April Best Bee is Paula Carlsen

Paula Carlsen has worked at RCTC since 1994 and presently serves in the role of Enrollment Services Liaison. Paula’s nominator indicated that she displays RCTC’s values in the following ways:

**Innovation:** Paula came on board about a year ago as a new member of the admissions/enrollment services staff. One of the first things she took on was our Preview Days. She immediately recognized where the program could be improved and took steps to enhance the experience to the WOW level. Her innovative ideas took a good program and made it stellar.

**Fun:** Paula is all about fun which starts with her very positive attitude and willingness to jump right in and make work a joy.

**Learner-Centered:** Paula is right on target on this one as was attested to by folks working with the Secret Shopper. One of the employees raved about how she was treated on a campus visit, and how Paula skillfully went through all of the details about entering college, finding aid, and taking course work.

**Teamwork:** I have had Paula fill the gap in the past for one of our program leaders. She did a stellar job as a team player and I was constantly reminded of what an excellent job she did to work with all the individuals on her team.

**Respect:** She has always not only shown respect, but she is respected. When a person asked at the Secret Shopper meeting who was the person who helped so much at the college visitation day, even before the words were out of out of the representative’s mouth, the room chimed in together “Paula” showing that her reputation precedes her as someone who genuinely understands what it means to service students and the college.

**Excellence:** Frankly that work out to have Paula’s picture next to it. She is EXCELLENT!

As Best Bee, Paula will receive the employee of the month parking space for the month of April. Congratulations to Paula!
Sports Center Events

April 11 - Boys Pacesetters Basketball Tournament
April 17 & 18 - Just for Kix Dance Competition
April 19 - Girls Pacesetters Basketball Tournament

Stadium Events

April 6 - Century Girls Lacrosse Game
April 7 - Century Boys Lacrosse Game
April 9 - Mayo Girls Lacrosse Game
April 10 - Century Boys Lacrosse Game

Lessons from the Bottom of the World

April 9 from 2:00-3:00pm in Hill Theatre
See and hear about the journeys and reflections of RCTC philosophy professor Steve Bein during his recent trip to Antarctica and South America. From frozen glaciers to dense jungles, discover how two extreme places can change your view of the world. Click HERE for poster.

Academic Accolades

Mike Mutschelknaus presented his research on how non-native writers adjust to online course discussions at the 2009 Conference on College Composition and Communication in San Francisco. He discovered that in online discussions these writers can bridge the gap between cultures, providing valuable insights to other students. If you would like more information, feel free to contact him.

RCTC’s Fulbright Scholar list grows longer!
RCTC is one of a very few number of community/technical colleges in the country to have had an extensive number of Fulbright Scholars. The Fulbright Program, the most prestigious educational award program in the country, is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to “increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.” In the past few years, RCTC has had five Fulbright Scholars: Lillyam Arroyave (in Paraguay), Darlene Voeltz (in Peru & Argentina and in Morocco), Laurel Panser (Morocco), Virginia Wright-Peterson (in Algeria), and Julie Rodakowski (in India). Now Lynn Guenette has joined the list. Guenette has been accepted as a Fulbright Scholar for the 2009 summer educational program in China. The name of her study project is "The McDonaldization of China -- the effects of globalization on the Chinese economy and culture." Each of the 16 Fulbright Scholars will study an aspect of China that relates to teaching. In Guenette's "Introduction to Sociology" course, she explores the effects of globalization on the world economy. China is a key player in our economic future, so her study will enhance this aspect of that course.

CROSSINGS CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Chain link kennel six feet high (two 12-foot length sections and two 6-foot length sections). Only one year old--like new. Contact Judy Gust at Judy.gust@roch.edu.

FOR SALE: 1992 Gulfstream Conquest Ltd. 29ft Motorhome. $10,900 or best offer
Click here for more info: http://www.findcars.com/a.php3?q=336576
Pat Wolfgram, (work 280-5525) (home 507-545-2433)
On Monday morning I received a call from the Office of the Chancellor requesting that RCTC security staff be made available to relieve security colleagues at Minnesota State University–Moorhead. Within just a few hours, Bob Morris and Heather Jungclaus were on their way through a blizzard to Moorhead. Since then, they’ve been helping provide campus security and disaster relief. They very willingly agreed to forego personal and professional plans in Rochester with a “this is our job, let’s get going” attitude. They are back on campus now and willing to share their story. I’m especially grateful for their prompt response to this System Office request. Please join Chancellor McCormick, Vice Chancellor King, Moorhead President Edna Szymanski and me in thanking Bob and Heather for their service.

The House capital bonding bill has been hurdling its way through committee after committee and will likely be on the floor soon. Although a bit smaller than the Senate version, it does contain repair and replacement money for MnSCU campuses and the five projects (including RCTC renovation of the vacated nursing labs in Plaza) vetoed by the Governor last year. With repair money and the vetoed projects in both the House and the Senate, and with Pawlenty stating that he’d consider approval of a small bonding bill, there is reason to be a bit optimistic about securing a capital appropriation. Still uncertain of funding is Olmsted County’s “Green Pipes Project” which would construct a steam line from the Waste-to-Energy facility to University Center. The project is included in the Senate capital bonding bill for $5 million, but didn’t make it into the House bill. Keep your fingers crossed and stay tuned for word that a capital bonding bill has been signed and work on the “shovel ready” projects can commence in the next few months.

Speaking of St. Paul, the RCTC women’s basketball team national champions have been invited to meet with Governor Pawlenty on April 8. While in St. Paul, they will also meet with members of our local legislative delegation, tour the Capitol and bask in the glory of their amazing season. Way to go, Yellowjackets!

Recently the Office of the Legislative Auditor presented its report on “MnSCU Occupational Programs” to the Legislature. The report indicates that MnSCU generally does a good job of assessing economic conditions, but colleges have not consistently considered the needs of employers or the job prospects for graduates. One of the six recommendations focused specifically on program advisory committees…Colleges should provide better oversight of program advisory committees and take steps to improve those that are not fulfilling their potential. RCTC deans will be working with program leaders to assess the effectiveness of advisory committees and implementing any necessary improvements.

Campus Kudos…
- Colleen Landherr received notice that Mayo Clinic is providing a $1,000 grant in support of RCTC’s Get Up, Get Moving, Get Healthy Summer Camp. In making the award, Mayo noted that “this initiative clearly supports our strategic initiatives in the areas of building a healthy community, promoting education and supporting underserved members of our community.
- Out of more than 60 Rotary grant requests, RCTC received three awards that support important college initiatives. Rotary grants were distributed at an awards luncheon to Dale Amy (Summer Youth Basketball Camp), Suzanne Nordsvig (Upward Bound/TRIO) and Colleen Landherr (Get Up, Get Moving, Get Healthy Summer Camp).
- Mayo Clinic oncologist Dr. Edward Creagan told about 30 people that they have the power to change their preprogrammed DNA and live longer, happier lives. You also have the ability to live a fulfilling life, regardless of conditions, Dr. Creagan told folks attending his “Learning is Forever” class. To get a Learning is Forever schedule, call Chrisanne Pieper at 280-3157 or go to www.learningisforever.net.
- Board of Trustee Chair David Olson sent a letter of congratulations and appreciation to our financial aid staff for helping the system receive a very favorable result from the most recent audit of federal student financial aid programs. The audit firm cited three relatively minor procedural deficiencies (none at RCTC), but found no questioned costs. Considering that the system processed over $500 million in federal financial aid for nearly 100,000 students in FY08, these audit results are quite remarkable. Congratulations to Rosemary Hicks and her team!

Nearly half of adult students believe the value of education has increased over the last year due to the economic crisis, according to a survey released by Eduventures Inc., an education-consulting firm. Many prospective adult students said they were more likely than before to pursue a course or program with more flexible scheduling (59%), to complete a degree quickly (52%), to enroll in a course with a career focus (47%), or to enroll in an online course or program (42%).

Thought for the week…Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out. – Robert Collier, Author

Thanks to all who sent condolences on the death of my brother-in-law. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated. ~ Don
Martial Arts Club
RCTC Martial Arts Club meets on Mondays from 6-9pm in SC108 and Thursdays from 8:00-10:00pm in SC108. Learn kickboxing, jiujitsu and more.

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

FREE Women’s Self-Defense Class
Sponsored by RCTC’s Martial Arts Club, this five-week class will make you feel safe, confident, and in control. We meet Friday afternoons from 12:00-2:00 so you can come in over your lunch hour. Come early or stay late; we don’t mind. We’re in SC 202 starting on April 3. Sorry guys, this is for women only. We ask a $5 donation, 100% of which will go to a local women’s shelter. The dates are 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24, and 5/1. Questions? E-mail Dr. Steve Bein at steve.bein@roch.edu.

Common Book Author to Speak on April 19th
On Thursday, April 19, at 7:00 pm at the University Center Rochester Hill Theatre, Sandra Steingraber, Author, will be speaking on behalf of the RCTC 2008-2009 Common Book – “The Future of Nature” by Barry Lopez. Ecologist, author, and cancer survivor, Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D., is an internationally recognized expert on the environmental links to cancer and human health. Steingraber’s book “Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment” presents cancer as a human rights issue and has won praise from international media. The Sierra Club heralded Steingraber as “the new Rachel Carson”, and Carson’s own alma mater, Chatham College, selected Steingraber to receive its biennial Rachel Carson Leadership Award. Steingraber has keynoted conferences on human health and the environment throughout the United States and Canada and has been invited to lecture at many universities, medical schools, and teaching hospitals--including Harvard, Yale, and Cornell. She received her doctorate in biology from the University of Michigan and master’s degree in English from Illinois State University. She is currently a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Ithaca College. Admission is free and open to the public. A flier is attached to this week’s Crossings.

It’s a Girl!
Congratulations to Jamie Schroeder (CSS in Admissions and Records) and husband Phil on the birth of daughter Sadie Katherine Schroeder on Friday, March 27, 2009. Sadie weighed 7 lbs 10 oz and was 19 inches long.

Faculty Lecture Series
Mark your calendars for the final FLS presentation: Economic and Geographic Morocco, by Darlene Voeltz (Business, Economics, RCTC) and Laurel Panser (Geography, RCTC) on Wednesday, April 29 at 10:00 in the Hill Theatre. Their presentation is based on their Fulbright-Hays Fellowships to travel to Morocco. We will also be announcing the next FLS season!

Snapshots at jasonlove.com
“All I do is swim and eat fish, but do I lose weight?”

Book Drive
The RCTC Child Development Department celebrates “Week of the Young Child” with the third annual Judith Lindman Memorial Children’s Book Drive. Because we remember Judy and every child deserves a book, please drop off new or gently used children’s picture books April 15-17 from 10:00am-2:00pm in the UCR Atrium. All donated books will be sorted and labeled with: “Donated in Memory of Judy Lindman – For her passion for reading and love of children.” The books will be distributed to several organizations including: Civic League Day Nursery, Crisis Nursery, The Ronald McDonald House, Head Start, Mayo-Eugenio Litta Children’s Hospital, Smart Start and the Women’s Shelter. Please help us make this a successful event.

~ Stacey York
Fundraiser
Time for spring cleaning! The Women's Soccer team is collecting old cell phones and used printer cartridges for a fundraiser. If you have any old cell phones or empty ink or laser printer cartridges send them to Deb at Box 31.

~ Deb Hare, Women's Soccer

Jerry Casper to Perform
On April 17th and 18th at 8:00pm ($10 cost) Jerry Casper will be performing for a REP fundraiser. The evening is titled An Evening Alone With Jerry Casper. . .and his wife. . .and a few friends.

Also Greg, Nick and Jerry will be doing another improv performance at RCTC May 9th! Watch for more details on that!

Mark Your Calendars!!!!!!
RCTC Horticulture’s Spring Bedding Plant Sale

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~ Robin Fruth-Dugstad

Deadline Dates - Fiscal Year 9 Funds
1 – REQUISITIONS AND/OR REQUESTS ENTERED INTO PCS for the purchasing of supplies, equipment, speakers, repairs etc. must be in the Purchasing Dept. (June Meitzner) no later than Friday, May 8, 2009.

2 – USE OF A LOCAL PURCHASER ORDER (over the counter) can be used up to and including Friday, June 5th, 2009.

3 – ALL TRAVEL EXPENSE REPORTS for travel done from July 1, 2008 thru June 30, 2009 must be approved and submitted to Mike O’Dea (Cashiers Office) by July 6, 2009.

Questions concerning Purchasing can be directed to June Meitzner X-7213

Questions concerning your budget can be directed to June Meitzner X-7213, Mary Long X-3132, or Ruth Siefert X-7472.

Questions concerning travel can be directed to Mike O’Dea X-7212 or Ruth Siefert X-7472.

~ June Meitzner