies the values of the institution.



Congratulations!

Two individuals have been recognized for RCTC Faculty-of-the-Year out of twenty-seven faculty who were nominated. Congratulations to Dr. Julie Rodakowski (English) and Dr. Teresa Brown (chemistry). These two individuals' portfolios will be forwarded to the Office of the Chancellor along with other required paperwork to be part of the Board of Trustees' Award for Excellence in Teaching competition. The Board will select 3 "faculty of the year" from the 50-60 applications anticipated. Julie and Teresa would be asked to be MnSCU faculty spokespeople if selected, and would each receive a handsome honorarium from the Board. At RCTC, we will want to recognize Drs. Brown and Rodakowski with our praise and appreciation for their excellent work in the classroom and throughout the College. Both will receive a paid conference trip to NISOD (the National Institute for Student and Organizational Development) as in the past. Please extend your personal congratulations to these two excellent instructors.



Academic Accolades

For the second year in a row, Dr. Robert Sanborn, English Faculty and Honors Program co-advisor, will be a presenter at the NISOD conference in Austin, Texas, May 20-23. His presentation this year is entitled "Native American Leadership Styles," and his co-presenter is Cece Cometsevah, who teaches Native American Studies at Albuquerque Community College.

Weekly funny...
Snapshots at jasonlove.com



"Hangin' around McDonald's again, aren't you?"

Crossings Classifieds

FOR SALE: Solid oak entertainment center (glass door on right side), excel. condition. 51"w x 46" h, \$60/OBO. SONY Trinitron TV, works well, \$35/OBO. 4-drawer file cabinet, \$5. Solid oak phone stand, \$15/OBO. Pair Infinity stereo speakers, excel. Condition, 12"x21", \$35/OBO. Call Ann Whelan: leave message at home phone: 288-3869.

FOR SALE: White flower girl bridal dress, never worn, size 3-4, \$40.00. Used Kenmore sewing machine (re-conditioned by Quality Sewing) with case-\$90.00. Call Rose Conway at 289-5464.

FOR RENT: 2 bdrm. 2 bath 2-level townhome SW (by Apache Mall) gas fireplace, one car garage. Immediate possession- \$850.00 Call Ed (Rose Conway) 289-5464 after 5:00pm

Marketing Corner

Our College Recruiter, Anna Pingree, will be busy this week promoting RCTC with 10 high school visits planned! In addition, she will be giving a presentation to the entire senior class at Century High School, presenting at Plainview-Elgin-Millville at a college transition evening, giving a presentation to a night school class at Century High School, hosting a Preview Day on Wednesday, giving tours for the IMAA nursing students, and Presenting to the YMCA LINK Program.

Marketing Fact

71% of persons age 18-34 in a 30-mile radius of campus have awareness of the "Get there" advertising message (43% unaided).

Condolences

It is with sorry we pass along the information that Judy Lindman passed away on February 24th. Judy was 63 years old and was diagnosed earlier in February with a rare form of cancer known as cholangiocarcinoma. Our thoughts are with her husband, Robert, and their family during this very difficult time.

Condolences are extended to Vern Bell (Carpentry Lab Assistant) whose sister, Deb Bell passed away unexpectedly on February 25.

Condolences are also extended to Patty Stevens (Admissions and Records) whose step-father, Gordon Zincke, passed away on February 28th.

Condolences to Betty Spitzmiller (English Instructor) whose father, Walter Spitzmiller, passed away on February 28th.

Thank You Notes

Dear Alice's RCTC Friends and Family:
 Thank you so much for honoring and including our mother through the years. She was so proud of all you have done and what you stand for. The plant is a living reminder of your love.

~ Alice Osborne and the Heintz Family

RCTC Family:

Thank you so much for the beautiful floral arrangement as a memorial to Tom at his service. We thank also - all of those who attended as support to our family. Your caring thoughts are greatly appreciated.

~ The family of Tom Stephenson - Jan, Alyssa & Family, Benjamin

Dear RCTC Family:

Thank you so much for the beautiful flower arrangement that was sent to my Dad's funeral. Thank you also for the cards, phone calls and e-mails of comforting words. Your caring and thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

~ Patty Stevens

Thank you to all RCTC, WSU, and U of M staff and faculty for attending my retirement party. It made me realize how many friends I have and how much I will miss being here. A special thanks to those who contributed and prepared the food and festivities. I will remember all of you always.

~ Maureen Welder



March 11, 2007 – Daylight Savings Begins!

Supalla Scribblings

The House Ways and Means Committee held a public hearing in Rochester on February 26 to take input on health care, higher education and taxation. The first "panel" of presenters included 15 folks who spoke on all aspects of health and health care. Then, six presenters testified on higher education...three state university students (1 from Southwest State and 2 from Winona) who shared personal testimony on high tuition costs and large student loan debt, Kathy Meyerle (Mayo Clinic attorney) who called for full support of MnSCU's and U of M's biennial budget request, Marilyn Stewart (chair of the Governor's Rochester Higher Education Development Committee) who spoke for continued support of the University of Minnesota Rochester, and me. My testimony urged the committee to support full funding of MnSCU's biennial budget and capital bonding request. Gregg Wright, RCTC Faculty Senate President and MSCF rep, testified for the need for funding for faculty salary increases and Terri Thomas, RCTC Computer Aided Drafting student and member of the RCTC Student Senate, stressed the legislature's need to step up and fund the MnSCU request as a public investment in the State's future. The committee then heard from former Ways and Means chair and Rochester resident Dave Bishop who spoke mostly about the need for an indexed gas tax. Final panel testimony of the evening focused on taxation and the need to restore local government aid. It included presentations from a County Board member, the Olmsted County CFO and Rochester Mayor Brede. Thanks to Gregg, Terri and the others who joined me to lobby on your behalf.



Recently the Minnesota Department of Finance released its long-awaited February financial forecast for the biennium. Changes in revenue and expenditure forecasts for the 2006-07 and 2008-09 biennia were small and offsetting. When those forecasts are combined the projected balance is \$2.163 billion, \$7 million less than forecast in November. Although a large number, most of the \$2+ billion will be eaten up by inflation and commitments made by previous legislatures. Legislative pundits predict that about \$500 million remains for appropriating during this year's legislative session.

Congratulations to Simon Huelsbeck who had three of his paintings installed as part of an ongoing employee exhibit at the MnSCU headquarters in Wells Fargo Place, St. Paul. The work will be on exhibit through the end of 2007. The Office of the Chancellor has set up a link on the MnSCU Web site that shows the work being displayed with brief biographies and statements of the artists. The link to the 2007 exhibit will be updated soon. Simon's work joins Larry Tucker's and Vern Bell's bookcase, part of MnSCU's permanent collection. Thanks for sharing your talents, Simon.

Marilyn Hansmann was recognized for participating as a member of the Project Advisory Team for the MnSCU 2008-13 Capital Budget. Members of the team were responsible for reviewing, scoring and commenting on future bonding projects. This information will now be shared with the Board of Trustees who will take public testimony on the project submissions in March. The Board will finalize a 2008 prioritized bonding list this summer. Thanks, Marilyn!

"Pay Attention to College Grad Rate...New Report Shows Middling Minnesota Performance" – Star Tribune
Take a bow Minnesota parents. You're doing a better job of getting your recent high school grads enrolled in a postsecondary institution than are families in most other states. But what happens next isn't nation-leading stuff. Four years after enrollment, less than one in four students in Minnesota's four-year colleges and universities have a B.A. in hand. That's well behind the national average. Six years after matriculation, MnSCU and University of Minnesota grads catch up to the national average. But their graduation rate is way behind a group of ten states cited by the Progressive Policy Institute, a nonprofit research organization, as those best positioned to succeed in the 21st-century economy. Those are among the sobering facts about Minnesota higher education tabulated and released last week by the state Office of Higher Education. Entitled "Minnesota Measures" and available at <http://www.ohe.state.mn.us>, it's intended to be the first of a regularly issued compendium of indicators of higher education performance. I urge you to check it out!



The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's first educational report, Leaders and Laggards: A State-by-State Report Card on Educational Effectiveness was released recently. Each state is given a letter grade in each of nine qualities of education categories. In summary, Minnesota scored very high in academic achievement, return on investment, and postsecondary and workforce readiness. Overall, the summary report ranked Minnesota number two (behind Massachusetts) in overall quality of education. The full report, including Minnesota specifics, is available at <http://www.uschamber.com/reportcard>.

*"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant;
if we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."
~ Anne Bradstreet*

Hope you enjoyed spring break!

Don