Thought for the week...

Flowers...are a proud assertion that a ray of beauty out values all the utilities of the world.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Governor Pawlenty Welcomes the Women’s Basketball Team to the Capitol

Governor Pawlenty welcomed the RCTC Women’s Basketball Team to the Capitol on April 8th in honor of their NJCAA 2009 Division III National Championship title. The Lady Yellowjackets were greeted at the steps of the Capitol by Representative Kim Norton, Representative Randy Demmer, and Senator Dave Senjem, and given the opportunity to visit with the Local Legislators and ask questions about their roles in state government. The team and its traveling party were then provided a private tour of both the House and Senate Chambers, and escorted to the Reception Room for a photo opportunity with Governor Pawlenty. Also in attendance were Coach Steve Hucke, Assistant Coaches Chris Stenzel and Mark Kellen, President Don Supalla, Vice President Stan Cram, Jean Musjerd, Brad LaPlante, and Jim Williams.
Construction Meeting/Plan

There will be a Heintz Roofing project pre-construction meeting on April 15th at 11:30am in HA112 for anyone who would like a project update. Construction will be taking place from mid May to late November on the A & B wings.

~ Steve Monson,  
Director of Facilities, Safety & Security

A copy of the summer construction plan for Memorial and Plaza Hall and can be accessed HERE.

Office of the President Online Survey

Each year the College conducts satisfaction surveys for our students, faculty and staff to better measure the effectiveness of the Office of the President. Remember, the survey is not a performance review of individuals, but rather the Office as a whole. The survey is anonymous and confidential, and the feedback is only used to assist us in improving the performance and role of the Office. Please take a few minutes to complete this year’s online survey at: http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB2292PYPWSR5 or copy/paste the URL address in your Web browser. The survey will remain open through Friday, April 24, 2009. Thank you.

~ Office of the President

Academic Accolades

Pam Whitfield presented a talk about models and methods of collaboration in the UCR Comprehensive Learning Center at the South Central Writing Center Association conference in Texas this month.

Please join us at a reception to honor Rochester Community and Technical College’s 2008-09 retirees: Jerry Asleson, Marcia Connelly, Jim Kehoe, Sharon Nichols and Gary Schattschneider. Please join us as we recognize our retiree’s many years of dedication to RCTC and our students on Wednesday, April 29th from 2:00 to 4:00pm in CF206/208. A brief program will be held at 2:30pm.

Accessing Goddard Library Resources Remotely/Off-Campus

All current UCR students, faculty and staff may access our online library resources remotely. In addition to an internet service provider, you will need a UCR student/staff ID card, which are available at the circulation desk. Your ID card has a library barcode on the back of the card that is needed to access the library’s resources remotely. On the library homepage, you can find more detailed instructions for using our remote access/proxy server by clicking on the “Remote Access Information” link. Please contact Goddard Library with further questions at 507-285-7233.

It’s a Boy!

Congratulations to Aurora and Jeff Jacobsen (Art Instructor) on the birth of their son Reed Cameron Jacobsen. Reed was born on Thursday, April 2, 2009 and weighed in at 6 lbs. 13 oz, and was 19.75” long. We are happy to share this photo of Reed and his big sister Adele!
Legislators, who have been working hard to push bills through committees, recessed on Tuesday for the Passover/Easter holiday. They’ll return next Tuesday to a frenzied push that will last at least through the statutory adjournment date of May 18. Both the House and Senate have passed capital bonding bills that contain both HEAPR (repair and replacement) and the Governor’s vetoed projects (including RCTC’s Plaza Hall nursing lab renovation) and the bills now head to a conference committee charged with working out the differences. Higher education spending targets from both the House and Senate are expected shortly after the Legislature reconvenes. The remainder of the session will likely see heated debate as the two chambers and Governor attempt to work out their differences an approve a balanced biennial budget. On Wednesday the RCTC women’s basketball team national champions enjoyed a photo opportunity with Governor Pawlenty. The team shared some season highlights and enjoyed a state government history lesson from local legislators.

Last week the Office of the Legislative Auditor released its “MnSCU Occupational Programs” report to the Legislature and System Office. In a nutshell, the auditor found that, overall, Minnesota’s two-year public colleges do a good job of assessing economic conditions and needed skills and provide prospective students with ample information on careers and job opportunities. The auditor did find that colleges do not consistently consider the availability of jobs when proposing new programs and need to work to do a better job sharing information on job prospects. A significant portion of the audit was focused on program advisory committees. The auditor found that colleges need to improve the program advisory committees that are not fulfilling their potential. The Chancellor has instructed presidents that academic vice presidents and deans must provide better oversight of program advisory committees. RCTC deans will be working with division coordinators and program leaders to review current advisory committee rosters, meeting frequency, member turnover rates, committee composition and connections to other related stakeholders.

Student enrollment in distance education courses at community colleges grew by 11.3 percent from fall 2006 to fall 2007, according to a new report from the Instructional Technology Council. The report, which was released at the annual meeting in Phoenix of the American Association of Community Colleges, found that colleges continue to struggle to keep up with demand for online courses. The report was based on a representative sample of 139 community colleges across the country. The survey found that:

- 74% of colleges offered at least one online degree; up 10% from last year.
- 64% of colleges plan to increase the number of “blended” or “hybrid” courses.
- The retention rate for online courses was 65%, compared to 72% in face-to-face courses.
- Full-time faculty members continue to teach the majority (64%) of distance education courses.
- The top challenge administrators said they faced in running distance education programs was hiring the support personnel needed for technical assistance and staff training. That’s been the #1 challenge since the survey’s start.
- The primary challenge for faculty was workload, also unchanged in four years.
- The greatest challenge for students was assessing learning and performance.

The complete report can be found at the Instructional Technology Council’s Web site.

The vast majority of community college leaders report that student enrollment is up at a time when more than half have seen their budgets drop, according to recent findings in a survey conducted by the League for Innovation in the Community College and the Campus Computing Project. More students are also choosing to take courses on line, with 93% of colleges reporting that online enrollment was up this February and March over the same time last year. At the same time as enrollments are ballooning, resources are shrinking. About 30% of colleges across the country have cut full-time faculty, while less than a fifth have trimmed part-time teaching jobs. More community colleges have added adjuncts over the last year. Two-thirds of community college leaders believe that the stimulus package passed by Congress in February will help their institutions.

When it comes to the hunt for the right college, students across disciplines reported that the more up-to-date the school’s technology profile, the more likely they would be to attend the institution. Understandably, a solid technology infrastructure was especially critical to vocational students and those pursuing technical studies. And, regular, immediate communications with instructors was so important to those surveyed, they rated online chat their #1 desired technology capability that would be most useful to their studies. However, only 23% of IT staff canvassed say their campus currently offers it. Details and more statistics are available at http://www.cdwg.com/21stcenturycampus.

Thought for the week…
For every failure, there’s an alternative course of action. You just have to find it. When you come to a roadblock, take a detour.
-- Mary Kay Ash, Founder of May Kay Cosmetics

Happy Easter, Passover, Spring!
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, jiu-jitsu and more.

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

Announcing the Annual RCTC Health and Wellness Fair

Join us for “2009: The Choice is Mine” Health and Wellness Fair on Tuesday, April 21st from 10:00am to 1:00pm in the Atrium. There will be activities, tips, and information to help make choices to improve health and wellness. Topics include:

- safe, distracted, and impaired driving (including a driving simulator to demonstrate distracted driving scenarios)
- sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)
- marketing strategies used by tobacco companies
- tobacco cessation resources
- mental/emotional health information & screening
- alcohol use/misuse

Students attending the fair are eligible to enter to win great prizes, including an iPod shuffle. Please encourage students to attend! We will have “proof of attendance” cards for students.

~ Katie Swegarden BSN, RN

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. A flier is attached to this week’s Crossings.

Tobacco Free Policy Open Forum

Over the past several months there has been much discussion on making our campus 100% Tobacco Free. We would like to invite you to participate in an open forum regarding a “Tobacco Free Policy” draft. Since this effects everyone on campus, we would like to share this important step with you. We will be hosting 2 sets of Open Forum’s to try to accommodate everyone. Please note the dates, times, and locations: Tuesday, April 14th from 12:30 to 1:30pm in Heintz HA102 and again from 2:00 to 3:00pm in AT103. Tuesday, April 21st from 1:30 to 2:30pm in EA103 and again from 3:00 to 4:00pm in Heintz HA134.

Book Drive

The RCTC Child Development Department celebrates “Week of the Young Child” with the third annual Judith Lindman Memorial Children’s Book Drive. Judy was a Child Development Instructor and the Program Lead from 1991 - 2007. 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. Heintz Center contributions may be left with Julie Hager in HB 100G. 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 and Marcia Connelly

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!
Happy Easter!

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

Tues. May 5: 11-2
Wed. May 6: 4-6
Thurs. May 7: 11-2
Fri. May 8: 11-1
Mon. May 11: 4-6
Wed. May 13: 2-4
Thurs. May 14: 11-1

~ Robin Fruth-Dugstad

CROSSINGS CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE:  1989 Ford E150 Waldoch conversion van, 5.0 L EFI V8, metallic blue, automatic transmission, RV converter and trailer towing packages, front and rear a/c, chrome bumpers, power windows and locks, cassette radio, 117,000 miles, runs well, one owner $1,900 call 507 282 2869.

COMMUNITY EVENT: Run For The Horses - 5 mile run/walk on Saturday, May 9, check in at 7:00 a.m.; run at 8:00 at Chester Woods Park. $25.00 preregister (includes cute t-shirt) before May 1st; $30.00 thereafter. 6 age groups...trophies to first place men and women in each group. This is a fund raiser to build a permanent equestrian center. Donations are welcome even if you cannot run in the race. For registration forms go to http://www.rrec.info or contact Audrey Lidke at 288-8726 or x7469. Get a college group together and have some fun!

COMMUNITY EVENT: 2nd Annual Bluebell Festival at Carley State Park in Plainview on Saturday, May 9th. Friday night kick-off featuring a Lion’s Club Pork Chop Dinner on Friday, May 8th. For more information, CLICK HERE. Jon Krusmark x7499.

Rochester Community and Technical College
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) Faculty Shared Governance Council
Minutes for Tuesday, March 24, 2009 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109

Present: Administration Bequette, Cram, Hansmann
Faculty Atwood, Guenette (Chair), Israelson, Marconett, Martinez, O’Bryan,
Recorder: Kingsbury
Guests: Engelmeyer

ITEM 8 (A) Special Announcement – Bequette congratulated Guenette for being selected as a Fulbright Scholar for the 2009 summer educational program in China. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 1 (A) Search Update – Engelmeyer distributed a spreadsheet reflecting the status of searches; noting the English UFT has been filled, but since the pool had several outstanding candidates, the same pool may be used to fill a TFT position as well. Marconett questioned when the search would begin to replace Fuller. Bequette responded the decision has been made to keep the position vacant (at least until June) until budget information at the state level is clearer; adding that Fuller is not scheduled to vacate the position until mid-August. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 2 (A) – Policy Reviews:
   a) Academic Program Review Policy (3.36) Second Reading – Atwood shared faculty concerns of an annual review; questioning the rationale for the change. Bequette responded the decision was made because of the important component to assessment of student outcomes and budget implications through the IPP process. Israelson questioned if divisions (i.e. science) would be required to complete one for science or individual for the different areas (biology, chemistry, etc.) Bequette responded that individual reviews would need to be completed, but once the first review is complete, many of those areas will have only minor changes to update each year. Guenette stated if the annual reviews results in additional work, then more release time would need to be taken into consideration. Bequette reiterated that most of the information can be used from one year to another; which would not result in a lot of work. ACTION: Because there was no February meeting, and spring break delayed a faculty senate discussion, it was agreed that the policy would be brought back to the next meeting for a third reading.

   b) Academic Standards Policy (3.17.3) Second Reading - Bequette reported the requirement of a second signature would be beneficial to both the College and the faculty member during an audit. Guenette distributed the Faculty Senate’s recommended modifications to the policy. ACTION: Bequette will share the proposed changes with Administration and it was agreed the policy would be brought back to the next meeting for a third reading.

ITEM 3 (F) Grade Appeal Procedures – Guenette distributed the Faculty Senate’s recommended modifications to the draft Grade Appeal Procedures. Bequette reported the original draft language provided an opportunity for the Vice President to go to a body of faculty to review the grade. Only allowing the faculty member that assigned the grade to make the decision doesn’t provide the due process required in an appeal. In addition, Bequette clarified that the MnSCU Board of Trustees are requiring all colleges/universities have a Grade Appeal Policy/Procedure separate from a Grievance Policy/Procedure. ACTION: Faculty will further review the Grade Appeal Procedure and bring back for further discussion at the next meeting.

ITEM 3 (A) – Policy Reviews:
   a) Intercollegiate Athletics (2.6) First Reading – Marconett stated she believed other colleges charge for physicals already. ACTION: Faculty will review and the policy will be brought back to the next meeting for a second reading.

   b) Tobacco Free Campus (5.18.2) First Reading - Hansmann reported there may be grant dollars available through United Way for signage and other expenses; hence recommended the policy implementation date be postponed until January 1, 2010. Hansmann also reported the enforcement would be the same as work rules in the labor contracts. ACTION: Faculty will review and the policy will be brought back to the next meeting for a second reading.

ITEM 4 (A) Discussions on Administrative Re-organizations/Dean Replacement – Guenette requested that the Faculty be consulted as the discussions begin on replacing the Dean position. Bequette responded that a meeting has been scheduled with G. Wright to discuss, and other avenues will be used to confer the re-organization of Teaching and Learning. Israelson also recommended visiting with those departments directly affected with a re-organization. Bequette confirmed that all areas affected would be consulted. ACTION: Information Only.
ITEM 5 (A) FY10 Release Positions – Bequette reported that the call for faculty interest in serving as Program Leaders/Division Coordinators for 2009-2010 will be forthcoming, and reminded the faculty that each department is required by contract to submit two names for consideration; encouraging the faculty to make sure the faculty names submitted are actually interested in serving in the role. In addition, Bequette reported the call for interest in other release assignments will be shared under a separate e-mail (i.e. CTL Leader, Service Learning, etc.) Guenette responded it is difficult for faculty to submit budget requests if they aren’t sure if they will be coordinating a program. Israelson suggested the appointments be made earlier (January or February). ACTION: Bequette will take under consideration the calling for interest and assignment of faculty to release time roles earlier in the future.

ITEM 6 (A) Budget/IPP Update – Hansmann distributed a copy of the latest Northland College employee newsletter, which provided useful information on the Federal Stimulus Package; reminding everyone that it is one-time dollars. Hansmann also reported that the IPPs have been submitted and a preliminary review reflects the requested funds significantly exceed the projected targets for FY10. The next step is for the Deans and Vice Presidents to review the budget requests and input their recommendations. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 7 (A) Capital bonding Update: Hansmann reported there are three projects moving forward this summer (1) West Parking Lot Expansion; (2) Memorial Hall Tuckpointing/Concrete Repairs; and (2) Heintz Center Wing A and B Roof Replacements. In addition, Hansmann shared an update on the HEAPR and other remodeling projects. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 9 (A) Class Size Proposal – Bequette reported a proposal to change class sizes for online courses has not been supported by the faculty of AASC, but has gone through the required two readings and will move forward without the faculty support. Specifically, Bequette reported the class sizes for online classes will be 80% of the on-ground course sizes. Bequette added, however, that some online class sizes will be phased in over a period of time. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 1 (F) OAO – Guenette requested enrollment numbers for OAO courses, and questioned if it was fiscally responsible to continue to put resources into a program that may not have adequate class size enrollments. Bequette responded all new programs require a building period and it was originally agreed OAO would be given a minimum of two years to develop. Although enrollment has been lower than anticipated, recently the enrollment has been increasing (one class has 21 students). Bequette concluded by stating a decision to continue OAO would be made by December of 2009. ACTION: Information Only.

Adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 28, 2009 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109
Human Rights Commemoration

December 10 is Human Rights Day; a day to commemorate the December 10, 1948 adoption of the United Nations General Assembly's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This statement says in part:

...THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction...

This day is remembered with conferences and cultural events with the purpose of raising awareness about human rights issues around the world. This year, we'll celebrate the 60th anniversary of the statement's adoption. Last year, the UN Secretary General began a year-long commemoration that will conclude on December 10th this year.

You can find more information at:

http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/humanrights/

http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/humanrights/

http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html

http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html

~ Ricki Walters
Regional Diversity Trainer/Investigator