Congratulations ~ April Best Bee!

We are pleased to announce that Marj Reif has been selected Best Bee for the Month of April. Here is a paraphrase of her nominator's comments:

Marj Reif is an inspirational teacher, colleague and friend. Her creativity in the classroom has been an ongoing inspiration for me. I have read and discussed with her different group activities that she has her students work through in class. The activities are well designed and literally "guide" the student to learn without being lectured "at." She also provides an environment where students feel free to discuss their thinking processes. They verbalize without fear of being criticized or laughed at. Semester after semester, year after year, students only confirm the positive impact she has had on their learning experience. I hear them sing her praises! I would recommend her to any student without hesitation. Marj's willingness to share her material with colleagues who share her enthusiasm is beyond words...her belief in and respect for students makes me proud to call her my colleague and friend. Students from other countries have shared with her "how they learn" this concept or that skill. She embraces their willingness to share and brings that into the classroom to share with others. She respects the diverse learning styles of students and makes efforts to accommodate that diversity in her activities. Marj serves on the AASC Committee and the National Certification Board for Medical Assistants. Thank you Marj and congratulations on being named "Best Bee of the Month!" Marj will receive the "Employee of the Month" parking space for the month of April.

Academic Accolades

Pam Whitfield is presenting at the College English Association in St. Louis this month. Her topic, “Writing Tutors: Modeling Rhetorical Responsibility,” is based on her UCR Learning Center work.

Mass Communications students are involved with local media. Jon Haney has work being published in the Dodge Center Star Record. Debi Neville's work can be read in the latest edition of Rochester Magazine. Adam Sallet is an intern on Tuesday mornings with KROC-FM 106.9 and was recently auctioned off in an intern auction. His picture is online at:

http://www.kroc.com/kroc_fm/people/morning_show/index.html

“You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.”

~Ralph Waldo Emerson
Mandatory Training
Last summer the Office of the Chancellor developed a three-course Information Security Awareness Program that must be completed by every MnSCU employee. Information about accessing these courses, using the D2L (Desire to Learn) learning management system was distributed earlier. This series includes:
Course 1: Data Security in Your Job
Course 2: Securing Your Computer Workstation
Course 3: Using Data in the Workplace

To date, while more than 50 percent of employees within the MnSCU system have completed the first course and more than 45 percent have completed the second and third courses, less than 20 percent of RCTC have completed the required courses. RCTC's course completion rate is significantly lower than that of the other 31 MnSCU colleges and universities.

Please note, you will need your Stinger ID to log onto D2L to complete the training. If you do not know your Stinger ID, you may contact anyone in Human Resources who will be happy to provide this.

The following remaining session is still available for those who would like to attend and receive assistance logging on to D2L and getting started with the online training. These sessions are "open house" style so you may come at anytime during the sessions as listed below.

Wednesday, April 2, 2008
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ~ Location: SH 204

Renee Engelmeyer
Faculty/Staff Development Specialist

Free Jazz Music Concert!
The "JEDI" Jazz Quintet (Jazz, Education, and Improvisation) will be offering a free concert in Hill Theatre on Tuesday, April 8th, from 7-8PM. The quintet is made up of RCTC (Kevin Dobbe, drums, Denny McGuire Bass; John Sievers, Trombone), WSU (Larry Price, Piano), and St. Mary's (John Paulson, woodwinds) faculty. The concert will be an informal music presentation and discussion of America's original art form of Jazz. Hope to see you there!

Crossings Classifieds
COMMUNITY EVENT: The 10th Annual Golf Tournament Sponsored by the Rochester Charter Chapter of the American Business Women’s Association will be held on Wednesday, June 11. For more information CLICK HERE. If you would like to sponsor a hole, CLICK HERE. Rose Conway x7260.

Yom Ha Shoa
Yom Ha Shoa is commemorated in April. Yom Ha Shoa is the "Day of Remembrance for the Holocaust." It is celebrated on the 27th day of the month, a week after the seventh day of Passover, and a week before Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day for Israel's fallen soldiers). Yom Ha Shoa is the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Though the date was decided on by the Israeli government, it is remembered by Jewish communities around the world. The Holocaust is not the first, nor will it be the last, instance of hate and genocide in our world.

A Brief Timeline of Genocides from 1941-Today
German Occupied Europe 1941-1945: Genocide of Jews, Roma-Sinti, Homosexuals and People with Disabilities
East Pakistan 1971: Genocide in East Bengal
Burundi 1972: Selective Genocide of Hutus
Cambodia 1975-1979: Khmer Rouge "Killing Fields"
Guatemala 1981-1983: Genocide in the Maya Highlands
Iraq 1987-88: Anfal Campaign in Kurdistan
Rwanda 1994: Akazu "Hutu Power" Genocide of Tutsis
Darfur 2005: Genocide of Fur, Zaghawa and Masaalit ethnic groups

We also have active extremist groups here in the United States: Ku Klux Klan, Neo-Nazis, Skinheads, Black Separatists, Council of Conservative Citizens, Stormfront, and The National Alliance.

Each of us has a responsibility to stand up against hate and intolerance when we see it. The Southern Poverty Law Center's website, Tolerance.org, recommends ten ways for us to do that. You can find them at: http://www.tolerance.org/10_ways/index.html.

~ Ricki Walters, Regional Diversity Trainer
Supalla Scribblings

Lawmakers had hoped that a bonding bill would be on its way to the Governor before the Legislature broke for spring recess. That spring recess commenced last week, and the conference committee is still working on a proposal. There’s speculation that a compromise might be worked out in the next few days and then will be delivered to the Governor. Pawlenty could sign the bill, veto the entire bill and send it back to the Legislature to be reworked, or he could line item veto projects to get it down to what he believes is an acceptable number. Both the House and Senate have drafted budget deficit reduction language that significantly reduces higher education cuts proposed by Governor Pawlenty. Now would be a great time to contact your legislators, reminding them that money spent on higher education is a great investment. While you have their attention, be sure to mention how important it is to fund MnSCU’s bonding request.

Happenings…

- Simon Huelsbeck, art faculty member, and B. J. Shigaki, UCR Gallery curator, joined me for an Office of the Chancellor reception in St. Paul. The session included a tour to view faculty and student artwork from around the System, lunch, and presentations by the artists. Both Simon’s and B. J.’s presentations were very well received by artists, guests, and Office of the Chancellor staff. Unable to attend the reception was RCTC student Darren Lane Wendt, whose work has also been on display this past year. I took great pride the last 12 months in showing off the work of Simon, Darren and pieces from RCTC’s permanent collection.
- ABC Channel 6 (KAAL) News has announced that nominations are now being accepted to honor your favorite kindergarten to college Southern Minnesota educator. These monthly Excellent Educator awards are a partnership between KAAL and Education Minnesota. You can submit a nomination by going on-line at kaaltv.com or simply go to the station’s website and print the nomination form that’s then mailed to the state.
- Rose Conway has planned two exciting events that will raise funds for the United Way of Olmsted County or a designated United Way organization. Stop down in the Atrium between 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on April 2 for pie, pie ala mode or an ice cream sundae. Then, reminisce about May Days past by donating a basket and participating in a basket silent auction that will be held from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., May 1 in the Atrium. Thanks, Rose!

Here are some statistics from the Families and Work Institute’s “National Study of the Changing Workforce”:

- 56% of the work force is older than 40
- Work hours are climbing and jobs are becoming more hectic and demanding
- Women make up nearly half of the wage and salaried work force
- 55% of employees feel they don’t have enough time for themselves
- 63% say they don’t have enough time for their partners
- 67% feel they don’t have enough time for their children
- 39% of employees are not fully engaged in their jobs
- 54% of employees are less than fully satisfied with their jobs
- 38% of employees are somewhat or very likely to make a concerted effort to find a new job in the coming year

From the March edition of The Human Resource Executive…

- In a poll of 1007 working adults ages 21 to 28, 60% say they want to hear from their boss at least once a day.
- When workers are asked: “What is the single most important program/benefit your employer could offer that would keep you working productively and happily as you get older?” the top three responses are:
  1) 49% - flexible work schedule
  2) 15% - health and wellness programs
  3) 13% - new training/learning opportunities
- According to a new poll, 83% of workers surveyed say they show up for work when sick, up from 77% of workers in 2005.
- In a recent survey of HR professionals, 55% say they have discovered outright lies on resumes or applications when conducting pre-employment background or reference checks.
- When considering a job change, 46% of senior executives polled say they turn first to spouses or significant others for advice. That figure is up from 42% in 2002.

Thought for the week…If you are bored with life, if you don’t get up every morning with a burning desire to do things – you don’t have enough goals. – Coach Lou Holtz

If you’re bored, you’re probably not at RCTC.
March 31, 2008

Hot Rod Power Tour
Spread the word…the Hot Rod Power Tour 2008 will be stopping June 12 at Rochester Community and Technical College! For more information on the Power Tour, check out Hot Rod magazine’s website at:

Upcoming Events - Regional Sport Center
April 5, Just for Kix Dance Competition (9am-9pm)
April 11, 12, 13 Table Tennis Collegiate Nationals
Apr 19 Radar Adaptive Floor Hockey (noon-7pm)
Apr 26 Pacesetters Basketball Tournament (8am-8pm)

Club Meeting
Martial Arts Club meets Wednesdays from 8-10pm in SC108.

Service Learning Opportunity
There will be clean-up/planting days at Whitewater State Park this month held on Saturdays April 5th and 19th from 9AM - noon. Dress prepared to get dirty and wet. Bring work gloves and rakes, shovels should be clearly marked with your name. Meet at the park headquarters shortly before 9.
~ Lynn Guenette

Venus of Mars - TONIGHT!
Don't forget that tonight at 7:00 in SH101 you can watch Venus of Mars, the documentary about Lynette Reiini-Grandell (former RCTC English faculty member and Honors Program coordinator) and her spouse, Steve/Venus. They have traversed marital paths that few other couples will traverse. The documentary, by Grammy-award winning director Emily Goldberg, is enlightening and entertaining. And following the viewing, stick around for a panel discussion with Lynette and Steve/Venus. This event is sponsored by the WSU/RCTC Women's History Month committee.
~ Julie Rodakowski

Welcome Center Open Forums
April 3 from 2:30 -3:30 p.m. in rooms CF 206 & 208
April 7 from Noon to 1:00 p.m. in rooms CF 206 & 208
We look forward to your feedback which will assist us in focusing the function of this new area.
~ Stan Cram and Art Leible

Taher News
Spring is finally here, so, we're bringing back the popular Oriental Chicken Salad and Strawberry Spinach Salad at both Heintz Center Cafe and UCR Grand Cafe. $4.89

Did You Know?
April Fool's Day or All Fool's Day occurs annually on April 1. The day is generally observed by playing a practical joke on a "victim" who soon becomes known as an April Fool. This custom is thought to have started in France during the 16th century but the British are credited with bringing it to the United States. Will you be an April Fool? : 0)

Condolences
It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing away of Madison Wheelock-Sell (granddaughter of Jeremy Sell, Electronics Technician in Media Services) on Thursday, March 20, 2008 at Saint Marys Hospital. According to the Post Bulletin, Madison passed away of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. She was 2 months old and the daughter of Jeremy’s daughter, Stephanie. Our thoughts are with Jeremy and his entire family during this difficult time.

Administrative Professional’s Workshop
RCTC’s Business and Workforce Education department recognizes the crucial role that administrative professional's play in our success. We are holding a workshop on April 17 to help people within this role become even more effective and efficient. The keynote speaker will focus on energizing yourself and your workplace. Participants can choose from the following break-out sessions: building a professional image, assertive communication, business writing, organizing desk and office clutter.

If you are interested, please talk with your supervisor. Staff development funds through HR may be available to pay the $99 fee (lunch included). To register, please contact Norma Perez (280-3157 or norma.perez@roch.edu)
ROCHESTER COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

STUDENT LIFE
GOLF TOURNAMENT

4 Person Scramble – Featuring the Vern Bushlack Scholarship Endowment Fund

Monday, May 5, 2008

Noon Sign-In ~ 12:30pm Shotgun start ~ 6:30pm Dinner ~ Program Following

RCTC Student Life:
❖ $55.00 per RCTC/WSU student golf and chicken/ribs dinner (student ID required)
❖ Free RCTC/WSU student dinner only (student ID required)
❖ $95.00 per non-student golf and dinner
❖ $25.00 per non-student dinner only
❖ Remember to register by April 28th

There are several ways to register for this event, contact: Scott Krook (285-7206), Jean Jech (285-7771) OR download and print a form via the RCTC web site at www.rctc.edu

Vern Bushlack Horticulture Scholarship Fund:
❖ $200 Golf Hole Sponsorship (Golf Hole Signage)
❖ Contribute to our auction
❖ Contribute to the Vern Bushlack Horticulture Scholarship Endowment fund
❖ Remember to notify us of your support by April 14th

Contact the RCTC Foundation for additional information about contributions to benefit the scholarship fund. Phone: 281-7771 or jean.jech@roch.edu

~ HOSTED BY THE SOMERBY GOLF CLUB ~

Dress Attire: Golf shoes, collared shirts, no jeans. In case of rain – golf rainchecks will be available. Dinner and program will be held as scheduled and begins at 6:30PM.
Rochester Community and Technical College
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) Faculty Shared Governance Council
Minutes for Tuesday, February 26, 2008 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109

Present: Administration Bequette, Cram, Hansmann, Supalla
Faculty Gust, Israelson, Marconett
Recorder: Kingsbury

ITEM 5 (A) Academic Calendar 2009-2010 – Supalla announced the only change from other calendars is the delaying of Student Success Day to the fifth week of the semester. ACTION: Faculty will forward feedback to Supalla.

ITEM 7 (A) Catalog Publishing – Supalla announced the College Catalog will only be published once a year, similar to what other colleges do within MnSCU. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 4 (A) FY09 Tuition/Fee Proposal and IPP Process – Supalla announced administration considered lowering the technology fee proposal from $10 to $9, but the Student Senate requested the $10 fee remain to ensure adequate technology and support for the students. Supalla also reminded everyone that the fund balance needs to be replenished per Board Policy requirement; hence $300,000 to $350,000 will be earmarked off the top of the budget to begin replenishing the reserves fund, and the IPP process will move forward. Supalla also shared highlights from the other handouts distributed with the agenda. Hansmann added the Finance and Facilities Committee is looking for a faculty member to serve on the R&R Scoring Panel. Marconett questioned the process that would be used to ensure adequate funds in the budget for replacement and repair of the Stadium. Hansmann responded the Stadium is going to operate as an auxiliary enterprise and the operating expenses will be supported through the revenue generated. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 8 (A) State Hiring Freeze – Supalla announced MnSCU is exempt from the Governor’s hiring freeze directive, however the Chancellor is encouraging presidents to exercise caution in filling position. Supalla announced RCTC would continue to move forward with all searches currently underway, but all new staffing requests will be brought to Leadership and reviewed on a case-by-case basis. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 1 (F) Minimum Qualifications – Israelson questioned where the evidence can be found for the exceptions being made for minimum qualifications. Bequette responded the Academic Deans appeal in writing their rationale for adjunct faculty waivers to Bequette, but a similar procedure hasn’t been established for full-time faculty. Bequette added the May deadline for part-time faculty to be properly credentialed will also be imposed locally for the full-time faculty. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 1 (A) Faculty Absences Process – Bequette shared concerns that faculty are not following the appropriate process for absences, including canceling classes and not reporting the absences to administration. In addition, there are unanswered questions regarding absences for faculty teaching online. ACTION: Israelson will share the concerns with Wright and suggest faculty be identified to serve on a solve and dissolve task force to review the issues with administration.

ITEM 2 (A) Concurrent Enrollment Update – Bequette announced a revised procedure is being developed by the Office of the Chancellor, but in the interim, there is an expectation that the two courses currently being done in Triton will continue, but no new ones would be added until a final procedure is established. ACTION: Israelson reported the Faculty Senate’s position is, due to the obvious need for RCTC to have minimum qualifications, the RCTC Faculty support high school students coming to the UCR Campus for instruction by RCTC Faculty or the RCTC Faculty traveling to the high schools to deliver the classes.

ITEM 3 (A) OCAAT Update – Bequette reported the initiative is now being referred to as “Online Accelerated Options” (OAO) and implementation procedures are under development. Customized Training/Workforce Development is sharing the information with business and industry and a community information day is scheduled for April 10, 2008. A single tuition/fee cost per credit has been set at $200, providing more flexibility for employer reimbursement programs. Israelson questioned if the credit release time concerns were addressed. Bequette responded the credit issues will not be resolved through release time, but rather will be handled through overload or credits being carried forward into the next semester. Both Israelson and Marconett support the credit resolution proposal. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 6 (A) Student Success Day – Bequette announced the Student Success Day activities went smoothly, but attendance appeared to be slightly down. An improved evaluation form has been sent to those students in attendance in hopes of providing some meaningful data and future tracking potential for the success of the students. ACTION: Information Only.

Adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 25, 2008 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109