A Look Back...

Thirty-nine years ago the only other men's basketball team to play in a national NJCAA tournament, coached by Joe Rockenbach, lost after entering the tournament 29-0. Thursday's Yellowjacket victory over Montgomery College was the first NJCAA national tournament win for men's basketball in the College's history.

Is Your Answer “Yes?”

Do you feel as if you are forced to review information that the students should already know? Can you pinpoint the topics of concern?

Are courses within sequences being taught by several different instructors? Would you like to improve communication between instructors (full-time and part-time) and have similar expectations for student learning?

Have you started to use a new pedagogical method or form of technology? Are you interested in its impact on student learning?

If Don Supalla asked you “What do your students know when they complete this course/program? What are they able to do?” would you like to be able to give him a succinct answer? An answer that you could support with data related to student learning and performance?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, creating an assessment tool may benefit you, your department, and more importantly, your students.

The Assessment of Student Learning Committee invites you to participate in a Power of 1 Retreat. Click the logo above to find out more information!

New Lactation Room Available March 20, 2006

Breast-feeding moms now have a space reserved just for them. The new UCR Lactation Room is located on Second Floor Plaza, across from the elevator. This room can be locked from the inside and is equipped with electricity and hand washing facilities. The room is available for use by day, evening and weekend students and staff.
Please Join Us for Our Health Fair!

Lifestyle Fix 2006
Wednesday April 5
10:00-1:00 in the Atrium

In conjunction with the health fair...Vince Scheckel from the Olmsted County Sheriff's Department will hold 2 breakout sessions on methamphetamine, "meth" 11:00 and again at 12:00 in CF206/208.

Please encourage students to attend. A poster with more information or for printing and posting in your individual areas is attached.

Thank You!
We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Office of the President online survey. We were delighted that over 240 of you took time out of your busy schedules to provide feedback and input on the strengths and opportunities for improvement in our Office. The comments will be especially useful as we strive to improve our service and role for RCTC’s stakeholders (students, faculty/staff, and community). The survey results are currently being reviewed and a summary will be published in an upcoming Crossings.

Thank you…Office of the President (Judy Kingsbury and Don Supalla)

Marketing Fact
College Faculty and High School Teachers don’t agree on the college-readiness of their students: "In particular, professors and teachers differ significantly in their assessments of students' writing ability. Forty-four percent of faculty members say students are not well prepared for college-level writing, a view held by only 10 percent of teachers. Just 6 percent of professors view students as very well-prepared writers, compared with 36 percent of teachers who see them that way. There is also a large gap in views of mathematics readiness. Thirty-two percent of faculty members say students are not well prepared in math, a judgment shared by 9 percent of teachers. Conversely, 37 percent of teachers say students are very well prepared in math, compared with only 4 percent of faculty members." (Chronicle of Higher Education, V52, #27, p.B9 3/10/06)

Condolences
Condolences are extended to Jim Williams whose mother, Marion M. Chandler, passed away on Friday, March 3, 2006. Our thoughts are with Jim and his family.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing away of Morris George Shafer, father of retired RCTC faculty member Ed Shafer, on Thursday, March 2, 2006.

It’s a Girl!
Congratulations to Beth Arntson on the birth of her granddaughter Evelyn Rose on Thursday, March 2nd. Evelyn weighed 9 lbs 2 oz, and was 20.5 inches long.

MNOnline/HLC Accreditation
RCTC is in the process of completing a Request for Institutional Change through Minnesota Online and the Higher Learning Commission. This designation will allow RCTC to offer degrees and programs in the online environment without having to seek individual authorization each time. The Online Accreditation Team includes RCTC faculty, administration and staff, and has been meeting weekly to prepare for the May 2nd and 3rd Peer Review Team Visit. The team has completed a self-study with evidence supporting this request, and will have a draft of the final report available for comment by mid-March. The team will also be conducting informational/practice sessions in April to better understand the process of interviews and information gathering prior to the actual visit. If you have questions or would like to participate, please contact Scott Sahs at 529-2785 or scott.sahs@roch.edu.
Supalla Scribbings

The legislative session’s in full swing with an array of higher education bills already introduced. House and Senate committees are meeting and the halls of the Capitol and the State Office Building are buzzing with activists. Randy Johnson, Workforce Development, Inc. Executive Director, and I testified to a joint House/Senate Jobs Committee regarding the request for $500,000 to fund design of a collocated Workforce Center addition to Heinz Center. Of significance to RCTC this year will be the MnSCU bonding request, MnSCU supplemental budget request and reaction to the Rochester Higher Education Development Committee recommendations. The Board of Trustees reviewed campus requests and ultimately requested funding for $280.4 million. The first $110 million is for needed repair and replacements (including more than $5 million for UCR), and the balance is for 23 institution projects and three system wide initiatives. Governor Pawlenty has recommended $142 million for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities projects. The Governor’s request focuses on science-related projects and includes only $20 million of the $110 million repair and replacement request. The Board of Trustees is requesting a $31.5 million supplemental budget from the Legislature. The request includes $10 million for fuel cost increases, $15 million for information technology infrastructure and security, $3 million for expanding bioscience programs and $3.5 million for a global initiative. MnSCU provides weekly legislative updates at http://www.mnscu.edu/about/legislative/index.html. I encourage you to review the site frequently.

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruinick’s delivered his annual State of the University speech this week. Here’s what he said about Rochester…In Rochester, we are working with the community to meet growing needs in higher education, with plans to accommodate more students and increase research and technology transfer. One of the proposals is an expanded Center for Allied Health Programs, which would address critical workforce shortages throughout the state in medical technology, occupational therapy, and other areas. The University wants to play a leading role in meeting these expectations, provided that funding from the state, local community resources, and other sources enables us to do so.

Campus Kudos…

➢ At a news conference last week, Rochester Diversity Council President Kay Hocker, presented the Champion of Diversity Award to RCTC’s TRiO programs. A Mayor’s Proclamation was read and Janell Holter, TRiO Director, presented the TRiO Achiever award to past participants Lina Salazar and Sambath Ouk.

➢ Jerry Casper produced, and members of the Drama Club delivered, “Jabberwacky in Love”…a delightful evening of original skits and poetry. The performance was well-received by an intimate audience. You won’t want to miss the next production…”Rumpelstiltskin: the Truth!” by Jerry Casper. Meet Rumpelstiltskin’s family. Find out why he wants a baby. Why he collects jewelry. Why there’s a princess with two faces. This “fun for the whole family” play is scheduled for 7 p.m. on March 31 and 2 p.m. on April 1 in Hill Theatre.

➢ RCTC has an All-American national wrestling champion…Kasey Meiners! Kasey won the national championship at 174 pounds, pinned his way through the locally-hosted tournament, and was voted the “Outstanding Wrestler” of the entire tournament. Way to go Kasey and Coach Randy Rager!

➢ Congratulations to Brian LaPlante and the men’s basketball team for winning the Region XIII championship by beating the nation’s #2 ranked team from Minneapolis CTC. For the first time since the 1960’s, RCTC will have a team in the NJCAA national tournament in New York.

From the March issue of Alert!, the newsletter of the American Student Association of Community Colleges…

The recently documented decline in the national literacy rate among college graduates is news that raises concern throughout American education. It ought to rock every branch of higher education. Data showing the literacy rate among college graduates slipped from 40 to 31 percent in just over a decade come from a survey and analysis made by the National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of Education. It examines tests given college graduates in 2003, compared to like data from 1992. Among graduate students tracked by the data, literacy slipped from 51 to 41 percent in the same period. Only 31 percent of college graduates can read a complex book and extrapolate from it. Appalling it surely is – when the nation is struggling harder than ever to keep its workforce competitive in the global economy. The causes are manifold. “There’s a tremendous literacy problem among high school graduates that is not talked about,” said Dolores Perin, a reading specialist with the Columbia University Teachers College. “The colleges are left holding the bag, to teach students who have challenges.” Is traditional literacy suffering in the popular surge of technological literacy? Is the pampering of varsity athletes at four-year schools softening overall degree standards? The decline is a challenge community colleges can’t take lightly. Some traditionalists will hasten to blame community colleges. More important, it’s opportunity for community colleges to excel, by taking steps to ensure that their graduates are capable readers. To bolster their own success, student should demand no less.

Thought for the Week…We are NOT arguing for a return to some vague ‘good old days’ in higher education. There probably are no ‘good old days’ to yearn for. But today the stakes are higher because the rest of the world is not standing still, and U.S. higher education is declining. – John Merrow, President of Learning Matters, Inc.

Don
March Is Women’s History Month
The ways in which women impacted American history went nearly unnoticed prior to the 1970’s. The women’s movement of the 60’s helped change that. Today, most colleges offer women’s history courses or have a women’s studies program.

Women’s History Month began in the U.S. in 1978 when Sonoma County, California declared the week of March 8 as Women’s History Week. They chose this week because International Woman’s Day is on March 8. In 1981, Congress established National Women’s History Week, and then in 1987, they expanded the week long celebration to a month. It was established to help ensure that the impact women have on our history is part of our children’s education.

You can find more information about Women’s History Month at http://english.glendale.cc.ca.us/womhist.html. This site has women’s history links that were put together by students at Glendale College.

Ricki Walters
Regional Diversity Trainer/Investigator

Thank You!
RCTC Family…Thank you so much for thinking of us with the birth of our daughter, Jordan! We love the balloon and stuffed animal!

Thanks - Carrie Schliep

Rochester Community and Technical College’s 2006 National Poetry Month Reading Series

Schedule of Events

Time: Thursday, April 6th, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
A Community of Poets: Readings by Carol Borzyskowski, Rita Hawes, Linda Kukowski, and Nancy Kay Peterson.
Location: The Learning Center, Rm. AT 209
Cost: Free to the public.

Time: Thursday, April 13th, 2006, 3:30 p.m.
Lynette Reini-Grandell
Location: The Learning Center, Rm. AT 209
Cost: Free to the public.

Time: Monday, April 17, 2006, 8:00 p.m.
Our Very Own: Readings by RCTC Professors, Lori Stoltz, James McCormick, and Nancy Shih-Knodel.
Location: The Learning Center, Rm. AT 209
Cost: Free to the public.

Time: Thursday, April 20th, 2006, 2:00 p.m.
Ken McCullough
Location: The Learning Center, Rm. AT 209
Cost: Free to the public.

Time: Tuesday, April 25th, 2006, 3:30 p.m.
Hear No Evil, Speak No Evil, See No Evil, and Evil Himself. Readings from the Writing Center Crew: Professors Kim Zabel, Jodeen Wink, Pam Whitfield, and Eric Mein.
Location: The Learning Center, Rm. AT 209
Cost: Free to the public.

Sponsored by: The Learning Center, Located in room AT 209, Rochester Community and Technical College 851 30 th Ave. SE Rochester, MN 55904
with support from The Rochester Community and Technical College Foundation.

For more information, contact Jodeen Wink: Jodeen.Wink@roch.edu or Eric Mein: Eric.Mein@roch.edu or call the Writing Center during its hours of operation: 507-285-7182
Rochester Community and Technical College  
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF)  
Faculty Shared Governance Council  
Minutes for Tuesday, February 28, 2006 – 2:00 p.m. –AT109

Present:  
Administration  
Cram, Hansmann  
Faculty  
Gust, Marconett, Wright (Chair)  
Recorder:  
Kingsbury  
Guest:  
Arntson

ITEM 1 (A) Search Update – Arntson reported search teams are being organized for four sabbatical replacements in the areas of sociology, biology, art, and business. Marconett questioned the process used in determining sabbatical replacements. Arntson responded only annual sabbaticals were taken under consideration, and a determination was made first with adjunct assignments, resulting in only four search replacements.  
ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 2 (A) 2007-08 Academic Calendar Proposal – Wright requested a soft copy of the calendar for distribution to the faculty, adding the item will be addressed at the March Faculty Senate meeting.  
ACTION: Kingsbury will forward a soft copy of the 2007-08 calendar proposal to Wright and the item will be brought back to the March FSGC meeting.

ITEM 4 (A) SAP Workbook – Cram announced a new program, through a collaborative effort between counselors and advisors, has been developed to better serve students. The new program will improve student retention by addressing probation early, with the anticipated outcomes of less suspensions and earlier interventions with students at risk. Wright added the new process represents a fundamental change in thinking, and stressed the consensus of the group was to support placing the limited resources at the front of the process. Cram added the new program places appropriate responsibility on the student for their learning.  
ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 5 (A) Credentialing Sub-Committee – Arntson announced a local group has been organized to address the MnSCU Board Policy (Policy 3.32) and the implementation of procedures for credentialing, and although discussions are still being held on whether the group is a committee or solve and dissolve task force, agreement existed that the work should commence and the decision of reportability can be addressed at a later date.  
ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 6 (A) Awards for Excellence Committee – Arntson announced the Awards for Excellence Committee has begun work on establishing guidelines and procedures for the Awards for Excellence process. Notes of the workgroup will be published. Wright hopes that the committee will have its work done so the faculty have an opportunity to review the guidelines/procedures before the March Faculty Senate meeting. Arntson indicated this group may be an ongoing committee with the role of review and recommend once the guidelines are established.  
ACTION: Arntson will share the work of the committee with Wright before the March Faculty Senate meeting.

ITEM 7 (A) Faculty Evaluation Extension – Wright announced the faculty will agree to a one year extension of the current Faculty Evaluation Policy/Procedures (which was up for renewal in March of 2006) to provide ample time for the task force to review and propose changes.  
ACTION: The Faculty Evaluation Policy/Procedures will remain in affect until March of 2007.

ITEM 8 (A) Air Quality Testing – Hansmann announced a final report has not been received, but preliminary information reflects air quality testing in the Memorial and Plaza Halls falls within normal limits and no visible sides of mold were found. Hansmann also indicated the preliminary information reflects air circulation problems in faculty offices have been hindered by papers and furniture being placed in front of the air handling units.  
ACTION: Hansmann will send out an e-mail to UCR-All that provides preliminary information on the report and probable short-term and long-term solutions. The final report will be shared once it is received. Hansmann will also inform faculty that air movement is done only by the heating/cooling units in the faculty offices and instruct them to be sure the units are free from obstruction in order to move air efficiently.

ITEM 3 (A) IPP Update – Hansmann reminded the faculty that continuous improvement plans need to be entered by March 15.  
ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 9 (A) February FSGC Meeting Minutes – Hansmann requested the minutes of the February meeting ITEM 2 (A) Drop for Non-Payment reflect processed MnSCU tuition waivers are considered a safe harbor.  
ACTION: The February, 2006 minutes will reflect the change noted above.

Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 28, 2006 – 2:00pm – AT109