

COLLEGE *Crossings*

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE...EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED.

Thought for the week...

Think big thoughts but relish small pleasures.

~H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

President's Reception and Commencement

In appreciation of your dedication and commitment during the past year, you are invited to attend a President's Reception prior to Commencement on Thursday, May 14th from 4:30-7:00pm in the All-American Room on the 2nd floor of the UCR Regional Sports Center. Assembly for the Commencement Ceremony will be held in the lobby of the UCR Regional Sports Center promptly at 6:45 p.m. and the ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Field House. Special seating will be provided for faculty and staff adjacent to the stage.



Students are looking forward to their special night and appreciate your support. Please join your colleagues (faculty, staff, and administration) in the celebration by walking in the processional. A gown is not necessary, but "gowns-to-loan" are available in the Office of the Vice President in SS220. Simply come by and pick one out.

Softball Team is Conference Champs!

Congratulations to the Women's Softball team who brought home another MCAC Conference title for the Yellowjackets this year! The team defeated Riverland CC last week in a two game sweep to win the MCAC Conference with a record of 18-2 and an overall record of 25-3. On May 8-9 RCTC will HOST the NJCAA Region XIII A Softball Tournament as the #1 seed.

Art Sale

Plan to attend the Art Club's Sale on Tuesday, May 12th in the Ceramics Studio/ (AH 200) from 9:30 AM- 1:00 PM. Come by and browse through the ceramics pieces, photos, and paintings that are available for purchase. You will find a wide variety of work at very reasonable prices. Proceeds go to fund Art Club activities. Thank you to Student Life for supporting this event and to all the art students and art faculty who continue to generously contribute their time and work.

~ Simon Huelsbeck, Art Instructor/Art Club Advisor



ATTACHMENTS

*CLICK BELOW TO BRING UP
ATTACHMENT ON SCREEN*

Horticulture Plant Sale Hours

Guatemala Trip Info

*Mu Alpha Theta Induction
Ceremony*

SENSE 08 Executive Summary

Circuits and Skins Concert



UCR Regional Sports Complex

Upcoming Events at the Regional Sport Center

May 7 - WSU Nursing Pinning
 May 8 - Just For Kix
 May 9 & 10 - Rochester Cup Volleyball Tournament
 May 13 - RCTC Nursing Pinning
 May 14 - RCTC Graduation
 May 16 - NAMI Walk for a Cure
 May 16 - Rachel Challenge
 May 17 - RYVA Volleyball Tournament

Upcoming Events at the Rochester Regional Stadium

May 4 - Mayo Girls Lacrosse Game
 May 5 - Century Girls Lacrosse Game
 May 7 - John Marshal Girls Lacrosse Game
 May 8 - Mayo Boys Lacrosse Game
 May 9 - Century Girls and Boys Lacrosse Games
 May 9 - Rochester Giants Football Game



EQUINE SCIENCE HORSE SHOW

May 8, 2009
 College Stables
 1:00-5:00pm

This is the end-of-the-semester horse show. You are welcome to bring your family (no dogs). For more info, contact Julie Christie at (507) 398-2326.

News from Jay...

Jay Lee (former Dean at RCTC and now the Vice President for Instruction at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho) sends greetings to all as part of an e-mail with Dale Amy:

"Things are going great here, but I do miss RCTC. I would have loved to have been there to see the women's basketball team and Steve Hucke win the national title! Give my best to everyone. Terri and I will stop by when we finally figure out a plan for a trip back home."

~ Jay Lee

President Supalla Honored with Award

Congratulations to President Supalla for being a recipient of a 2009 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction from Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Society of Two-Year Colleges. Supalla received the award at Phi Theta Kappa's international convention, held in Dallas, Texas in mid-April. This award is named after the late President Emeritus Shirley B. Gordon (PTK Board Chairwoman and founder/longtime president of Highline Community College in Washington state), and is awarded to outstanding community college executive officers/presidents for providing extensive support and a variety of resources for their college's Phi Theta Kappa chapters. Congratulations, Don, we are all very proud of your recognition!



Thank You

RCTC Students, Faculty and Staff: Thank you for taking the time to complete the Office of the President Survey. Each year the Office sets goals for excellence, but no organization can aspire to such excellence unless it has a good idea of whether needs are being met. The object of these annual surveys is to identify areas of improvement and to enable the Office of the President to set appropriate priorities to enhance its services and to measure overall satisfaction. Your ratings and comments are very important to us. This year over 150 students, faculty and staff participated in the survey (a 49% increase over last year), and several great comments and suggestions were shared through the submissions. A preliminary review reflects an improvement level in almost all categories, however, we would like to emphasize that we are just as interested in finding out where things are not going as well as they should. We will continue to analyze the results, take action where required, and use this annual exercise to help guide our efforts to maintain and further improve performance.

~ Don Supalla and Judy Kingsbury

Did You Know?

Goddard library offers an online subscription to The Chronicle of Higher Education within our list of Article Databases:

<http://www.roch.edu/library/byTitle.phpyour students>.



SUPALLA'S SCRIBBLINGS

The Capital Investment Conference Committee met again this week and heard from Minnesota Management and Budget Commissioner Tom Hanson who reiterated that Governor Pawlenty believes the current \$275 million bonding bill is too large. The Governor has emphasized that any projects in the bill must be “shovel ready” and he is not in favor of projects that build new facilities. The Higher Education Committee conferees should be named soon and will begin the task of reconciling differences between the House and Senate bills. With less than three weeks remaining in the regular session, legislators need to work quickly to finalize budget bills, get them voted on, and forwarded to the Governor to sign or veto. Legislators will want to time their actions to allow time to override vetoed bills or rework them to Pawlenty’s satisfaction.

The full Senate confirmed Cheryl Dickson, Jacob Englund, Clarence Hightower, Allyson Lueneburg, Louise Sundin and Terri Thomas as members of the MnSCU Board of Trustees. Please congratulate RCTC student Terri Thomas, now officially one of three student trustees on the Board. David Metzen was also confirmed as director of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education. The former University of Minnesota Board of Regent has been an ardent supporter of public higher education, advocate of collaboration between the UoM and MnSCU, and knows Rochester and RCTC well from his recent service on the Rochester Higher Education Committee.

This week I had the pleasure of attending the Computer Aided Design Program Advisory Committee and was amazed, as were the committee members, with the exceptional quality of the student projects, creative curriculum proposals, and the innovative recruitment/marketing efforts of Greg Laughland and Pam Benson. Greg and Pam are involved in sharing CAD opportunities through College for Kids, Scouting Merit Badge Program, high school student exchanges, and by offering free software application classes for area teachers. Kudos to students and staff!

Congratulations to the RCTC women’s softball team who won the Minnesota College Athletic Conference championship and earned the right to host the Region XIII tournament on May 8 & 9. The Yellowjackets are currently ranked #1 in the NJCAA national poll and are seeded #1 in the regional tournament. The winner of the regional tournament qualifies for the NJCAA National Tournament that will be held on the UCR campus in mid-May. I encourage you to catch some fresh air, watch some excellent softball, and cheer on the Yellowjackets.

Mark your calendar and plan to spend an evening celebrating a “Day of Kindness” in the community. Rachel Joy Scott, inspiration for “Rachel’s Challenge,” was the first victim of the Columbine High School tragedy in 1999. Come show your support for this idea and listen to an amazing speaker, Rachel’s younger brother, Craig Scott. Rochester’s event, coordinated with other Day of Kindness activities around the country, is scheduled from 5-7 p.m., Saturday, May 16 in the UCR Sports Center Field House. Come show your support and help make our schools and community a safer and kinder place to live and learn. The event, sponsored by Friends of Rachel Club at Century HS, is free and open to the public.

The Center for Disease Control, Minnesota Department of Health, and Olmsted County Health Department have all increased surveillance of swine influenza A (H1N1). Although the Minnesota Department of Health is not recommending any cancellation of classes at this time, the situation may change. Many of the services we deliver are directly related to the well being of Minnesota citizens and must continue during any emergency situation, including a possible pandemic. To fulfill these obligations, it is critical that state employees are individually prepared and able to report to work. Marilyn Hansmann will continue to disseminate updates and information about the disease, personal and family readiness suggestions, good health hygiene, and educational awareness. Please read this information carefully and act accordingly.

Factoids from the Workplace and Beyond – Compiled by John Kador, *Human Resource Executive*, March 2009

- Of the 200 occupations judged most desirable by Jobsrated.com, the jobs of mathematician, actuary and statistician ranked 1-3 respectively. The least desirable occupations are lumberjack, dairy farmer, and taxi driver.
- The average number of weeks of salary paid in the U.S. as severance for involuntarily separated employees in middle management is 1.78 and for rank-and-file positions is 1.44. The U.S. is last among developed nations in paying severance. The Netherlands is first at 4.08 and 4.05, Germany second at 3.63 and 3.25, and France third at 2.70 and 2.09.
- One in ten job seekers said they blew an opportunity for a job because they got lost on the way to the job interview.
- Forty percent of companies with 20,000 or more employees employ full-time staff to monitor outbound e-mail.
- Forty-eight percent of companies give workers time off to volunteer for approved charitable projects.
- Six percent of managers have terminated a subordinate for swearing or being foul-mouthed at work.
- Thirteen percent of employers plan to add “green jobs” in 2009. Green jobs are positions that implement environmentally conscious design, policy, and technology to improve conservation and sustainability.

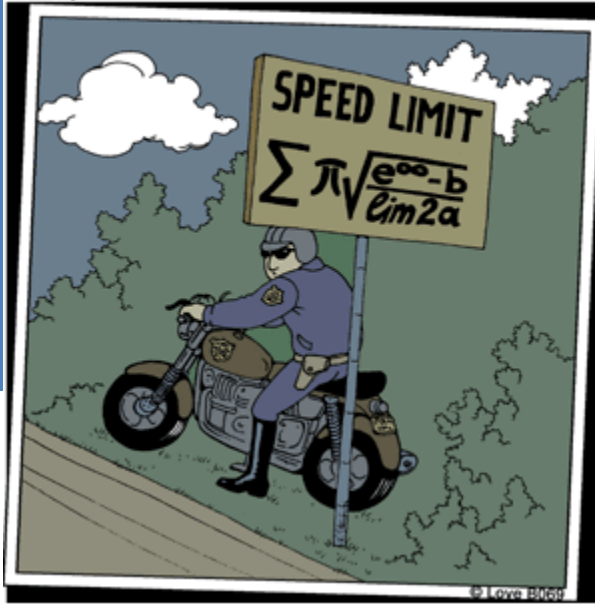
Thought for the week...

We are all children in various stages of growing up.”

-- Doug Marlette

Plan now on joining your colleagues and graduates for Commencement, 7 p.m., 5/14/09, UCR Sports Center.

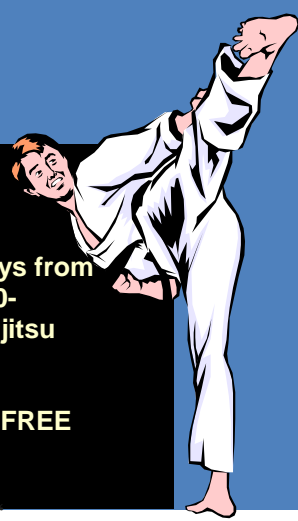
~ Don



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, jujitsu and more. No experience needed.

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



RCTC National Survey Participation

Thanks to the faculty who were randomly selected, the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) administration is now complete. The survey results assist us in identifying where we are and what further action may be helpful in our continuing work to support and strengthen teaching, learning and retention. Survey results will be sent to us at the end of July and presented to senior leadership in advance of classes starting in August. During FY10 RCTC will participate in the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE) in Fall term and the Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI) in Spring. SENSE is focused on gaining an understanding of the needs of entering students. An executive summary of the Fall 2008 SENSE results is attached to this week's *Crossings*. Research shows the more engaged students are, the more likely they are to stay in school and complete their goals. Because of this focus, SENSE is administered around the 5th week of classes. The faculty assigned to the randomly selected classes will be notified shortly after the start of classes. SSI is a survey that helps us to understand about the aspects of college that are important to students and how satisfied they are with the services and support systems available to them. The faculty assigned to the randomly selected classes will be notified in the Spring. RCTC's participation in these surveys is designed to enhance our educational programs and services to our students. If you have any questions about these surveys or would like to see the results, please contact Christine Miller christinem.miller@roch.edu or 507-292-5130.

Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo is celebrated on May 5th. It commemorates the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, when a small Mexican army defeated the invading French army, which was twice its size and much better equipped. This battle came to symbolize Mexican unity and patriotism. It also marks the last time that an army from another continent invaded the Americas. Cinco de Mayo is not a big holiday in Mexico, and it is not Mexican Independence Day, which is celebrated on September 16. Cinco de Mayo is celebrated across the United States as a day to commemorate Mexican heritage and pride. Parades, mariachi music, dancing, food and other community wide activities mark the day.

~ Ricki Walters

Regional Diversity Trainer/Investigator



ATTENTION RACE FANS!

All are welcome to attend the 4th annual RCTC CAD II Pneumatics race. It will be held at Heintz Center in room HB117 on Monday May 11th. The race starts at 10:00 with 5 cars participating. Students race their air powered cars on a 15' track for the best time. Come and see their creative efforts of transforming air to action with this year's cars powered by die grinders, propellers, an impact wrench, and much more. Hope to see you there.

~ Pam Benson, CAD II Instructor

